

TC Progressives Listserv Posting Guidelines

- 1. Be considerate and fair.** Feel free to engage in a spirited discussion or to disagree with other TC members. However, stay fact-based and avoid creating posts that insult individuals, groups of people or organizations. For example, try not to refer to a subset of America as "deplorable" and try not to say "anyone who thinks xx is an idiot." Do not use profane, obscene, intolerant, or abusive language. Do not post anything that includes bigotry or hatred toward any group (including but not limited to women, people of color, LGBTQIA individuals, Native Americans, immigrants, Jews/Muslims/members of any religious group, older/younger people, people with disabilities, rural/urban residents, low income families, etc.) Do not promote illegal activity or physical harm to anyone. Do not post anything that is harassing, libelous, abusive, vulgar, obscene, offensive, threatening, manipulative, or otherwise objectionable. Also, DO NOT SHOUT. If you want to use sarcasm or snark, be absolutely clear that that is your intention, as email does not convey tone.
- 2. Recognize that you are responsible for your words.** You are responsible for the content of your messages. You may be liable for negligent, knowing, or willful misconduct, as well as for damages arising from these actions. Remember that legally your "first amendment rights" do not cover plagiarism, slander or hate speech. While elected officials and other public figures know that they are open to criticism from the public, and TCP encourages its members to hold elected officials accountable, we do not condone the harassment of those in public office. Harassment of public servants discourages other people from running for office.
- 3. No Spamming.** Please do not use our community to promote or sell your products or services. If you are running for office, you can "promote yourself" but please be classy about it. Insulting your opponents or posting multiple times per day about how you need canvassers, is not polite. If in doubt, consult the TCP executive board.
- 4. Stay on topic.** We remind everyone that this is a progressive politics discussion area for members of our organization and ask that you only post comments that relate to our mission. Remember also that "progressive politics" covers a wide range of topics, and not everyone will be as deeply committed to your particular progressive issues as you are

- 5. Obey copyright laws.** Do not post any material that is protected by copyright unless you are the copyright holder or have the copyright holder's permission. Please provide proper attribution when you use permissive licenses or post items under fair use laws.
- 6. Think before you click links.** TCP is not responsible for the transmission of any viruses, worms, or other forms of malware that you acquire from visiting external links posted in our community.
- 7. Be yourself.** When in doubt, sign your posts with your first and last name, so every knows who wrote what you posted (we have many Susans in our group, for example). If addressing another person in the group, consider using their last name or initial to maintain clarity.
- 8. Have a thick skin.** If someone makes a comment that you find offensive, one useful way to respond is to ask for clarity from a neutral standpoint ("excuse me, but did you mean to suggest that left-handed people are stupid? Because on first reading, that's how your post came across to me... but I could just be very sensitive on that point.") Alternatively, you can send a private message to the TCP executive committee and we will look into the matter. Launching a counter-attack when you feel that you have been attacked is not productive and could lead to consequences for **you**, not for the person who made the first possibly-inappropriate comment.

TCP reserves the right, but assumes no obligation, to remove offending posts, block responses to particular threads, and take other actions we believe to be appropriate, up to and including removing you from the listserv and even removing you from TCP.

Upon first transgression, you will be warned (with a copy of your transgressing post, highlighting which part or parts were inappropriate) and your posting privileges will be set to "moderated." This means that you can still post, but your comments will be reviewed by someone before they get sent out to the whole listserv. If during this period you demonstrate that you understand the guidelines and are willing to follow them, your status will be returned to "unmoderated."