



# Ohio Young Democrats Bylaws

## ARTICLE I MEMBERSHIP

**Section 1.** The required dues and application for Regular membership in the Ohio Young Democrats shall be as follows:

- A) The applicant must meet live, work, or go to school in the state of Ohio and have not yet attained the age of forty (40).
- B) The applicant must submit an application with his/her full name, full address including street, city, state, and zip, phone number, email, and date of birth in month/day/year format to the state office or to his/her local chapter.
- C) If not a member of a local chapter, the applicant must present a personal check or cash instrument in an amount equal or greater to twenty dollars (\$20.00) to the Treasurer.

**Section 2.** The President may bestow the status of Honorary Member to individuals at his/her discretion.

**Section 3.** Any person who elects to become a member of this organization shall be deemed to have accepted the Constitution and Bylaws of this organization, and shall be bound by them in all respects as if the person had been a member at the time of their adoption.

## ARTICLE II CHARTERED MEMBERSHIP

**Section 1.** There shall be two (2) classes of membership in this organization:

Regular – Any young adult after their fourteenth (14<sup>th</sup>) birthday who has not yet attained their fortieth (40<sup>th</sup>) birthday shall be eligible for full rights and privileges as a regular member upon receipt of the prescribed application and dues.

Young at Heart – Any person who has attained their fortieth (40<sup>th</sup>) birthday shall be eligible for honorary membership upon receipt of the prescribed application and dues.

**Section 2.** There shall be two (2) classes of chartered chapters in this organization:

*Chartered County Chapter* – There shall be only one (1) chapter per county that is chartered and affiliated with this organization, shall have a minimum of ten (10) regular members, as defined in Section 2. The application for a charter shall be made on the forms prescribed by the bylaws of this organization. The application shall include a membership list of at least ten regular members containing the following information for each member: full name, current complete address, date of birth in month/day/year format, and any other additional information required by the Bylaws of this organization. Additionally, the application shall include a copy of the county chapter's constitution and bylaws, a list of current officers with the dates that they were elected, and at the Executive Board's discretion payment of a chartering fee to this organization of one (1) dollar per regular member.

*Chartered Regional Chapter* - Up to seven contiguous counties may charter with this organization as a regional chapter. A county that is chartered as a county chapter may not also be included in a regional chapter. In order to charter with this organization, a regional chapter shall have a minimum number of ten (10) regular members, as defined in Section 2. The application for a charter shall be made on the forms prescribed by the bylaws of this organization. The application shall include a membership list of at least ten regular members containing the following information for each member: full name, current complete address, phone number, email address, and date of birth in



month/day/year format. Additionally, the application shall include a copy of the chapter's constitution and bylaws, a list of current officers with the dates that they were elected, and at the Executive Board's discretion payment of a chartering fee to this organization of one (1) dollar per regular member. If a county represented by regional chapter has ten (10) or more members in the regional chapter, the Vice President for Chapter Building and the Membership Secretary shall work with the regional chapter leadership/membership over the next twelve (12) months to create a new county chapter for that group of members.

**Section 3.** Membership lists must be submitted electronically by email, or via an online mechanism provided by the state organization. When submitted via email, the list must be in a spreadsheet format (Microsoft Excel, Google Sheets, etc).

**Section 4.** Accepted forms of payment for charter application dues are cash, check, or money order. Dues may not be paid by a check drawn on an account belonging to a corporation, college or university whether public or private, or any other institution for which receipt of funds is a violation of state and/or federal election law, including club accounts which have not registered with appropriate federal, state, or local authorities to become a political action committee.

**Section 5.** The process for approving chapter charters shall be as follows:

The chapter shall submit the chartering application, including membership roster and payment for dues for each regular member, for review by this organization's Membership Secretary. The Membership Secretary shall review each application individually to ensure that all requirements are met.

The Membership Secretary shall present one report to the Executive Board for all charters that it has reviewed and recommended for approval since the last Ohio Young Democrats meeting.

The Executive Committee shall approve or disapprove the report in one yes or no vote. Amendments to the report may be considered during regular meetings and at the Annual State Convention.

Chapters may submit chartering applications at any time during the year, but applications shall only be considered for approval at regular meetings and at the Annual State Convention.

