



Ohio Young Democrats Constitution

ARTICLE I NAME

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Ohio Young Democrats. The headquarters of this organization shall be 340 East Fulton St., Columbus, OH 43215.

ARTICLE II PURPOSE AND AFFILIATION

Section 1. We, the young adults of the state of Ohio of the United States of America, join together to form the Ohio Young Democrats, in order to introduce, develop, and inculcate in young people an active interest in governmental affairs and the electoral process in local, state, and national levels of the United States of America. This organization shall foster and promote the philosophy, principles, and goals of the Democratic Party; develop leadership skills in our members; involve ourselves in programs to improve voter education and participation; contribute to the well-being of the community at large; and provide for all citizens through its administration the highest degree of justice and social welfare.

Section 2. This organization shall be affiliated with and seek the advice and cooperation of the Ohio Democratic Party, Young Democrats of America, and Democratic National Committee.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Any individual, regardless of race, creed, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, disability status, or national origin, who professes and demonstrates allegiance to the philosophy, principles, and goals of the Democratic Party, shall be eligible to become a member of the Ohio Young Democrats.

ARTICLE IV OFFICERS

Section 1. The elected officers of this organization shall be a President, Vice President for Campaigns, Vice President for Chapter Building, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-At-Arms, and two YDA National Committee members not of the same gender.

Section 2. The appointed officers of this organization shall be the Immediate Past President, Legal Counsel/Parliamentarian, Communications Director, and any other appointments provided in the Bylaws of this organization. The President of this organization shall appoint all appointed officers.

Section 3. The terms of office for all elected officers shall be two (2) years. An officer of this organization shall not hold more than one (1) office at the same time. The President, Vice President for Chapter Building, Membership Secretary, YDA National Committee Members (2) shall be elected in even-numbered years. The Vice President for Campaigns, Secretary, Treasurer, and Sergeant-at-Arms shall be elected in odd-numbered years.

Section 4. Any regular member who has not attained their thirty-eighth (38th) birthday shall be eligible to become a candidate for an elected office.

Section 5. The election of officers shall be held at the Annual State Convention. The election of officers shall be conducted by a roll call vote of chartered chapters, in accordance with the Bylaws.

Section 6. The Vice President for Campaigns and the Vice President for Chapter Building shall not be of the same gender.

Section 7. The duties of the elected officers shall be as follows:



President - The President shall direct and be responsible for the programs and development of this organization; shall be the presiding officer at all meetings; shall propose the annual budget; and shall chair this organization's Executive Committee.

Vice President for Campaigns - Vice President for Campaigns shall chair the campaigns committee and perform the duties and responsibilities of the President in their absence or incapacity and shall perform such other duties as assigned by the President or the Bylaws of this organization.

Vice President for Chapter Building - The Vice President for Chapter Building shall chair the chapter building committee and President with the administration of their duties and shall perform the duties of the President in their absence or incapacity. In addition, the Vice President for Chapter Building shall perform any other duties as provided in the Bylaws of this organization.

Secretary - The Secretary shall maintain a list of all officers, committee chairpersons, and members of committees; shall notify members of meetings; shall conduct correspondence as directed by the President and shall read important correspondence or a summary of it at the meetings. The Secretary shall take and keep the minutes of the meetings of this organization; shall take roll calls and mark the absence of officers at meetings in the minutes; shall read the minutes of previous meetings; shall take charge of all documents belonging to the organization when requested; and shall sign official documents of the organization when requested by the President or as provided in the Bylaws of this organization.

Membership Secretary - The Membership Secretary shall keep a record of all dues-paying members of this organization; shall send notice when membership will expire; shall turn over all collected monies to the Treasurer, shall report the status of membership at each meeting of the Executive Committee, and shall produce and distribute a membership list on a semi-annual basis. In addition, the Membership Secretary shall perform any other duties as provided in the Bylaws of this organization.

Treasurer - The Treasurer shall receive and deposit all money received by the organization; shall maintain records of all funds; and shall pay by check, whenever feasible. All checks written by this organization shall bear the signature of one (1) of the following officers of this organization: Treasurer or President; and checks written for more than \$300.00 shall bear the signatures of the President and the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall deposit all money in federally chartered banking institution; shall pay bills submitted by officers and members only when the President authorizes and when receipts for such expenditures are submitted; shall give a statement of finances at every meeting of the Executive Committee; and shall give a complete financial report at the Annual State Convention. In addition, the Treasurer shall perform any other duties as provided in the Bylaws of this organization.

