

# THE CHARTER OF THE YOUNG DEMOCRATS OF AMERICA

## PREAMBLE

We, the Young Democrats of America, in order to stimulate in young people an active interest in governmental affairs and promote their involvement in the political process, to promote the acquisition of political power by young people, to promote the policies and practices which are consistent with the highest principles, to increase the efficiency of popular government and to provide the highest degree of justice and social welfare for the citizens of our country, do associate ourselves together and establish this Charter.

## CHARTER ARTICLE I CHARTERED UNITS

### SECTION 105 Chartered Units.

#### Section 105(a) Definition.

This organization shall be composed of chartered units representing all Young Democrats within that unit's territorial boundary. Territories shall be defined as each of the fifty United States; The District of Columbia; Guam; the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; the Virgin Islands; American Samoa; and Young Democrats Abroad. There may be no more than one (1) chartered unit in any State or Territory.

#### Section 105(b) Issuance of Unit Charters.

Unit charters shall be issued in accordance with Article I of the By-Laws by the National Convention and are subject to renewal by each succeeding biennial National Convention. Interim unit charters shall be issued by the National Committee, in accordance with Sections 135 and 140 of the By-laws between National Conventions, subject to renewal by the next and all succeeding National Conventions. All unit charters that have not been renewed by the close of the National Convention shall be terminated at that time.

### SECTION 145 Revocation of Unit Charters.

#### Section 145(a) Revocation of Unit Charter; Cause.

Unit Charters may be revoked for inactivity, non-compliance with this Charter or violation of any law or rule of the Democratic Party.

#### Section 145(b) Consideration; Notice.

The revocation of a unit Charter shall be considered by the Standing Committee on Credentials. Said committee may not consider such a revocation unless the subject unit shall have been notified in writing at least thirty (30) days prior thereto. Said notice shall contain the grounds for revocation and the date, time, and place of the first consideration thereof by the said committee.

## CHARTER ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP

### SECTION 205 Categories.

#### Section 205(a) Regular Member.

Any person who has not yet reached the age of thirty-six (36) may be accorded regular membership in this organization by and through a chartered unit. Regular members that reside within the territorial boundary of a unit, whether appearing on the membership list or not, and any other regular members that are listed on the membership list submitted with a unit's charter application, are eligible to serve as delegates to the National Convention representing that unit. Each unit shall have the primary responsibility for setting requirements for membership in that unit.

#### Section 205(b) Honorary Member.

Any person who has reached the age of thirty-six (36) may be elected to honorary membership in this organization upon nomination of the President and by an affirmative vote of three quarters (3/4) of the National Convention. Prior to nomination and election to honorary membership, candidates shall have demonstrated a commitment to the highest ideals of the Democratic Party and shall have performed extraordinary service to the Young Democrats of America. Honorary members shall be accorded full, non-voting, floor privileges at any meeting of the Young Democrats of America.

Section 205(c) Life Member.

Any person who professes to support the Young Democrats of America and the Democratic Party may enter into a Life Membership upon payment to the National Office of the sum of One thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) allowing a four year payment plan. Life members who have reached the age of thirty six years shall not be permitted to vote at any meeting of the Young Democrats of America, but shall receive notices of meetings and all national mailings.

CHARTER  
ARTICLE III  
NATIONAL CONVENTION

SECTION 305 Authority.

The National Convention shall be the highest authority of the Young Democrats of America, subject to the provisions of this Charter.

SECTION 310 Time, Place.

A National Convention shall be held in the late summer of each odd-numbered year at a time and place pursuant to bids received from interested localities.

SECTION 350 Convention Standing Committees.

Section 350(a) Names.

At each National Convention, there shall be established Convention Standing Committees on Credentials, Charter and Rules, and Platform.

Section 350(b) Chair, Vice-Chair.

The President shall appoint a Chair, and may appoint a Vice-Chair of each Convention Committee and shall give notice, thereof, to the National Committee, not less than sixty (60) days prior to the opening general session of the Convention. A chair may not cast his or her own chartered unit's vote. A Vice chair may cast his or her chartered unit's vote unless serving in the absence of the Chair. No Chair or Vice Chair shall cast a separate vote merely because of their positions as chairs.

Section 350(c) Voting.

Every unit chartered by the previous National Convention or issued an interim charter, and all new units that have applied for a charter, shall be entitled to one vote on each Convention Standing Committee, unless a credentials challenge is raised against that unit. The unit delegations are encouraged to appoint a specific delegate or alternate to serve on each Committee and to certify such persons to the appropriate Committee Chair. Nevertheless, any delegate or alternate may cast his or her unit's vote in committee, provided that if a dispute arises the following procedure will be followed:

- (i) As to a unit that was not chartered for the previous term, or has not applied to re-charter in accordance with the rules, then that unit, if its credentials are challenged, will not be permitted to vote in any Convention Standing Committee unless and until the credentials challenge is finally rejected on appeal.
- (ii) As to a unit that had chartered for the prior term and has applied to recharter, if for some reason challenged, could vote in any Convention Standing Committee unless and until the challenge is upheld on appeal. However, chartered units shall be authorized to restrict participation to their appointed delegate or alternate, by filing that instruction, in writing, with the respective Committee Chair. For the purpose of this article the College Democrats of America shall be considered a chartered unit.

