



BYLAWS AND CONSTITUTION
NEW YORK STATE YOUNG DEMOCRATS
CAUCUS OF COLOR

ARTICLE I - NAME AND GOVERNANCE

The organization shall be known as the New York State Young Democrats Caucus of Color (NYSYD COC). The organization shall operate in conformity with the Charter and Rules governing the New York State Young Democrats and the Young Democrats of America. The New York State Young Democrats Caucus of Color exists as a Caucus organization under the New York State Young Democrats, which is a chartered state of the Young Democrats of America. The New York State Young Democrats Caucus of Color operates under the general guidelines of the state and national organizations within the allowable freedoms. The New York State Young Democrats Caucus of Color adheres to the strict guidelines of neither endorsing nor providing funds for any political candidates engaged in a primary election cycle.

ARTICLE II - MISSION STATEMENT & PURPOSE

The New York State Young Democrats Caucus of Color (NYSYD COC) recognizes the need for inclusive representation throughout the Democratic Party, and seeks to advance political participation among young people of color in the State of New York. The purpose of this organization shall be to advance the highest principles of the Democratic Party, as outlined in the national platform of the Young Democrats of America, to foster and maintain truly democratic procedures in the Democratic Party, to support Democratic candidates of integrity, ability, and conviction for public office and party positions, and to arouse and animate participation by all Democrats in the conduct of their party. The New York State Young Democrats Caucus of Color will seek to accomplish this in the following manner:

- By promoting the involvement of ethnic minorities in the political process and the activities of the Democratic Party at the local, state and national level;
- By supporting and working with local chapters throughout the State in diversifying their local memberships and developing and identifying pertinent issues that affect young professionals and students of color;
- By developing a state-wide message that speaks of the inclusiveness of indigenous people of color and their need to participate within the political structure within the Democratic Party;
- To nurture and strive for the advancement of ethnic minorities in elected positions throughout the State, and/or appointed positions throughout the Democratic Party;
- Holding elected representatives from the Democratic Party accountable to the needs of ethnically diverse communities

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership

Membership in the New York State Young Democrats Caucus of Color is open to the following persons:

- A. Any person who may identify themselves as a member of an ethnic minority.
- B. Members should be registered to vote upon reaching the age of 18.
- C. To be a member in good standing, one must provide all relevant information requested on the membership application.

Section 2. Voting Membership

Voting membership in the New York State Young Democrats Caucus of Color shall be open to all Caucus members who are members in good standing in any local chapter of the New York State Young Democrats.

Section 3. Honorary Membership

All enrolled Democrats over the age of thirty-six shall be eligible for honorary membership in the New York



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State Young Democrats Caucus of Color, as provided within the New York State Young Democrats Constitution and Bylaws. Any Democrat between the ages of 16 and 36, both inclusive, shall be eligible for active membership. No honorary member shall be entitled to vote nor shall any honorary member be entitled to the privileges of the floor at any meeting for the purposes of speaking on any matter pertaining to the business of any New York State Young Democratic Club or Convention except when unanimous consent is given. No honorary member shall hold any appointive or elective office.

ARTICLE IV - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1. Leadership Committee

The offices of Chair (or co-chairs), Vice-Chairs, Treasurer, and Secretary shall be elected by the membership of the Caucus. The Officers and Chairs of the respective Standing Committees shall make up the Leadership Committee of the New York State Young Democrats Caucus of Color. All candidates for the Leadership Committee must attend at least one official Caucus of Color event.

Section 2. Vacancy

In the event of a vacancy on the leadership committee, the office shall be filled by the selection of the Chair (or co-chairs). Should the Chair position(s) become vacant, a vote by the leadership committee will be held to select a new Chair from among the sitting Vice-Chairs.

ARTICLE V - DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 1. Elected Positions

The New York State Young Democrats Caucus of Color General Membership shall elect at the New York State Young Democrats Convention the following officers, who shall serve for a term of two years or until successors are elected to the Leadership Committee: Chair, Vice-Chairs, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 2. Functions of Officers

- A. Chair – The Chair shall conduct and preside over all New York State Young Democrats Caucus of Color membership meetings, and shall serve as the spokesperson of the Caucus with the media, public officials, the Executive Committee of the New York State Young Democrats and the citizenry, unless otherwise decided and delegated by the Chair and/or a consensus vote from the body of the Caucus. He/She is to serve as the official liaison and/or envoy to the Executive Committee of New York State Young Democrats. He/She shall ensure that all other club officers perform the duties of their respective offices and shall be responsible for the welfare and dignity of the chapter during his/her term.

