

Bylaws of the New York State Young Democrats

ARTICLE I – GOVERNING

Section 1. Governing Rules Generally. The Constitution or Bylaws shall govern the proceedings of all meetings of the New York State Young Democrats. Where silent, the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern.

Section 2. Governing Rules for Convention. The rules set forth in the Call to Convention shall be followed as long as they do not conflict or contradict with any part of these Bylaws or the Constitution. Where silent, the Convention shall follow provisions of Section 1 of this article.

ARTICLE II – RESOLUTIONS

All resolutions offered to any State Convention or meeting of the New York State Young Democrats must be presented in writing to the Credentials Committee and approved by said committee before presentation to a State Convention or State Executive Committee for adoption.

ARTICLE III - OFFICERS AND DUTIES

Section 1. President. The President shall direct the officers of the organization as its administrative officer. The President shall Chair the State Executive Committee and shall be an ex-officio member of all other committees.

Section 2. Executive Vice President. The Executive Vice President shall assist the President in the performance of the duties outlined in Section 1 and in the absence of the President shall serve in his or her stead.

Section 3. Regional Vice Presidents. The Upstate, Downstate, Capital Region, Western and Central Vice Presidents shall stimulate recruitment and activity within their respective areas.

Section 3.1. Capital Region Vice President. The Capital Region Vice President shall cover Albany, Columbia, Delaware, Fulton, Greene, Montgomery, Otsego, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Sullivan and Washington Counties.

Section 3.2. Central Vice President. The Central Vice President shall cover Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga, Schuyler, Seneca, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne and Yates Counties.

Section 3.3. Downstate Vice President. The Downstate Vice President shall cover New York, Kings, Queens, Richmond, Bronx, Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

Section 3.4. Hudson Valley Vice President. The Hudson Valley Vice President shall cover Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Ulster and Westchester Counties.

Section 3.5. Northern Vice President. The Upstate Vice President shall cover Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, Oswego, St. Lawrence and Warren Counties.

Section 3.6. Western Region Vice President. The Western Region Vice President shall cover Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Chemung, Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Steuben and Wyoming Counties.

Section 3.7. Voting for Regional Vice Presidents. All Chartered Chapters may cast votes in elections for officers, except that in election of Regional Vice Presidents only Chartered Chapters within the region the Vice President covers may vote.

Section 4. Secretary. The Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the organization, a roll of its members and a copy of the formal reports of its officers.

Section 5. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall receive and disburse all funds of the organization. He shall keep records of all receipts and disbursements which may be audited biennially upon demand of the State Executive Committee.

Section 6. National Committeeman and National Committeewoman. The National Committeeman and National Committeewoman shall represent the interests of the New York State Young Democrats at all meetings and conventions of the Young Democrats of America. The President shall serve as Chairperson of all delegations to such meetings.

Section 7. Legal Director. The Legal Director shall serve the New York State Young Democrats as parliamentarian for State Executive Committee meetings and internal investigator.

Section 7.1. Admission to Practice. The Legal Director must be an attorney licensed to practice in the State of New York.

Section 7.2. Internal Investigation Upon Request. Upon request of at least a simple majority of the voting State Executive Committee, and shall give a mandatory report before the entire State Executive Committee of the results of internal investigation at the next meeting of the State Executive Committee following such a request.

Section 7.3. Complaints. Any member of the State Executive Committee, or any Chapter President, or any person eligible to vote at the State Convention, may lodge a formal complaint by submitting a complaint in writing by electronic mail or first-class, certified mail sent return receipt. The Legal Director shall have two (2) weeks to issue a formal decision regarding the complaint to the State Executive Committee. The individual who complained may request an appeal of the decision by the State Executive Committee in writing by electronic mail or first-class, certified mail sent return receipt. At the next meeting of the State Executive Committee immediately following the request for an appeal, the State Executive Committee may vote by simple majority of those present to hear the appeal. At that same meeting the State Executive Committee may overturn a decision of the Legal Director by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present.

Section 7.4. New York Democratic Lawyers Council. The Legal Director or their designee shall serve as liaison to the New York Democratic Lawyers Council.

Section 8. Annual Report. Every officer of the New York State Young Democrats shall submit an annual report of the conduct of his or her office at the end of each quarter.

Section 9. Prohibition Against Involvement in Primaries. Any officer or member of this organization using his or her official designation or the official stationery or emblem of the organization to advance the cause of any individual primary candidate shall be subject to summary expulsion by action of the State Executive Committee.

Section 10. Local Rule. Each Chartered Chapter shall select or appoint such officers as provided in its own Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 11. Local Chapters. The county officers shall create, encourage and direct the growth and operation of Young Democratic Chapters in their county.

ARTICLE IV – CARDS

The New York State Young Democrats and any Chartered Chapter shall be authorized to issue membership cards for that particular organization.