Sergeant-at-Arms - The Sergeant-At-Arms shall assist the President in ensuring an orderly environment for all meetings and shall work with the Membership Secretary to ensure the proper credentials of each member of this organization for voting or other reasons. In addition, the Sergeant-at-Arms shall perform any other duties as provided in the Bylaws of this organization.

YDA National Committee Members (2) - The National Committee Members shall represent this organization at official functions of the Young Democrats of America (YDA); shall present timely reports of the actions and issues of the YDA to this organization's Executive Committee; and shall present a report of an annual review of the YDA at this organization's annual convention. Since membership on the YDA national committee is determined by YDA's



age restrictions, Ohio's National Committee Members must meet the YDA age criteria. In addition, the National Committee Members shall perform any other duties as provided in the Bylaws of this organization. The National Committee Members shall not be of the same gender.

Section 8. The duties of the appointed officers are as follows:

Immediate Past President - The Immediate Past President shall assist the President and Executive Committee as directed by the President, shall assist the standing committees, and shall perform any other duties as provided in the Bylaws of this organization.

Legal Advisor/Parliamentarian - The Legal Advisor/Parliamentarian shall be a licensed, practicing attorney in the State of Ohio; shall advise this organization regarding legal matters, either at the request of the President or a simple majority of the Executive Committee; shall assist the President in implementing and maintaining parliamentary procedure; and shall maintain a copy of the rules of parliamentary authority with them at all meetings. In addition, the Legal Advisor/Parliamentarian shall perform any other duties as provided in the Bylaws of this organization.

Communications Director - The Communications Director shall assist with communication between the organization, chapters, and their publics. Duties of a Communications Director may include maintaining the organization's website, maintaining a list of press contacts, writing and distributing press releases, and acting as spokesperson for the organization.

Section 9. The President may appoint additional officers, coordinators, and liaisons as they deem necessary. All appointed officers shall serve at the pleasure of the President, and may be removed at will.

Section 10. In the event that the President of this organization is permanently unable to perform their duties as determined by a three-fourths majority of the Executive Committee, the Vice President not of the same gender as the outgoing President shall become this organization's President. The new President shall then appoint a regular member to fulfill the duties of the vacated Vice President role for the remainder of the unexpired term, with the approval of a simple majority of the Executive Committee.

Section 11. In the event an officer, other than the President, is deemed unable to perform his or her duties by a two-thirds majority of the Executive Committee, or a vacancy exists on the Executive Committee, the President shall appoint a regular member to fulfill the duties for the remainder of the unexpired term, with approval of a simple majority of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE V COMMITTEES

Section 1. In addition to the Executive Committee, there shall be three (3) standing committees of this organization:

Campaigns Committee - This committee shall identify and oversee candidate, referendum, initiative, charitable, or public relations campaigns for involvement by the membership and organization.

Finance Committee - This committee shall plan and oversee this organization's budget and fundraising opportunities to obtain the funding necessary to meet the budget.



Chapter Building Committee - This committee shall plan and oversee recruitment of members and chapters as well as chapter development.

Section 2. Each standing committee shall be chaired by an elected officer as follows:
Campaigns Committee - Vice President for Campaigns

Finance Committee – Treasurer

Chapter Building Committee - Vice President for Chapter Building

Section 3. Except for the Executive Committee, the President shall appoint a vice chair for each standing committee and all voting members of each standing committee with approval of a simple majority of the Executive Committee.

Section 4. No person shall be a voting member of more than one standing committee. There may be additional non-voting members of the standing committees in the discretion of the chair.

Section 5. There shall be ad hoc committees of this organization from time to time as determined by the Executive Committee or as provided in the Bylaws of this organization. Membership of these ad hoc committees shall be appointed by the President with approval of a simple majority of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The Ohio Young Democrats Executive Committee shall formulate, propose, and implement projects that supervise the activities of this organization; fill vacancies of officers and standing committee members; propose and execute recommendations to, of, and for this organization; refrain from actions that would create a conflict with the Constitution or Bylaws of this organization; approve the annual budget and means to obtain necessary funding; establish a site for the Annual State Convention and prepare the agenda; and take action only when a quorum is present.

Section 2. The President shall chair the Executive Committee.

Section 3. The elected officers of this organization shall compose the voting membership of the Executive Committee. All appointed officers shall be non-voting members of the Executive Committee.

