

Committee of Seventy 2017-2018 Haverford House Fellow

The Committee of Seventy is the only nonpartisan and independent advocate for better government in Philadelphia, founded in 1904 to fight for honest and effective government, fair elections and better informed citizens. Seventy played a major role in the adoption of civil service reforms and the passage of the 1919 and 1951 Home Rule Charters. Seventy later produced comprehensive analyses on governmental agencies and departments, has filed amicus briefs on various electoral and City Charter issues and has been the area's most recognized crusader for safeguarding elections and protecting voters' rights. Seventy continues this campaign today as the city's only independent and nonpartisan advocate for better government and politics. Whether in public or behind-the-scenes, Seventy uses its voice and influence to help provoke debate and spur real change.

Although the organization's core competencies include ethics and transparency, campaign finance, fair districts, and elections and voting, Seventy occasionally ventures into other policy areas including education, taxes and budgetary issues. Major recent initiatives include leading a nonpartisan coalition of 100+ organizations to educate voters about the 2012 Voter ID Law and advocating to tighten the city's gifts rules for public employees and officials. Seventy was also deeply involved in the early 2000's reform movement credited with significantly cleaning up city government; this included new "pay to play" laws regarding city contracts, campaign contribution caps and disclosure rules for local candidates and a new independent Board of Ethics with teeth to enforce the law.

A Haverford House Fellow would report to Seventy's Policy and Program Manager but work closely with all of Seventy's staff and interns, including President and CEO David Thornburgh. Fellow can expect hands-on experience in day-to-day policy and program work, as well as communications and development projects to grow the organization and increase Seventy's impact. Larger projects or programs may require Fellow to lead a small team of undergraduate interns.

Responsibilities may include:

- Conduct directly and/or lead **research in Seventy's core mission areas** of ethics and transparency, campaign finance, elections and voting, government reform and fair districts.
- Assist in the administration of the **2017 Election Program, Election Ambassador Corps and Election Innovation Challenge**. Fellow may be charged with supervisory roles in the latter two programs, with assistance from the Policy and Program Manager. Responsibilities would include communicating with partner schools and other organizations, overseeing volunteers and managing program materials.
- Manage **candidate debates, issue forums and other event programming** in the 2017 election season. Fellow would need to coordinate with partner organizations and manage logistics.
- Oversee Seventy's **website content, social media presence and email systems**. Fellow would have critical role in helping the organization expand and engage its audience, with key tasks including



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analyzing metrics, managing Seventy's Twitter (6,500+ followers) and Facebook (3,800+ likes) accounts, and using Nation Builder to develop deeper relationships with Seventy's 11,000+ email base.

- Attend meetings or forums with representatives of government and community groups, as well as Committee of Seventy Board meetings.
- Assist with fundraising, marketing or development projects including prospect and foundation research, events and grant writing, as assigned by the Senior Director of Development and Communications.

Applicants with academic backgrounds in law, public policy, history or political science are encouraged to apply; however, we consider strong interest in Seventy's nonpartisan mission to be more important than matching coursework. All candidates must have **(1)** a strong academic record; **(2)** excellent research and writing skills; and **(3)** experience *or interest* in political and/or governmental issues at the local and state level. High proficiency in Microsoft Word, Power Point and Excel is advantageous. Other skills can be picked up along the way.

Fellowship Contact and Supervisor:

Patrick Christmas, Policy and Program Manager

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For more information on Seventy's history and work, visit our website at www.seventy.org. Applicants are encouraged to contact Patrick Christmas with additional questions.