Section 350(d) Quorum Requirements.

Each Convention Standing Committee shall meet at the call of its Chair but in any event not later than the day proceeding the opening general session of the Convention. A quorum in any such Convention Committee shall be representatives for one third (1/3) of those units entitled to cast a vote.

#### SECTION 360 Vote Allocation.

Chartered units shall have convention votes based on the following formula: Population Votes (maximum of 50) + Participation votes (maximum of 56) + Charter Votes (maximum of 4) = Number of Votes (maximum 110)

The votes for population, participation and chartering are determined as follows:

##### Section 360(a) POPULATION VOTES.

(i) Each state shall receive ten (10), twenty (20), thirty (30), forty (40) or fifty (50) votes based on its population. The populations of states shall be ranked so that the ten (10) states with the highest population shall receive fifty (50) votes, the next ten (10) states shall receive forty (40) votes, the next the next ten (10) states shall receive thirty (30) votes, the next ten (10) states shall receive twenty (20) votes, and the final ten (10) states shall receive ten (10) votes. The District of Columbia, Guam, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and Young Democrats Abroad, shall receive ten (10) votes each based on population.

(ii) Every Chartered unit shall receive its population votes regardless of the number of members except as provided in Section 360(b).

(iii) The population figures shall be based on the most recent decennial census figures issued by the United States Census Bureau.

##### Section 360(b) PARTICIPATION VOTES.

A state shall receive up to fifty-six (56) participation votes based on the following formula:

a) National participation (maximum 28 votes)

(i) A chartered unit is eligible for up to twenty-four (24) votes for attendance of members to YDA national committee meetings as follows: (the number of times a unit attended national committee meetings subsequent to the previous national convention, divided by the number of meetings taken as a percentage of the total 24 votes). Proxies held by members of chartered units for other chartered units will be counted as one-half attendance by the state sending the proxy. For the purposes of chartering for the 2001 National Convention, chartered units will be granted participation votes for up to one (1) National Committee meeting that was missed prior to or including the November 2000 National Committee meeting, when this section was amended.

(ii) Newsletter submissions - a chartered unit shall be eligible for up to four (4) votes for submission of articles to the YDA national newsletter, and shall receive two (2) votes per submission.

b) Regional participation (maximum 4 votes) - (A chartered unit is eligible for up to 4 votes for attendance at official regional meetings based proportionally on the ratio of meetings attended and meetings held as reflected within the official minutes of the regional meetings.) A chartered unit is eligible for up to four (4) votes for attendance at official regional meetings.

c) Campaign participation (maximum 4 votes) - A chartered unit shall receive four (4) votes for participation in at least two (2) democratic candidate or issue campaigns, with written verification by the candidates, or campaign coordinators, including their names, addresses, and phone numbers.

d) Technology participation (20 votes) - A chartered unit shall receive twenty (20) votes for the submission of their membership list in electronic form. The list must be submitted in any Microsoft Office compatible database or spreadsheet format with all of the following ten (10) delineated fields: 1) last name; 2) first name; 3) address; 4) city; 5) state; 6) zip code; 7) date of birth, 8) phone number; 9) fax number; and 10) e-mail. As per Bylaws Section 110 (h), the following information is required for each member: last name, first name, address, city, state, zip code and date of birth. Phone numbers, fax numbers and e-mails should be provided whenever available, but are not mandatory for each member.

##### Section 360(c) CHARTER VOTES.

(i) A state may receive up to four (4) votes for chartering at prior conventions.

(ii) A state will receive two (2) votes for each of the two (2) prior National Conventions in which it was chartered.

SECTION 370 Minimum Unit Delegation to Vote Ratio; Mileage Formula.

Chartered units shall be permitted to cast votes allocated under the provisions of Section 360 provided that each unit is represented by registered delegates, present in person, whose aggregate number does not fall below the votes per delegate ratio established according to statute driving mileage from each unit's territorial capitol to the site of the National Convention as follows:

- a) One (1) to five hundred (500) miles  
.....One (1) delegate for every two (2) votes.
- b) Five hundred one (501) to one thousand (1000) miles  
.....One (1) delegate for every three (3) votes.
- c) One thousand one (1001) to one thousand five hundred (1500) miles  
.....One (1) delegate for every four (4) votes.
- d) One thousand five hundred one (1501) to two thousand five hundred (2500) miles  
.....One (1) delegate for every five (5) votes.
- e) Any distance in excess of two thousand five hundred (2500) miles  
.....One (1) delegate for every six (6) votes.

Not less than sixty (60) days prior to each National Convention, the National Office shall prepare a chart derived by the mileage indicated in the current Rand McNally Atlas, of each chartered unit's driving mileage from territorial capitol to convention site, along with the delegate to vote ratio derived therefrom.

