

CONSTITUTION OF THE OHIO YOUNG DEMOCRATS OF AMERICA

ARTICLE I NAME

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Ohio Young Democrats of America. 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 of America, 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, Democratic National Committee.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Any individual, regardless of race, creed, gender, sexual orientation, 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 of America.

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

A) Regular – Any young adult who has not attained his or her thirty-sixth (36th) birthday shall be eligible for full rights and privileges as a regular member upon receipt of the prescribed application and dues.

B) Honorary – Any person who has attained his or her thirty-sixth (36th) birthday shall be eligible for an honorary membership upon receipt of the prescribed application and dues.

Section 3. The dues and applications for the two (2) classes of membership described in Section 2 shall be as provided in the Bylaws of this organization.

Section 4. There shall be three (3) classes of chartered chapters in this organization:

A) Chartered County Chapter – There shall be only one (1) chapter per county that is chartered and affiliated with this organization. A county chapter, in order to charter with this organization, shall have a minimum number of ten (10) regular members, as defined in Section 2. County chapters seeking a charter shall apply to this organization's Executive Committee. 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 payment of dues to this organization of one (1) dollar per regular member.

B) Chartered College/University Chapter – There shall be only one (1) chapter per college or university that is chartered and affiliated with this organization. A college or university chapter, in order to charter with this organization, shall have a minimum number of ten (10) regular members, as defined in Section 2. College or university chapters seeking a charter shall apply to this organization's Executive Committee. 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 college or university chapter's constitution and bylaws, a list of current officers with the dates that they were elected, and payment of dues to this organization of one (1) dollar per regular member.

C) Chartered High School Chapter – There shall be only one (1) chapter per high school that is chartered and affiliated with this organization. A high school chapter, in order to charter with this organization, shall have a minimum number of five (5) regular members, as defined in Section 2. High school chapters seeking a charter shall apply to this organization's Executive Committee. 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 five (5) 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 high school chapter's constitution and bylaws, a list of current officers with the dates that they were elected, and payment of dues to this organization of one (1) dollar per regular member.

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

- A) The chapter shall compile the information required by Section 4 and the Bylaws of this organization on the forms prescribed by the Bylaws.
- B) The chapter shall submit the chartering application, including payment for dues for each regular member, for review by this organization's Rules and Charter Committee. The Rules and Charter Committee shall review each application individually to ensure that it all requirements are met.
- C) The Rules and Charter Committee shall present one report to the Executive Committee for all charters that it has reviewed and recommended for approval since the last Executive Committee meeting.
- D) The Executive Committee shall approve or disapprove the report of the Rules and Charter Committee in one yes or no vote. Amendments to the report may be considered during regular meetings and at the Annual State Convention.
- E) Chapters may submit chartering applications at any time during the year, but applications shall only be considered for approval at regular meetings of the Executive Committee and at the Annual State Convention.
- F) Upon the approval of the Rules and Charter Committee 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.
- G) 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 and the Bylaws of this organization on the forms prescribed by the Bylaws and by paying dues for additional regular members.
- H) 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 U.S. mail, 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 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.

ARTICLE IV VOTING

Section 1. There shall be two types of voting within the organization:

- A) For the election of officers and amending this Constitution, and

B) All other votes.

Section 2. Voting for the election of officers and amending this Constitution shall be as follows:

A) 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.

B) Chartered high school chapters shall receive their first vote for five regular members submitted on its membership list in conjunction with its chartering application and for whom dues have been paid. They shall receive a second vote for twenty regular members submitted on its membership list in conjunction with its chartering application or update and for whom dues have been paid. Thereafter, they shall receive one vote for every ten additional regular members submitted on its membership list in conjunction with its chartering application or update and for whom dues have been paid.

Section 3. 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 4. An individual may be a member of more than one chartered chapter, but an individual may only be a member of one chartered chapter of each class of chartered chapter as provided in Article III, Section 4. For example, an individual may be a member of a chartered county chapter and a chartered college/university chapter, but an individual may not be a member of two chartered county chapters. Additionally, for the purposes of voting, an individual may only sign in and vote as a member of one chartered chapter. Thus, an individual who is a member of both a chartered county chapter and a chartered college/university chapter must select the chartered chapter that he or she is representing for voting purposes prior to casting any vote.

