

## **Constitution of the New York State Young Democrats**

### **ARTICLE I - PURPOSE**

Section 1. Name. This organization shall be known as the New York State Young Democrats.

Section 2. Purpose. This organization shall foster, supervise and coordinate the activities of the Young Democratic Chapters in New York State.

Section 3. Mission. The purpose of the organization shall be to advance the highest principles of the Democratic Party, 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 activities of their party.

Section 4. Activities. The New York State Young Democrats shall support the duly nominated candidates and the platform of the Democratic Party.

### **ARTICLE II - ELIGIBILITY**

Section 1. Age and Registration. This organization shall be composed of duly Chartered Chapters of Young Democrats in the State of New York as hereinafter designated. Such Chapters shall be organized as provided in the following sections of this Article. Any Democrat between the ages of sixteen (16) and thirty six (36), both inclusive, shall be eligible for active membership. Regular members who are registered Democrats and will not reach the age of thirty six (36) on or before May 31<sup>st</sup> of the year of the next convention shall be eligible for elected state office.

Section 1.1. Members for Chartering Purposes. For the purposes of chartering at the State Convention all members of a chapter must be registered Democrats in the county where they are a member with the exception of members under the age of eighteen (18) who must reside in the county in question. There will be an exception for members who do not have a Chapter in their county of registration, or college students whose primary residence is the county even if their registration is elsewhere.

Section 2. Chartering. Each Chapter, subject to the continuing approval of the County Chair of the County within which the Chapter is organized or to the approval of the State Executive Committee of the New York State Young Democrats as granted in Article II, Section 3, shall have the authority to establish Young Democratic Chapters and a State charter will be granted to each group whenever they have ten (10) active members. Each county shall have its own county organization and operate under its own Bylaws of the New York State Young Democrats. No charter shall be issued to any Chapter unless the Chapter meets the requirements of membership as hereinafter provided.

Section 3. Charter Approval. If a charter application has been submitted to the County Chair for approval at least 30 days before the final date for filing with the State Organization and same has not been acted upon by the County Chair, then the charter application may be approved by a simple majority vote of the members present at the State Executive Committee meeting preceding the State Convention, as specified in Article III, Section 4 of the Constitution.

### ARTICLE III - CONVENTION

Section 1. State Convention. A State Convention shall be held biennially at the call of the President at a time and place agreed upon by the State Executive Committee. The State Convention shall be held in May during odd-numbered years at which time elections shall be held. Should the President fail to issue a Call to Convention by March 1, a call shall be issued by a majority vote of the State Executive Committee.

Section 2. Notice. Notice of State Conventions must be given to all Young Democratic Chapters at least thirty (30) days prior to said State Convention.

Section 3. Eligibility. All delegates and alternates must be members in good standing of the Chapter they represent and residents of the County in which their Chapter is located. Said Chapter shall certify said delegates and alternates as members in good standing and such certification shall be final.

Section 4. Certification. All voting delegates attending the State Convention must be registered and certified by the Credentials Committee. No person shall be allowed to participate as a delegate or alternate of more than one Chapter. Proxies will be accepted for

the State Convention. Proxies must be on file with the State Secretary at the time of the vote. No person may be designated to hold more than three proxies at any one time.

Section 5. Credentials. Organizations attending State Conventions must submit to the Credentials Committee by registered mail postmarked at least thirty (30) days prior to when the State Convention convenes a roster listing all members with address, Date of Birth, and either Telephone Number or E-Mail address, together with \$0.50 for each person. Said forms must be certified by the President and the Secretary of the organization.

Section 5.1. Delegates. Organizations attending the State Convention must submit a list of the names and addresses of their delegates and alternates who are going to attend the State Convention certified by the President and Secretary of the organization. In no event shall a delegate be permitted to vote unless the required lists are in the hands of the Credentials Committee prior to the time of the vote.

Section 6. Voting. At any State Convention each Chapter shall be entitled to one vote for every ten (10) members of the Chartered Chapters who are residents of the county in which their Chapter is located. Additional votes shall be awarded in whole multiples of ten and no fractional votes shall be awarded.

