



THE CARIBBEAN AMERICAN POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (C-PAC)

Organization and Mission:

The Caribbean American Political Action Committee (C-PAC) was founded in November 2005. The primary mission of C-PAC is to advance the political agenda of Caribbean-Americans residing in the Washington, DC Metropolitan area (Washington, DC, Maryland and Northern Virginia, or the DMV). To that end, C-PAC endorses and supports candidates for public office that articulate policy positions that will strengthen the economic, educational, social, and cultural conditions of members of the Caribbean Diaspora in the DMV.

A secondary mission of C-PAC is to foster greater relationships between the U.S. Federal, State and Local Governments and the nations of the Caribbean; to serve as a bridge in appropriate circumstances, where C-PAC's political action may be helpful to individual countries, or CARICOM as their representative.

C-PAC's Activities:

Since its founding, C-PAC has endorsed and financially supported candidates for political office throughout the DMV, including candidates for DC Mayor and City Council, Montgomery and Prince Georges County Executives and the Governor of Maryland. Our political activities contributed significantly to the creation of Caribbean Commissions or Councils by the Governor of Maryland and the Mayor of the District of Columbia.

C-PAC's Vision:

Currently C-PAC is a regional organization and operates only at the State and Local levels. We do not endorse or support candidates for President or the US Congress, because of the expense and legal burden of meeting the reporting requirements. This is a goal however, and we believe it is within reach as our membership grows and our financial status improves.

We also believe that C-PAC can serve, and should serve, as a model for Caribbean communities in other regions of the country, wishing to legally engage in organized political activity. Our vision is to see a Political Action Committee (PAC) organized by every sizable Caribbean community in every city or region of the country. An association of these independent PACs could then meet periodically (*say every two years*) to develop a national plan of action with regards to Presidential and Congressional elections. This could be of tremendous benefit to the members of CARICOM. These PACs could provide for the Caribbean some of the benefits that the Jewish PAC provides for Israel.

How Can CARICOM Help C-PAC:

We understand that CARICOM and the nations of the Caribbean cannot engage in political activity in America. However, we believe that there is no prohibition against the members of CARICOM encouraging members of their Diaspora to become active in, and financially support a worthwhile PAC. This would benefit the Caribbean Americans Diaspora and the countries of the Caribbean. We urge you to do so.