Section 5. There shall be no votes by proxy, and no individual shall be permitted to cast a vote for a chartered chapter unless he or she is a member of that chartered chapter.

Section 6. 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 7. For all votes other than the election of officers, all members of the Executive Committee shall have one vote.

ARTICLE V OFFICERS

Section 1. The elected officers of this organizations shall be a President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-At-Arms, National Committeeman, and National Committeewoman.

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

Section 3. The Executive Committee of this organization shall be composed of all elected officers, the presidents of all chartered chapters, and the immediate past President (if not aged out), as voting members of the Executive Committee. Non-voting members of the Executive Committee shall include all appointed officers and the presidents of all non-chartered chapters.

Section 4. The terms of office for all elected officers shall be two (2) years. An officer of this organization shall not hold two (2) or more offices at the same time. The President, Second Vice President, Membership Secretary, National Committeeman, and National Committeewoman shall be elected in even-numbered years. The First Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Sergeant-at-Arms shall be elected in odd-numbered years.

Section 5. Any regular member who has not attained his or her thirty-fourth (34th) birthday shall be eligible to become a candidate for an elected office.

Section 6. 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 Article IV.

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

A) 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.

B) First Vice President – The First Vice President shall perform the duties and responsibilities of the President in his or her absence or incapacity and shall perform such other duties as assigned by the President or the Bylaws of this organization.

C) Second Vice President – The Second Vice President shall assist the President with the administration of his or her duties and shall perform the duties of the President and/or the First Vice President in their absence or incapacity. In addition, the Second Vice President shall perform any other duties as provided in the Bylaws of this organization.

D) 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 minutes of the meetings of this organization; shall take roll calls and mark the absence of officers at meetings in the minutes; shall read 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.

E) 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, giving an accurate record to the Treasurer and keeping a duplicate for him or herself; shall report the status of membership at each meeting of the Executive Committee, and shall to 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.

F) 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 \$99.99 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.

G) 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.

H) National Committeeman and National Committeewoman – The National Committeeman and National Committeewoman shall represent this organization at official functions of the Young Democrats of America; shall present timely reports of the actions and issues of the Young Democrats of America to this organization's Executive Committee; and shall present a report of an annual review of the Young Democrats of America at this organization's annual meeting. In addition, the National Committeeman and National Committeewoman shall perform any other duties as provided in the Bylaws of this organization.

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

A) 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.

B) 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 him or her at all meetings. In addition, the Legal Advisor/Parliamentarian shall perform any other duties as provided in the Bylaws of this organization.

Section 9. In the event that the President of this organization is permanently unable to perform his or her duties as determined by a vote of three-fourths of the Executive Committee, the First Vice President shall become this organization's President. The new President shall then appoint a regular member to fulfill the duties of the First Vice President for the remainder of the unexpired term, with the approval of a simple majority of the Executive Committee.

Section 10. In the event an officer, other than the President, is permanently unable to perform his or her duties, 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 VI COMMITTEES

Section 1. There shall be five (5) standing committees of this organization:

A) The Executive Committee as described in Article V, Section 3.

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

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

D) Membership Committee - This committee shall plan and oversee recruitment of members and chapters as well as chapter development.

E) Rules and Charter Committee - This committee shall review all issues pertaining to the Constitution and Bylaws of this organization and shall review and approve or reject all applications to charter with this organization, as provided in Article III, Section 5.

Section 2. Each standing committee shall be chaired by an elected officer as follows:

- A) Executive Committee – President.
- B) Campaign Committee – First Vice President.
- C) Finance Committee – Treasurer.
- D) Membership Committee – Second Vice President.
- E) Rules and Charter Committee – Membership Secretary.

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. The number of voting members of each standing committee shall be as provided in the Bylaws of this organization. No person shall be a voting member of more than one 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 VII MEETINGS

Section I. The President shall call at least three (3) 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 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. In order for a regular meeting to occur, there shall be a majority of the elected officers and at least fifty percent (50%) of the presidents, or designee as provided by the Bylaws, of chartered chapters present, and this number shall constitute a quorum.

Section 4. Notice of all regular meetings shall be sent by U.S. mail, 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 U.S. mail, 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 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 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 maintained at this organization's headquarters.