SECTION 375 Limitations.

This section notwithstanding, any chartered unit shall not be permitted to cast more votes than are authorized by the mileage formula specified in Section 370. Under no circumstance shall any chartered unit be allowed to cast more votes than one-half (1/2) the number of age qualified members in the unit, as shown on the unit's membership list regardless of any other global defects on the membership list already penalized under the provisions of Section 125(f) of the Bylaws.

SECTION 380 Designation of Voting Delegates.

The Unit President or Delegation Chair shall have the authority to designate which individuals are voting delegates for the chartered unit. Delegation Chairs shall be appointed by the Unit President prior to the start of the National Convention. If the Unit President is not in attendance at the Convention, and no Chair has been appointed prior to the Convention, then all delegates from that unit shall have the right to caucus and select a Delegation Chair.

CHARTER  
ARTICLE IV  
NATIONAL COMMITTEE

SECTION 405 Authority.

Except for powers reserved to the National Convention, the governing body of Young Democrats shall be the National Committee.

SECTION 410 Composition.

The National Committee shall be composed of all elected National Officers, the Chair of each Caucus provided for within this Charter, the President Emeritus of the Young Democrats of America, the Director of each of the eight (8) Regional Caucuses, the Chair of the Judicial Council, the Chair of each Standing Committee, the chair of the State Presidents Association, each Administrative Officer as specified in Section 705 of this Charter, and the President, National Committeeman, and National Committeewoman of each Chartered Unit, and the President plus two (2) additional Representatives, one male and one female, of the College Democrats of America, selected by that organization. No person shall be entitled to cast more than one vote on the National Committee by virtue of holding multiple offices.

SECTION 420 Meetings.

The National Committee of the Young Democrats of America shall meet at least three (3) times a year at the call of the President and such meetings shall alternate between the east and west sides of the Mississippi River. Subsequent meetings of the National Committee may be called at the direction of the President or upon the written request of

twenty percent (20%) of the current membership of the Executive Committee of the Young Democrats of America. At the direction of the President or upon receipt of the requests of the requisite number of Committee members, the Secretary shall send written notice to all members of the National Committee specifying the location, date, and time of the meeting, said date shall not be less than thirty (30) days nor more than sixty (60) days from the date of said notice.

SECTION 430 Standing Committees of the National Committee.

Section 430(a) Named.

The National Committee shall have Standing Committees on Credentials, Rules and Charter, and Resolutions.

Section 430(b) Membership.

Unless otherwise provided in this Charter, each Standing Committee shall consist of a Chair, a Vice-Chair, and a Secretary appointed by the President within ninety (90) days of his or her election and one representative from each Chartered unit. Said unit representative need not be a member of the National Committee. Members of each Standing Committee shall be chosen in accordance with procedures established by the unit they represent and may be certified in writing to the Chair of the respective committee.

SECTION 480 Accessibility for Conventions, Meetings, and official functions.

National Conventions, National Committee Meetings, and all official functions shall be held only at hotels and sites which are accessible to the physically challenged.

SECTION 490 Labor Preference for Convention and Meetings.

National Conventions and National Committee meetings shall be held only at hotels and sites organized by unions that are affiliated with the AFL-CIO, should they exist in the state selected by the selecting body or person. Facilities for the National Conventions shall accommodate at least 600 members. Facilities for National Committee meetings shall accommodate at least 200 members.

CHARTER  
ARTICLE V  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SECTION 505 Authority.

The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the conduct of the affairs of the Young Democrats of America in the interim between meetings of the National Committee.

SECTION 510 Composition.

The Executive Committee shall be composed of each elected national officer, the Chair of each Caucus provided for within this Charter, the President Emeritus, the eight (8) Regional Caucus Director, the President of the College Democrats of America, the Chair of each Standing Committee, the chair of the State Presidents Association, the Chair of the Judicial Council, and each Administrative Officer specified in Section 705 of the Charter. The Chair of each Select Committee and those Administrative Officers specified in Section 705 of this Charter shall be an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Executive Committee.

SECTION 515 Meetings.

The Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the President or upon petition of six (6) members thereof, provided that twenty-five (25) days written notice shall be required to convene a meeting.

CHARTER  
ARTICLE VI  
OFFICERS

SECTION 605 Officers; Named.

The officers of the Young Democrats of America shall be a President, an Executive Vice

President, a Democratic National Committeeman, a Democratic National Committeewoman, a Vice President for Programs, a Vice President for Development, a Secretary, a Treasurer and a Vice President for Students and Youth.

SECTION 606 Duties.

The officers of the Young Democrats of America shall perform such duties as required by the Bylaws, the President and the National Committee.

SECTION 610 Eligibility.

Regular members who have not yet reached the age of thirty-four (34) years shall be eligible for elected national office.

SECTION 615 Election.

Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the National Convention for a term of two years or until their successors are elected.

SECTION 620 Attendance at Meetings.