Section 6.1. Vote Cap. No chapter may be permitted to cast more than 25% of the total votes at State Convention.

Section 7. Convention Quorum. A quorum shall consist of a representation of at least 50% of the Chartered Chapters. Quorum, once established at any meeting or State Convention, shall not be lost by depletion of membership prior to adjournment.

Section 8. YDA Convention Delegation Chairperson. The New York State Young Democrats shall be duly represented at each convention of the Young Democrats of America by a delegation of members, the chairperson of which shall be the President or his/her designee.

Section 9. YDA Convention Delegation. The State Executive Committee shall appoint those persons who shall be duly accredited delegates at all meetings and conventions where the New York State Young Democrats are to be represented, except where this conflicts with Young Democrats of America Bylaws.

Section 10. Council of Presidents. Immediately following the election of officers there shall be an Election for the Chair of the Council of Presidents, which shall be composed of the Chapter Presidents of all chartered chapters. Each chartered Chapter President shall be entitled to one vote for Chairperson.

Section 10.1. Filling of Vacancy of Chair of Council of Presidents. In the event that the chairperson of the Council of Presidents resigns as chair or is no longer a chapter president, the New York State Young Democrats President shall within two weeks call for a meeting, in person or by phone, of chartered chapter presidents to elect a new chairperson.

#### ARTICLE IV - CHARTERING

Section 1. Dues. State dues for the members of the County Chapters chartered by the New York State Young Democrats shall be \$.50 per member biennially which shall be paid to the State Treasurer by the County Chapter as State dues. Charters will be granted bi-annually and a charter fee of \$65.00 will be due thirty (30) days in advance of the annual State Convention. Charters shall be renewable upon payment of the charter fee and compliance with the membership requirements previously set forth.

Section 2. Local Dues. Each local organization shall set the amount of local dues for its organization, if any.

Section 3. Charter Fees. Any organization desiring to become affiliated with the New York State Young Democrats shall submit to the President and Secretary of the New York State Young Democrats a copy of its constitution and a list of current members in an electronic format, together with a \$65 charter fee and a letter of approval from the County Chair. Those organizations unable to present the letter from their County Chair must follow the procedures established in Article II, Section 3.

Section 4. Honorary Membership. All enrolled Democrats over the maximum age for membership shall be eligible for honorary membership in the New York State Young Democrats. 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 Chapter or

State Convention except when unanimous consent is given. No honorary member shall hold any appointed or elected office in any local or state organization.

Section 5. Chartering Between Conventions. A charter may be granted between State Conventions by approval of a majority of the State Executive Committee provided that all other requirements for chartering set forth in Section 3 are met.

Section 6. Revocation. The New York State Young Democrats shall be empowered to revoke the Charter of a Chapter by a two-thirds vote of the State Executive Committee voting members in attendance.

## ARTICLE V - OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers Named. Officers Named: President, Executive Vice President, Downstate Vice President, Hudson Valley Vice President, Capital Vice President, Upstate Vice President, Western Vice President, Central Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, National Committeeman, National Committeewoman and Legal Director.

Section 2. Duties. The duties of the respective officers shall be outlined in the Bylaws.

Section 3. Eligibility. The eligibility to run for the named offices in Article V, Section 1 shall be outlined in Article II, Section 1.

Section 4. Elections. The New York State Young Democrats shall elect at the biennial State Convention the officers enumerated in Section 1 of this Article, who shall serve for a term of two years or until their successors are elected and installed.

Section 5. Attendance at Meetings. The State Executive Committee shall meet at least four times a year at the discretion of the President, or the Executive Vice President and two additional Vice Presidents, or upon petition of one-quarter (1/4) of its voting members. The State Executive Committee meetings shall provide the option of telephone conference calls and may provide for video conference call. Members of the State Executive Committee may be present at the meeting and vote by joining the video or telephone conference call.

