



# THE ROOSEVELT INSTITUTION

1527 New Hampshire Avenue, NW, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, Washington, DC 20036

## The Roosevelt Challenges 2007-2008

*Roosevelt members select the three Roosevelt Challenges democratically each summer. They serve as a focus for our student membership during the year, with conferences, forums, policy expos, and publications dedicated to advancing student solutions to these challenges.*

### Advisory Board Highlights:

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And many others...

### Campus Chapters

*active or organizing at:*

American  
Amherst  
Arizona State  
Bates  
Binghamton  
Brown  
Carnegie Mellon  
Johns Hopkins  
Claremont  
Columbia  
Cornell  
UC Davis  
Duke  
George Mason  
Georgetown  
George Washington  
Georgia Tech  
U Hartford  
Harvard  
Iowa State  
Kalamazoo  
Kent State  
Kenyon  
Lesley  
Louisiana State  
Marist  
McGill  
Middlebury  
MIT  
Northwestern  
New York  
Oberlin  
Ohio State  
Otis  
Princeton  
Rice  
Rutgers  
Stanford  
Texas A&M  
Tufts  
Tulane  
UC Berkeley  
UC Santa Barbara  
U Chicago  
UGA  
U Iowa  
U Maryland  
U Michigan  
UNC Chapel Hill  
UNLV  
U Oregon  
U Penn  
U South Carolina  
UT Austin  
UTenn Chattanooga  
UT San Antonio  
UVA  
UW Madison  
Wash U St. Louis  
Wesleyan  
Wheaton MA  
Whitman  
Yale

### • Responsible Community Development

*The Challenge: promote responsible community development.*

Strong communities are central to the progressive vision of America. An individual can only develop through the diverse contributions of a whole community, including healthy physical, human, and economic landscapes; and without the opportunity to participate in and contribute back to the community the individual cannot be truly fulfilled.

Community development involves building community resources and leveraging them to provide affordable housing, safe streets, good schools, efficient and environmentally-friendly transportation, opportunities to find employment and build assets, safe and useful public spaces, a clean environment, and access to resources like clinics, grocery stores, and childcare.

### • Making Democracy Work

*The Challenge: restore government of the people, by the people, and for the people in America.*

Underpinning all other progressive policy in America — and the core of our statement of principles — is the idea that citizens can and should reshape their government for the better. Unfortunately, many barriers today stand in the way of political participation, turning people away and shutting them out of the political process. Confronting this challenge will allow us to make better progress on every other policy issue we set for ourselves.

### • Strong Communities through Equal Justice

*The Challenge: ensure that the criminal justice system strengthens our communities and delivers justice for all.*

Crime is an incredibly destructive force in our communities — particularly drug crime, with crack in the cities and meth in the countryside ravaging economies and destroying families. Unfortunately, too often the criminal justice system helps, rather than hurting, these problems. Harsh incarceration policies do not treat addiction, but they do separate parents from children, suck up budget dollars that could be spent on education or crime prevention, destroy career opportunities for incarcerated individuals, and exactly in the process of eliminating their other opportunities it gives them the cultural and social prerequisites for a life of crime.

At the same time, the justice system itself is filled with injustice. The death penalty, unequal access to legal aid, judicial elections financed by those with interests before the court, unequal sentencing laws, and racial profiling, are just some of the unfairnesses within the system.