Officers shall be required to attend all meetings of the National Committee and Executive Committee. Meetings of the National Committee and Executive Committee convened within a period of three (3) days, shall be construed as one (1) meeting, for the purpose of this section. Officers who, fail to attend two successive meetings of the National committee or Executive Committee or any combination thereof, shall be deemed ipso facto; guilty of nonfeasance of assigned duties, and to have been removed from office. Vacancies created as a result of this section shall be filled as prescribed in Section 640 of the bylaws. Persons who have been removed from elected office, pursuant to this section shall be ineligible for election or appointment to any office in the Young Democrats of America. For the purposes of this section, any officer with an excused absence, as approved by the Executive Board shall not be considered to have failed to attend a meeting.

SECTION 650 Impeachment. Cause.

Officers of the Young Democrats of America are subject to impeachment and removal from office for misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance of assigned duties or for violation of any law or rule of the Young Democrats of America, the Democratic Party, or for the commission of high crimes and misdemeanors.

CHARTER  
ARTICLE VII  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

SECTION 705 Officers Named.

There shall be appointed by the President and confirmed by the National Committee the following voting administrative officers: Administration Director, Communications Director, Membership Director, Operations Director, and Organizing Director. Each of these officers shall serve as an ex-officio voting member of the National Committee and the Executive Committee. There shall be appointed by the President and confirmed by the National Committee the following non-voting administrative officers: General Counsel, Parliamentarian, Chief of Staff, International Affairs Liaison, Congressional Liaison, Legislative Liaison, High School Liaison, Issues Liaison, and Community Service Liaison. Each of these officers shall serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the National Committee and the Executive Committee.

SECTION 710 Additional Officers.

Additional Administrative Officers may be appointed by the President as necessary, subject to approval by the National Committee. Each of these officers shall serve as an ex-officio nonvoting member of the National Committee and the Executive Committee.

SECTION 715 Terms.

Administrative officers serve at the pleasure of the President.

SECTION 720 Duties.

The Administrative Officers shall perform such duties as required by the Bylaws and the National Committee.

CHARTER  
ARTICLE VIII  
JUDICIAL COUNCIL

SECTION 805 Authority.

The Judicial Council shall adjudicate disputes arising out of the interpretation or application of this Charter and the rules of the National Committee. It shall hear impeachment proceedings against National Officers and shall investigate, arbitrate, resolve and report on credential disputes prior to their final resolution by the Credentials Committee.

SECTION 810 Composition.

The Judicial Council shall be composed of eight (8) elected members, one from each region; and three (3) at-large members appointed by the President.

SECTION 820 Disqualification.

No person who is a party in a dispute raised before the judicial council shall sit in judgement or cast a vote on the Judicial Council's consideration of that dispute, regardless of that persons membership on the Judicial council or possession of a proxy vote of a Judicial council member. A replacement may be designated by a vote of the affected region's National Committee members representing unit within that Region, the affected region's director or by the president.

CHARTER  
ARTICLE IX  
REGIONAL CAUCUSES

SECTION 905 Regional Caucuses.

There shall be eight (8) regional caucuses of the Young Democrats of America.

Section 905(a) Composition.

Each regional caucus shall be composed of all chartered units within the region as provided for in the Bylaws.

Section 905(b) Officers.

Each regional caucus shall elect a Regional Director as provided for in the Bylaws.

SECTION 910 Regional Directors.

Each regional director shall serve as ex-officio voting member of the National Committee and Executive Committee.

CHARTER  
ARTICLE X  
CAUCUSES

SECTION 1005 Caucuses. Provisions.

There shall be established caucuses representing Women, Minorities, Labor, Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual-Transgendered, and Disability Issues. The Chairs of each of these caucuses shall serve as ex-officio, voting members of the National Committee and Executive Committee. The bylaws and rules must contain provisions for definition of membership, definitions of voting privileges, procedures for election of officers, duties of officers and procedures for removal of officers. A copy of the bylaws or amendments must be submitted to the National Office within 30 days of approval and available to any member of the National Committee upon request.

SECTION 1010 Additional Caucuses.

There may be additional caucuses created at the pleasure of the National Committee. The Chairs of these caucuses shall serve as ex-officio, non-voting members of the National Committee and Executive Committee.

SECTION 1015 Provisions.

Each caucus shall establish bylaws and rules necessary for operation, not in conflict with this charter, and subject to the approval of the National Committee.

CHARTER  
ARTICLE XI  
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SECTION 1105 Quorum.

Section 1105(a) National Committee.

A quorum of the National Committee shall be not less than twenty-five (25) members representing not less than twenty five percent (25%) of the current roster of chartered units.

Section 1105(b) Standing Committees of the National Committee.

A quorum of a Standing Committee shall be not less than representatives from twenty five percent (25%) of the current roster of chartered units.

Section 1105(c) Executive Committee; Judicial Council; Select Committees.

The quorum required in Select Committees and Commissions shall be forty percent (40%) of the membership.