Section 4. An elected officer of this organization shall give previous notice to the President when they are unable to attend a meeting of the Executive Committee. Any elected officer of this organization who has recorded two (2) unexcused absences in any one calendar year of this organization's Executive Committee meetings shall automatically relinquish all rights to continue to be an elected officer for this organization.

ARTICLE VII MEETINGS

Section 1. The President shall call at least two (2) regular meetings of this organization's Executive Committee each year to be held at a time and place approved by a simple majority of the Executive Committee or as provided in the Bylaws of this organization.

Section 2. The President shall call one (1) annual meeting per year that shall be known as this organization's Annual State Convention. The Annual State Convention shall be held at a time as provided in the Bylaws of this organization and at a place as approved by a simple majority of the Executive Committee.



Section 3. For all regular meetings and meetings of the Executive Committee, quorum shall be members present.

Section 4. Notice of all regular meetings shall be sent by electronic mail, or any other means provided for in the Bylaws of this organization at least seven (7) days prior to any regular meeting.

Section 5. Special meetings of this organization may be called if at least five (5) officers have expressed good cause for such a meeting. Notice of such a meeting shall be sent by electronic mail, or any other means provided for in the Bylaws of this organization ten (10) days prior to the special meeting. Those officers requesting a special meeting shall state the need for such a meeting and sign this notice. At least fifteen (15) members of the Executive Committee shall be present at the special meeting to constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VIII PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Section 1. The rules contained in the most recent published edition of Robert's Rules of Order Revised shall govern all meetings to the extent that they are not inconsistent with this Constitution or the Bylaws of this organization.

ARTICLE IX CODE OF ETHICS

Section 1. All members are at all times representative of the organization and the Democratic Party and must conduct themselves in a manner that positively reflects.

Section 2. The organization is dedicated to equality for all and under no circumstance is discrimination of any kind to be tolerated. This includes but is not limited to race, creed, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, disability status, or national origin.

Section 3. Any form of discrimination, harassment, or bullying is prohibited.

Bullying is defined as an action or series of actions intended to demean, intimidate, or humiliate an individual. Bullying can be verbal, physical, or social. It includes but is not limited to: name calling, threatening to cause physical or social harm, spreading rumors, embarrassing someone in public, or making any kind of unwanted physical contact.

Harassment is defined as any verbal, non-verbal, physical, or sexual conduct that whether intended or unintended disrespects, threatens, terrorizes, sexualizes, degrades, or harms someone else.

Section 4. All members are expected to treat colleagues and anyone else with dignity and respect. They should not act in any way which would corrupt or degrade the organization or its goals.

Section 5. All elected and appointed leaders are to be honest and transparent as it relates to the issues and business of the organization.

Section 6. Elected and appointed leaders shall not use their office to gain special privileges or benefits and shall refrain from acting in their official capacities when their independence of judgment would be adversely affected by personal interest.

Section 7. No member shall disclose confidential information belonging to or obtained through their affiliation with this organization, unless explicitly authorized or otherwise required by law. Elected and appointed officers shall demonstrate professionalism, good



judgment, and care at all times in handling any information related to this organization so as to avoid improper disclosure of confidential information.

Section 8. Any alleged violation of this Code of Ethics shall be presented in writing to the President and Sergeant-at-Arms of the organization.

Section 9. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the investigation of any alleged violations of the Code of Ethics. As part of its investigation, the Executive Committee shall inform the accused of the nature of the allegations made against them and afford them an opportunity to address the allegations, either orally or in writing. At the conclusion of its investigation, the Executive Committee shall determine whether the alleged violation is substantiated. A two-thirds vote of all Executive Committee members except the President, present and voting shall be required for an alleged violation to be substantiated. The President shall not be considered a voting member of the Executive Committee for purposes of this vote.

Section 10. Upon an alleged violation of the Code of Ethics being substantiated, the President shall impose an appropriate sanction. Sanctions may include at minimum, a written reprimand, but can also include censure, suspension, removal from an officer position, expulsion, and any other sanction as deemed appropriate by the President in their sole discretion.

ARTICLE X AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments to this Constitution 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. This Constitution may be amended at a regular meeting or Annual State Convention with a quorum present, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of all eligible voters as provided in Article IV.

Section 4. A copy of this Constitution and any approved amendments shall be filed with the Young Democrats of America by the Secretary. An official copy of this Constitution and any approved amendments shall be made accessible on this organization's website.

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