ARTICLE V – CONVENTION

Section 1. Call to Convention. The Call to Convention shall be issued by the President no less than three (3) months prior to the called date of the Convention. The Call to Convention shall include procedures for the submission of Constitutional amendments and nominations for candidacy for Executive Board positions. All aspects of the Call to Convention shall be subject to a majority vote of the Executive Board.

Section 2. Election Proceedings. Procedures for nominating officers shall be determined by the State Executive Committee as outlined in the call to the State Convention.

Section 3. Credentials Committee. The Credentials Committee of the State Convention shall be made up of no more than ten (10) members of the New York State Young Democrats as selected by the NYSYD Executive Board.

Section 3.1. Selection. The Committee shall be appointed by the President and approved by a majority vote of the NYSYD Executive Committee.

Section 3.2. Function. The Committee shall accept delegate lists from all chapters, check the eligibility of delegates, and approve or disapprove their status as delegates. The Committee shall present their pre-convention report no less than 14 days before the convention is called to order.

Section 4. Rules Committee

Section 4.1. Selection. The Committee shall be made up of the following appointments: two (2) members appointed by the President, one (1) member appointed by the Executive Vice President, one (1) member appointed by the Chair of the Council of Presidents, and one (1) member for every ten (10) delegates per region to be appointed Regional Vice-President with no region getting less than one (1) representative unless they have zero (0) chapters. If the position of a Regional Vice-President is vacant the appointment shall be elected by the chapter presidents from that region. If the position of Chair of the Council Presidents is vacant, the appointment shall be elected by the chapter presidents.

Section 4.2. Chairperson. The Committee shall be chaired by the Legal Director, who shall serve as an ex-officio non-voting member of the committee, except the Chair shall break any ties that may occur.

Section 4.3. Function. The Committee shall propose any and all standing rules for the convention, affirm or reject any Constitutional amendments or resolutions proposed by any delegate, and recommend any other parliamentary action for the convention prior to the Call to Order.

Section 4.4. Constitutional Amendments. Any proposed Constitutional amendment shall come to the floor of the convention by a majority affirmation of the Rules Committee and the Executive Committee. Any amendment rejected by the Rules Committee that has passed the Executive Committee shall be brought to the floor notwithstanding the committee's rejection only by a vote of 2/3rds of the delegates. Motions to bring rejected constitutional amendments to the floor shall only be in order during and immediately following the presentation of the Rules Committee report.

Section 5. Program Committee. The Program Committee shall be made up of no more than ten (10) members of NYSYD for which the Program Committee has been formed.

Section 5.1 Selection. The Committee shall be made up of the following appointments: two (2) member appointed by the President, one (1) delegate appointed by the Treasurer, one (1) member appointed by the Chair of the Council of Presidents, and one (1) member for every twenty (20) delegates per region, to be appointed by the respective Regional Vice-President.

Section 5.2. Chairperson. The Committee shall be chaired by a member appointed by the President. The Chair may take all steps necessary to plan the logistics of the conference prior to the convening of the Program Committee but shall not determine the agenda of the convention without a vote of the committee.

Section 5.3. Function. The committee shall propose the agenda of the convention business meeting, the caucus and programmatic sessions of any non-business sections of the convention, and any other proceedings or special events.

Section 6. Convening. The business meeting of the convention shall be convened by the Chair of the Convention and shall immediately proceed after the Call to Order to approval of the reports of the Credentials Committee, the Program Committee, and the Rules Committee in that order. All further business shall be determined by the approval of the report of the Program Committee.

ARTICLE VI - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE

Section 1. Email Notice. Notice by electronic mail shall be provided by midnight seven (7) calendar days before all State Executive Committee meetings. If seven (7) days notice is not provided, the meeting shall not be an official meeting.

Section 2. Regularly Scheduled Meetings. If the Executive Committee agrees to hold meetings on a regularly scheduled basis, there is no requirement for notice.

ARTICLE VII – PROXY VOTING

Section 1. Form of Proxy. A proxy must be in writing or provided verbally during the meeting of the committee for which it is intended.

Section 2. Qualification to Hold. A proxy may only be held by a member of the applicable committee.

Section 3. Attendance Requirement. Proxy votes may only be cast if the member the proxy belongs to has attended one of the two previous meetings without using a proxy.

Section 4. Limitation on Number Held. Committee members may only hold two (2) proxies.

Section 5. Restriction on Transfer. A member holding one or more proxies may not transfer the proxies to any other member.

Section 6. Multiple Assignment. A proxy may be assigned to one or more other members of a committee with or without specific instructions.

Section 6.1. Ranking. If assigned to more than one member of the committee, the members must be ranked in a hierarchical order.

Section 6.2. Highest Rank Shall Hold. Only the highest ranking committee member listed who is present at the committee meeting shall hold that proxy.

Section 6.3. Restriction Against A Proxy Holding A Proxy. A Proxy shall not pass to a committee member who is only present by virtue of a proxy.