SECTION 1110 Proxies. Authorized.

Proxy voting shall be permitted. Proxies shall be transferable if so specified. Under no circumstances may any Young Democrat present at a National Committee Meeting cast more than three (3) votes total.

SECTION 1115 Requirements; Restrictions.

No law or rule of any chartered unit may conflict with this Charter and any provision which does so conflict shall be null and void. Every unit shall be required to hold a general convention not less than biennially. The National Committee shall have authority to revoke the Charter of any unit for violation of any law or rule of the Democratic Party, at any level. Restrictions on voting commonly referred to as "unit rule" are prohibited. Units shall not discriminate on the grounds of race, religion, national origin, economic status, gender or sexual orientation.

SECTION 1120 Open Meeting Policy.

All meetings of the Young Democrats of America shall be open to the public, and votes shall not be taken by secret ballot.

SECTION 1125 Definitions.

Section 1125(a) National Committee.

National Committee means the National Committee of the Young Democrats of America.

Section 1125(b) Executive Committee.

Executive Committee means the Executive Committee of the Young Democrats of America.

SECTION 1130 Parliamentary Authority.

The Rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Young Democrats of America in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Charter and any special rules of order the Young Democrats of



America may adopt.

SECTION 1140 Rules.

Each official body of the Young Democrats of America created under the authority of this Charter shall adopt and conduct its affairs in accordance with written rules, which rules shall be consistent with this Charter, the Bylaws and other provisions adopted pursuant to authority of the Charter, including resolutions or other actions of the National Convention or National Committee. The National Committee shall maintain copies of all such rules and shall make them available upon request.

SECTION 1150 Procedural Guarantees.

The Young Democrats of America hereby incorporates the following anti-discrimination standards known as the Six Basic Elements, as up-dated, in its rules and pledges to take appropriate steps to secure their implementation:

- a) All public meetings and official functions at all levels of the Young Democrats of America shall be open to all members of the Young Democrats of America regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, age (except as provided in Section 205(a)), color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, economic status, physical disability, or philosophical persuasion.
- b) No test for membership in, nor any oath of loyalty to, the Young Democrats of America shall be required or used which has the effect of requiring prospective or current members of the Young Democrats of America to acquiesce in, condone or support discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, sexual orientation, age (except as provided in Section 205(a)), color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, economic status or physical disability.
- c) The time and place for all public meetings of the Young Democrats of America on all levels shall be publicized fully and in such manner as to assure timely notice to all interested persons. Such meetings shall be held in places accessible to all Regular Members and large enough to accommodate all interested persons.
- d) The Young Democrats of America, on all levels, shall support the broadest possible registration without discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, sexual orientation, age (except as provided in Section 205(a)), color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, economic status, or physical disability.
- e) The Young Democrats of America shall publicize fully and in such manner as to assure notice to all interested parties a full description of the practical procedures for selection of YDA Officers and Representatives on all levels. Publication of these procedures shall be done in such fashion that all prospective and current members of the YDA will be fully and adequately informed of the pertinent procedures in time to participate in each selection procedure at all levels of the Young Democrats of America.
- f) The Young Democrats of America shall publicize fully and in such manner as to assure notice to all interested parties a complete description of the practical qualifications of all Officers and Representatives of the Young Democrats of America. Such publication shall be done in a timely fashion so that all prospective candidates or applicants for any elected or appointed position within the Young Democrats of America will have full and adequate opportunity to compete for office. It is the intention of the Young Democrats of America to ensure a full opportunity for all minority group members to participate in these electoral processes.

Section 1160 Casting Roll Call Votes.

Section 1160(a) Casting Roll Call Votes at National Convention.

When a roll call vote is necessary during a National Convention Chartered Unit votes shall be cast alphabetically by unit name.

Section 1160(b) Casting Roll Call Votes at National Committee Meetings.

When a roll call vote is necessary during a National Committee Meeting, votes shall be

cast in the following order: National Officers, the Chair of each Caucus provided for within this Charter, the President Emeritus of the Young Democrats of America, the Director of each of the eight (8) Regional Caucuses, the General Counsel, the Chair of the Judicial Council, the Chair of each Standing Committee, each Administrative Officer, and the President, National Committeeman, and National Committeewoman of each Chartered Unit (in Alphabetical order by unit), and the President plus two (2) additional Representatives, one male and one female, of the College Democrats of America, selected by that organization, and further defined in the order as listed within this Charter.

Section 1160 (c) Casting Roll Call Votes Executive Committee Meetings –  
When a roll call vote is necessary during an Executive Committee Meeting, votes shall be cast in the order in which offices are listed within this Charter.

CHARTER  
ARTICLE XII  
AMENDMENT AND BYLAWS

SECTION 1205 Amendment.

This Charter may be amended by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates to the National Convention. This Charter may also be amended by a four-fifths (4/5) vote of the National Committee present and voting at a meeting for which quorum has been established, provided at least thirty (30) days written notice of the meeting and any proposed amendment has been given to all members of the National Committee, further provided, that any amendment so adopted shall become null and void at the adjournment, sine die of the subsequent National Convention unless a majority of the delegates thereto shall confirm and ratify said amendment.