Section 6.1. Vacancy of President. If the position of President become vacant, the Executive Vice President shall succeed as Interim Acting President. The Interim Acting

President shall convene a special meeting of the State Executive Committee within thirty (30) days of the vacancy to set forth a call for candidates and a Special Election. The Special Election shall be held no later than ninety (90) days from the date of the vacancy.

Section 6.2. Vacancy of Executive Vice President or Regional Vice President. If the position of Executive Vice President or a Regional Vice President becomes vacant, the President shall appoint an Interim Acting Executive Vice President or Regional Vice President within thirty (30) days of the vacancy. The President shall convene a special meeting of the State Executive Committee within thirty (30) days of the vacancy to set forth a call for candidates and a Special Election. The Special Election shall be held no later than ninety (90) days from the date of the vacancy.

Section 6.3. Vacancy of President and Executive Vice President. If the positions of President and Executive Vice President are vacant at the same time the State Executive Board shall elect an Interim Acting President and Interim Acting Executive Vice President within thirty (30) days of the vacancy of both positions and set forth a call for candidates and a Special Election. The Special Election shall be held no later than (90) days from the date of the vacancy.

Section 6.4. Vacancies Generally. In the event any other State elected office shall become vacant, the vacancy shall be filled by interim appointment by the President subject to confirmation by the State Executive Committee at its next meeting and shall not require a special election to complete the term of office.

Section 7. Special Elections. Special Elections shall be conducted as set forth in the call for candidates, provided that elections shall be conducted in the same manner as it would be at a State Convention with Chapters casting the same number of votes as were allotted in the last State Convention. Chapters formed since the last State Convention would be allotted votes based on membership.

Section 7.1. Special Elections Not Applicable. A Special Election shall not be conducted to fill any vacancy whose remaining term is three (3) months or less and the individual serving as interim acting shall complete their term.

## ARTICLE VI - STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. State Executive Committee. The State Executive Committee shall consist of the following members listed in Sections 2 through 4.

Section 2. Voting Members. The State Executive Committee shall consist of the following voting members:

Section 2.1. Named Officers. Officers named in Article V, Section 1 and Article VI, excluding the Legal Director.

Section 2.2. Caucus Chairs. The Caucus Chairs referred to in Article VII shall serve as ex-officio voting members.

Section 2.3. Chair of the Council of Presidents. The Chair of the Council of Presidents shall be an ex-officio voting member of the executive committee.

Section 3. Non-Voting Officers. The State Executive Committee shall consist of the following non-voting members:

Section 3.1. President Emeritus. The President Emeritus shall be an ex-officio, non-voting member of the State Executive Committee.

Section 3.2. Legal Director. The Legal Director shall be a non-voting officer of the State Executive Committee.

Section 3.3. Chartered Presidents. The President of each Chartered Chapter shall serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the State Executive Committee.

Section 3.4. Appointed Officers. The President may appoint any officers, as well as Chairpersons of Special Committees which they deem necessary to carry out the program of the New York State Young Democrats, with the advice and consent of the State Executive Committee. All appointed officers shall be non-voting members of the State Executive Committee.

Section 4. Non-Voting Ex-Officio Officers. The New York State Young Democrats recognizes the importance of certain partner organizations and hereby includes the following in its State Executive Committee:

Section 4.1. YDA Officers. Any New York State Young Democrat elected or appointed to serve as a Young Democrats of America officer, a YDA caucus officer, a YDA committee officer, or in another position carrying membership on the YDA Executive Committee, shall be an ex-officio, non-voting member of the State Executive Committee.

Section 4.2. College Democrats of New York President. The President of the College Democrats of New York shall serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the State Executive Committee.

Section 4.3. New York Democratic Law Students Council. The leader of the New York State Democratic Law Students, or their designee if that leader is over the maximum age as specified in Article II, Section 1, shall serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the State Executive Committee.

Section 5. Duties. The State Executive Committee shall be responsible for chartering of new Chapters and shall perform other general administrative roles as outlined by this Constitution, the Bylaws and directed by the President with the advice and consent of the State Executive Committee.

Section 7: Sub-accounts. Financial sub-accounts, where provided for in this constitution and bylaws or by the Executive Committee of this organization, shall not be used except by the individual, organization or sub-unit for whom the sub-account is held.