Upon the approval of the Membership Secretary report by the Executive Committee at the Annual State Convention, all chapter charters approved by the body since, and including, the last state convention shall expire, and all charter applications contained in the current report shall take effect.

Chartered chapters may update their charters for the purpose of earning more votes by submitting a revised membership list including the information required by Section 4 on the forms prescribed by the Bylaws and by paying dues for additional regular members.

All chartering applications or updates must be submitted and received by Noon fifteen (15) days prior to the date of the Annual State Convention to be considered for chartering and voting. Chartering applications or updates may be submitted by any method permitted by the Bylaws of this organization. Notice and full chartering instructions will be sent to all current chapter presidents via electronic mail, or any other means provided for in the Bylaws of this organization. Notice and full chartering instructions must be posted on the OYD website, social media platforms, and sent via email to all emails held by OYD at least fifty (50) days prior to the Annual State Convention. All electronic templates used for chartering are to be included in this communication.



**Section 6.** Any chapter who elects to become a chartered member of this organization shall be deemed to have accepted the Constitution and Bylaws of this organization, and shall be bound by them in all respects as if the chapter had been a member at the time of their adoption.

### ARTICLE III VOTING

**Section 1.** Voting allocations shall be as follows:

Each chartered chapter shall receive one vote for every ten regular members submitted on its membership list in conjunction with its chartering application or update and for whom dues have been paid. The number of votes shall round down.

**Section 2.** To cast each vote that a chartered chapter is eligible to cast under Section 2, a chartered chapter must have one member present per vote that they are eligible to cast. These members shall be required to sign in at the beginning of the meeting and prior to voting. The highest ranking officer of each chartered chapter present shall be the chapter's delegation chair and shall cast all the votes that the chapter is eligible to cast. Each chartered chapter shall determine the procedures for regulating the decision making process for casting the votes that it is eligible to cast.

**Section 3.** There shall be no votes by proxy, and no individual shall be permitted to cast a vote for a chartered chapter unless they are a member of that chartered chapter.

**Section 4.** The procedure for voting for all votes other than the election of officers and amending this Constitution shall be as provided in the Bylaws of this organization.

**Section 5.** For all votes other than the election of officers, all members of the Executive Committee shall have one vote.

### ARTICLE IV ELECTIONS

**Section 1.** The elected officers of this organization shall be duly elected by those members in good standing.

**Section 2.** All officers and candidates for office shall be members in good standing for at least thirty (30) days prior to their nomination and election and remain so throughout their terms in office, as well as meeting any and all requirements set forth in this organization's Constitution and Bylaws.

### ARTICLE V AFFILIATION WITH YOUNG DEMOCRATS OF AMERICA

**Section 1.** In recognition of the benefits and services available to this organization and its members through its affiliation with the Young Democrats of America, this organization shall exercise its rights and privileges of participation in the government and the activities of the Young Democrats of America. This organization may provide for its proper representation at all meetings and conventions of the Young Democrats of America. It shall provide for such representation when preparing the budget.

**Section 2.** Any person who elects to become a member of this organization shall be deemed to have accepted the Constitution and Bylaws of the Young Democrats of America, and shall be bound by them in all respects as if they have been a member at the time of their adoption.



and taking names.

**Section 3.** This organization's Executive Committee shall provide for the prompt payment of all dues and other obligations to the Young Democrats of America, and shall require the prompt completion and submission of all reports required by the Young Democrats of America.

## ARTICLE VI ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION

**Section 1.** The Annual State Convention will be held each year during the period of February 1 to May 31.

**Section 2.** The Executive Committee shall approve the location and any selection process for determining the location of the Annual State Convention. The President may appoint an ad hoc committee to assist in this process.

## ARTICLE VII AMENDMENTS

**Section 1.** Amendments to the Bylaws may be submitted at any regular meeting and must be presented in writing to the Secretary.

**Section 2.** Notice of any proposed amendment shall be submitted in writing to the membership at least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled date of the next regular meeting or Annual State Convention at which the proposed amendment is to be considered.

**Section 3.** The Bylaws may be amended at a regular meeting or Annual State Convention with a quorum present, by a majority vote of all eligible voters as provided in Article III.