SECTION 1210 Bylaws.

Bylaws may be adopted or amended by a majority vote of the National Committee or the National Convention. Bylaw amendments must comply with all procedural requirements for charter amendments as to notice and committee approval. Bylaw amendments adopted by the National Committee do not require ratification by the National Convention. Bylaws may not conflict with Charter.

CERTIFICATION OF CHARTER

The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Official Charter of the Young Democrats of America as amended including amendments certified by the National Committee Secretary, as adopted at the National Committee Meeting, San Antonio, Texas, November 22, 2003.

Chris Anderson, Chair  
Standing Committee on Rules and Charter  
Young Democrats of America

Chris Gallaway, President  
Young Democrats of America

## THE BYLAWS OF THE YOUNG DEMOCRATS OF AMERICA

Adopted pursuant to the Charter of the Young Democrats of America on November 22, 2003, at the National Committee Meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

### BYLAWS ARTICLE I CHARTERED UNITS

#### SECTION 110 Application for Unit Charters: Contents.

- a) Name of the unit.
- b) Territory of unit representation.
- c) Date of last unit convention.
- d) Compilation of unit officers, including names, addresses, phone numbers, date of election, date of term expiration, and date of birth.
- e) A copy of the unit Constitution, Charter, Bylaws, Certification of Incorporation and/or any other such prevailing organic document.
- f) Certification by no less than two members of the Democratic National Committee representing the applying unit's territory that the unit is recognized, sanctioned or authorized by the Democratic Party of that territory as that territory's official organization of Young Democrats and that the unit's officers were elected not prior to the last National Convention, with the exception of the host unit of the Young Democrats of America National Convention which shall be allowed to schedule their unit convention no later than thirty (30) days after the close of YDA National Convention.
- g) The chartering fee as specified in Section 130 or Section 140; by certified check or equivalent payment form that guarantees that the check will not be dishonored.
- h) A list of the members of the unit, which shall comply with the following requirements:
  - (i) Typed on 8\_ " x 11" paper.
  - (ii) All names shall be listed alphabetically.
  - (iii) Provide the name, address including City, State, and Zip Code; date of birth (including month, day and year); and, if available, the home phone number, fax number and email of each member of the unit subsequent to the last National Convention.
- i) Certifications signed by each of the unit President, National Committeewoman, and National Committeeman, acknowledged or sworn to be said officers, and attested to by a notary public or other officer authorized by law to so attest in the jurisdiction where executed. Each certification shall state that to the best of the signer's knowledge all documents submitted are current, complete, and in every respect accurate; that the membership list submitted consists of actual members of the unit subsequent to the last National Convention who currently satisfy the age requirements of the YDA charter; that the unit has most recently held a convention and elected officers not prior to the last National Convention; and indicate the number of members included on the membership list submitted in the chartering packet.

#### SECTION 115 Time period for Filing Unit Charter Applications.

All component documents of unit charter applications shall be filed not earlier than sixty (60) days nor later than thirty (30) days preceding the day on which the first General Session of the National Convention is scheduled to be convened.

#### SECTION 120 Office of Receipt for Unit Charter Applications.

##### Section 120(a).

Applications shall be filed in the office of the Young Democrats of America. Each unit shall bear sole and complete responsibility for ensuring that all component documents of its charter application are filed in a timely manner.

Section 120(b).

All charter applications shall be opened and examined by the Chair of the Credentials Committee of the National Convention at the location specified in subsection (a) at 12:00 noon on the first Saturday immediately following the deadline for receipt of charter applications set forth in Section 115. Any member of any unit shall be allowed to attend, observe, and make records of the opening and examination of the charter applications, but no observer may interfere or raise challenges at this time.

Section 120(c).

Units shall be notified of the status of their application by certified mail to the unit President at the address shown on the charter application. The notification shall be faxed that day to units providing a contact number and mailed within five (5) days of the initial opening or the receipt of any late applications or subsequent amendments. The notification shall include preliminary votes to be allocated under Section 360 of the Charter based on the materials submitted, delegate ratio under Section 365, specifics of any defects, penalties to be assessed, and the procedure to follow to correct defects.

Section 120(d).

Amendments or late applications shall be sent to the National Office to be forwarded to the Credentials Committee. The arrival date at the National Office shall govern assessment of penalties. All late materials and amendments are to be opened and examined immediately and notification sent as required by section 120(c).

SECTION 125 Penalties for Late or Defective Unit Charter Application.

Units which file charter applications past the deadline established in Section 115 or that do not comply with the requirements of Section 110 or any other requirement, shall be penalized a cumulative percentage of their votes as set out below. If penalties total one hundred percent (100%) or more, the unit charter application shall be rejected and the fee returned. Amendments to an application may be submitted at any time and amended applications shall be treated as late applications with penalties calculated based on the date the amendments are received at the National Office. In no case shall an amendment act to increase to number of pre-penalty votes a unit may cast as calculated under Section 360 of the Charter. Penalties shall be rounded to the nearest whole vote, except the minimum total penalty shall be one (1) vote, and the minimum numbers of votes remaining after penalties shall be one (1) vote.