## ARTICLE VII - CAUCUSES

Section 1. Named Caucuses. Named Caucuses: Caucus of Color; Disability Issues; High School; Jewish; Labor; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT); Rural (YDR); and Women.

Section 2. Duties. Duties shall be reflected in the bylaws of the respective caucus.



Section 3. Confirmation of Chairs. Following elections within their respective bodies, the President shall confirm Chairs for each of the Caucuses named in Section 1 of this Article.

Section 4. Vacancy of Chairs. If a Caucus Chair position is vacant, the remaining officers and/or members of the caucus shall call for an election within thirty (30) days of said vacancy. If an election is not called within 30 days, then the vacancy shall be filled as outlined in Article V, Section 6.4.

#### ARTICLE VIII - REMOVAL

Section 1. Removal of State Executive Committee Members for Absence. Members of the State Executive Committee who shall be absent from or not represented by proxy at two consecutive meetings of the State Executive Committee shall have their office declared vacant at the first subsequent meeting thereof, provided that notice of that action is provided to the subject member by certified mail no less than ten (10) days prior to the date of that action and that the State Executive Committee, by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of those in attendance, may waive the declaration of the vacancy upon personal appeal of the subject member in attendance at the next meeting. Absence from a State Executive Committee meeting held in accordance with Article V, Section 5 where a telephone conference call number is not available shall not count as an absence for the purposes of this section.

Section 2. Removal of State Committee Members for Criminal Acts. If a state committee member is convicted of a felony or misdemeanor charge related to honesty, such State Executive Committee member shall disclose the conviction to the President, the Executive Vice President, the Chair of the Council of Presidents, the Regional Vice Presidents and the Legal Director within thirty (30) days of the conviction. Such conviction shall be grounds for impeachment and removal by the State Executive Committee in accordance with the procedures delineated in Article VIII, Section 3 of the Constitution. Failure to disclose a conviction for a felony related to honesty shall result in an automatic vacancy of the position and such vacancy to be effective thirty (31) one days after the date of the conviction. This section shall not apply to conviction that redtes a state committee member's term in office.

Section 3. Impeachments. Elected and appointed officers of the New York State Young Democrats may be impeached by a simple majority at any regular or special meeting of the

State Executive Committee. Upon passage, a resolution of impeachment must be forwarded to the accused within ten (10) days.

Section 3.1. Removal . In order to be removed from office, the impeached state committee member shall have the right to a trial to be held no less than twenty (20) days and no later than forty five (45) days following passage of said impeachment resolution. The trial, convened by the State Executive Committee, shall be chaired by the Legal Director or, in the case of the Legal Director being impeached or if the Legal Director is unavailable, the trial shall be chaired by a non-voting state committee member appointed by the President. The accused shall have the right to present witnesses in his or her defense, cross-examine the witnesses for the prosecution and to be represented by counsel. An impeached state committee member shall be removed from office only upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the state executive committee.

#### ARTICLE IX – PUBLICATION

Section 1. Constitution and Bylaws. The Constitution and Bylaws shall be published on the New York State Young Democrats website and shall be generally available upon request.

Section 2. Budget. The Current Operating Budget and Financial Filings with the State Board of Elections shall be generally available upon request by any member of the State Executive Committee. The failure to deliver or make the Current Operating Budget available for inspection at two consecutive State Executive Board meetings shall be grounds for automatic impeachment at the third consecutive meeting of the State Executive Board where the budget remains unavailable.

#### ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments. This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the New York State Young Democrats in State Convention assembled.

Section 2. Bylaws. Bylaws may be implemented by a majority vote of the State Convention assembled or by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the State Executive Committee.

## ARTICLE XI - PRONOUNS

All pronouns or any variation thereof shall be deemed to be masculine, feminine, neuter, singular or plural as the identity of the person or persons may require except in the case of the National Committeeman or National Committeewoman.

## ARTICLE XII - ADOPTION

This Constitution shall take effect upon its adoption.