The Chair shall coordinate the activities of the Caucus and shall have the authority to call meetings when necessary. The Chair shall appoint Chairpersons of Standing Committees, which he/she deems necessary to carry out the program of the New York State Young Democrats Caucus of Color. The Chair shall have the authority to create ad-hoc committees with the advice of the Leadership Committee, necessary to carry out the principle functions of the Caucus and to appoint members to those committees. The Chair shall be an ex-officio member of all standing committees. The Chair shall not hold the chair of any standing and/or ad-hoc committees.

The will of the membership, as expressed during a vote at the New York State Young Democrats Convention, may allow for the role of Chair to be executed by two individuals as co-chairs.



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- B. Vice Chairs – The Vice-Chairs shall assist the Chair in the performance of such Caucus duties as may be requested by the Chair. Regional Vice-Chairs must either work or live in the region they represent. In the event of the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chairs shall collectively assume the duties of the Chair until the Chair returns to the role as Chair.

The Vice-Chairs shall stimulate recruitment, outreach, and activity within their respective areas. Along with the Chair, the respective Vice-Chairs shall endeavor to set the agenda for general membership meetings. They shall preside at meetings of the Caucus in the absence of the Chair. The Vice-Chairs shall perform such other duties as may be designated from time to time by the Chair.

- C. Secretary – The Secretary shall be the chief recorder and correspondent of the Caucus. He/She shall keep a true and accurate record of all matters pertaining to this Caucus and shall certify thereto when necessary. The Secretary shall be responsible for recording all minutes at all meetings, a current roster of active membership, a copy of the formal reports of Caucus Officers, the By-Laws of this Caucus. Further, the Secretary shall be responsible for oversight of all letters and gifts to invitees, speakers, and members. The Secretary, along with the Chair, shall be responsible for developing a Membership Application given to new, prospective and renewed members of this Caucus, developing any forms he/she deems relevant to the administration of the club, and developing and distributing the agenda to the General Membership at each General Membership Meeting. He/She shall preside at meetings of the Caucus in the absence of the Chair, Vice Chairs, and Treasurer.

- D. Treasurer – The Treasurer shall maintain the financial records of the Caucus. The Treasurer shall receive and disburse all funds of the Caucus. He/She shall keep records of all receipts and disbursements which may be audited upon demand of the Executive Committee of the New York State Young Democrats. He/She shall preside at meetings of the Caucus in the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chairs.

ARTICLE VI – COMMITTEES

Section 1. Standing Committees

There shall be the following standing committees: Outreach, Communications, Finance, and Campaign.

- A. The Outreach Director and the Committee shall be responsible for implementing programs and activities designed to maximize participation of communities of color that have been traditionally under-represented in the Democratic Party and within the Young Democrats of New York State. They shall act as a resource for local chapters seeking to increase and diversify their membership enrollment by generating ideas and maintaining a catalog of membership-building programs and activities.
- B. The Communications Director and Committee shall be responsible for working to disseminate our message to the press and public. The Committee shall develop methods of publicizing the various activities of the Caucus through the use of print, electronic and other cost-effective media. The Committee will aid the Caucus in attracting press to events and activities of the Caucus and will be responsible for the Caucus Listserv, and other articles for other media throughout the State.
- C. The Finance Chair and Committee shall work with oversight and advice by the Treasurer. This



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Committee's main responsibility is to develop sources of revenue for the Caucus, in addition to advising the Treasurer on fiscal issues.

- D. The Political Director and Campaign Committee shall monitor issues of importance to the Caucus and disseminate position papers regarding said issues of particular interest to young people of color throughout New York State. This Committee shall also coordinate campaign involvement of New York State Young Democrats Caucus of Color members and assist in candidate recruitment and development of Democratic candidates of color throughout the State. This Committee and Caucus, however, are beholden to the policy of non-endorsement of any candidate seeking Democratic support during a Primary Election.

ARTICLE VII - PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern all proceedings except when inconsistent with the Bylaws of the New York State Young Democrats, the New York State Young Democrats Caucus of Color, and Young Democrats of America. The President of the New York State Young Democrats shall be an ex-officio member of the New York State Young Democrats Caucus of Color.

ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended by majority vote at a General Election Membership meeting. These bylaws may also be amended by a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of the membership present at a General Membership Caucus meeting. Amendments and/or new Articles shall be effective upon adoption, and a copy of these by-laws shall be maintained by the Secretary of the Caucus.

ARTICLE IX – ADOPTION

The bylaws were approved by the membership of the New York State Young Democrats Caucus of Color. These by-laws shall take effect immediately upon adoption.