- a) Completely missing any item required under any subsection of Section 110. Penalty shall be one hundred percent (100%), and unit shall not be considered to have applied until application is amended to be in compliance.
- b) Date of last unit convention or officer elections prior to last National Convention. Penalty shall be one hundred percent (100%), and unit shall be considered not to have applied and shall not be chartered under any conditions.
- c) Incomplete or inaccurate officer lists or governing documents, except changes in officers or governing documents due to elections or amendments subsequent to submission of application shall not result in any penalty.
  - (i) Officer list defective: twenty percent (20%) penalty
  - (ii) Governing documents defective: twenty percent (20%) penalty
- d) Fewer than two certifications from members of Democratic National Committee, or defective certifications. Penalty shall be one hundred percent (100%), and unit shall not be considered to have applied and shall not be chartered until application is amended to be in compliance.
- e) Membership lists not submitted as a single typed alphabetical list on 8\_ ' by 11" paper. Penalties shall apply as follows:
  - (i) Multiple alphabetized lists: ten percent (10%) penalty
  - (ii) Lists not on 8\_ " x 11" paper: ten percent (10%) penalty
  - (iii) Lists not alphabetized: forty percent (40%) penalty
  - (iv) Lists not typed but legible: forty percent (40%) penalty

- (v) Lists not legible: one hundred percent (100%) penalty
- f) Membership lists improper. Individual names with defects shall not be counted towards determining the number of members in the unit. Omitting required information on all members shall result in the following penalties:
  - (i) Missing ZIP codes: ten percent (10%) penalty
  - (ii) Incomplete birth dates (other than day, month, year): twenty percent (20%) penalty
  - (iii) Missing birth dates: forty percent (40%) penalty
  - (iv) Missing addresses: one hundred percent (100%) penalty
- g) Excessive invalid members. If more than ten percent (10%) of the names on a unit's membership list are invalid because of age, then there shall be a twenty-five percent (25%) penalty.
- h) Missing or defective certifications by unit officers, except that no penalty shall apply if the office is vacant. Penalty shall be forty percent (40%) for each certification missing or defective.
- i) Applications received at the National Office after date established in Section 115 or amended after that date. Penalty shall be computed as follows:
  - (i) After deadline but before opening: five percent (5%) penalty
  - (ii) After opening: three percent (3%) per day after opening until application is received

SECTION 130 Fees for Unit Charter Applications.

Each unit application for charter issuance or charter renewal shall include the payment of five dollars (\$5.00) for every vote that the unit is eligible to cast at the National Convention as determined by Section 360 of the Charter. A unit may cast less than its total allowed votes by paying a lesser amount. In such event, the unit shall be allowed to cast one vote for every five dollars (\$5.00) that is paid; provided that no chartered unit shall be allowed to cast more votes than are authorized by Section 360, 370, and 375 of the Charter. Penalties shall be applied after the payment of fees.

SECTION 135 Interim Charter Application.

All applications for interim unit charter issuance shall conform to the requirements of Section 110.

SECTION 140 Fees for Interim Charter Applications.

The fee for issuance of an interim unit charter shall be fifty dollars (\$50.00)

BYLAWS  
ARTICLE II

REMOVED BY ACTION OF THE YOUNG DEMOCRATS OF AMERICA  
NATIONAL CONVENTION

BYLAWS  
ARTICLE III  
NATIONAL CONVENTION

SECTION 305 Site Selection.

The Site Selection Committee shall be conducted in accordance with Article III, Sections 315, 320 and 325 of the Charter.

Section 305(a) Committee Report.

The Site Selection Committee shall submit a written report of its findings and recommendations, including a ranking of bids from most desirable to least desirable, to the President no later than twenty (20) days prior to the National Committee meeting which is to consider site selection. A copy of the report shall be provided to every member of the National Committee not less than ten

(10) days prior to the National Committee meeting which is to consider site selection.

Section 305(b) Consideration by National Committee.

When the report of the Site Selection Committee is presented to the National Committee, consideration of the three (3) bids ranked most desirable by the report shall automatically become the question before the National Committee. Prior to any presentations or debate thereon the President shall ask for a motion to consider additional sites. Such a motion may only be made at that time and may only move consideration of a site which submitted a written proposal to the National Office by the February 1st deadline for submitting bids. Such a motion shall require a majority vote for passage. A fifteen (15) minute presentation may then be given by each site under consideration. Following the presentations, debate will proceed in regular order. At the close of debate, the question shall be put to all bids under consideration with each National Committee member voting for only one bid. If no bid receives a majority, a second vote shall be taken without debate on the two bids which received together the greatest number of votes. On this second vote, the site receiving the majority shall be designated the National Convention site and the site receiving the minority shall be the alternate site. If any of the bids receive a majority on the first ballot, said site shall be designated the National Convention site and balloting shall proceed in the same fashion to determine an alternate site.

Section 305(c) Performance Bond.

The site so selected in accordance with this article shall secure a general performance bond in a sum to be set forth by the Site Selection Committee payable, in the event of default, to the treasury of the Young Democrats of America.

SECTION 310 Select Committee on Procedures.

There shall be a Convention Procedures Committee composed of the President, Executive Vice President, the Chair of the Convention Host Committee, the Secretary, the General Counsel, the Chair of each Convention Standing Committees, Convention Parliamentarian, the Executive Director, and the Chair of the Judicial Council. Any of these persons may designate a representative to take his or her place on said committee. If any of these persons are running for national office during the Convention, they must designate a representative to take his or her place on said committee. All committee members must meet the criteria of a regular member, as defined in Section 205(a). The President may name non-voting members who do not meet the criteria of a regular member to serve as consultant to the committee. The President shall call the initial meeting of the Committee not less than sixty (60) days prior to each National Convention. At the initial meeting a Chair shall be elected by the Committee who shall be empowered to select times, dates, and places for such further meetings as may be appropriate. Minutes of this meeting and copies of the Rules of the previous National Convention shall be mailed to each member of the National Committee immediately following this meeting. Said Committee shall be responsible for incurring that the Rules of the preceding National Convention are observed and complied with. It shall be further responsibility of this Committee to ensure the efficient scheduling of Convention meetings and activities and to provide adequate administrative, legal and clerical facilities for the delegations and committees.

SECTION 315 Election of Officers.

Officers shall be elected in the same order in which the offices are listed in Article VI, Section 605 of the Charter.

Section 315(a) Declaration of Candidacy.

At or before 12:00 noon of the day on which the second session of the National Convention is convened, persons seeking election to national office shall file with the Secretary a Declaration of Candidacy for a specific office. Persons who have not timely filed declarations of candidacy shall be ineligible for election to national office.

Section 315(b) Disclosure of Campaign Finances.

At or before 12:00 noon of the day on which the second session of the National Convention is

convened, candidates shall file with the Secretary a statement of all expenditures made, and sources of all funds utilized relating to their campaign for national office. Such statements shall be attested to by the signature of the candidate and sworn before a notary public or another officer authorized by law to so attest in the jurisdiction where executed. Persons who have failed to timely file disclosures of campaign finances, or who make a materially false statement in connection thereto, shall be ineligible for election to the National Convention. Within one (1) hour of their having been filed, the Secretary shall forward to the General Counsel or his designee, copies of the documents submitted pursuant to this Section, who shall review them for compliance with this Section. The General Counsel or his or her designee shall be authorized to call a special session of the Judicial Council, at any time prior to the Convention Session at which elections will be conducted, which shall be authorized to adjudicate alleged violations of this Section. The Judicial Council shall be further authorized to compel candidates, alleged in violation of this Section, to appear before it, subject to its summary Judgment of Ineligibility for Election. Persons accused subject to this Section, shall have the right to be accompanied by counsel, to present and cross examine witnesses, and to present evidence in their own defense.

#### SECTION 320 Responsibility of Select Committee on Site Selection.

Immediately subsequent to the close of each National Convention, the Select Committee on Site Selection of the National Committee shall begin receiving and considering bids for the next National Convention. The Committee shall provide for its own procedures and shall be empowered to appoint sub-committees for the purpose of conducting on-site inspections of bidding locales.

#### SECTION 330 Bidding Applications.

Prior to the first day of October following the National Convention, the Site Selection Committee or, in the absence of action thereby, the Chair thereof shall prepare a list of information which prospective bidders must submit with their bids. The Site Selection Committee may subsequently require further information but the initial requirements must be available from the National Office by December 1st.

#### SECTION 335 Bidding Deadline.

In order to be considered by the Site Selection Committee, bids must be received by the National Office on or before the first day of February following the National Convention.

#### SECTION 350 Convention Standing Committees.

##### Section 350(a) Charter and Rules.

The Convention Standing Committee on Charter and Rules shall recommend rules to govern the conduct of the National Convention and shall review and propose amendments to the Charter. No rule, special rule, standing rule, rule amendment or amendment to the Charter shall be considered by the National Convention until and unless it has been reported out of this committee.

##### Section 350(b) Credentials.

The Convention Standing Committee on Credentials shall review and recommend action on unit charter applications, new and renewal, to the National Convention. No other committee shall conduct business until the Credentials Committee has given its Convention Report to said other committees.

#### SECTION 360 Credentials Report.

(i) The Chair of the Credentials Committee of the National Convention shall prepare a complete preliminary credentials report not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the day on which the first General Session of the Nation Convention is scheduled to convene. The report shall show all units that have submitted or attempted to submit charter applications, whether the application is accepted or denied, the date of original filing, the date of each subsequent amendment, the status of each

required item under Section 110, the total amount of charter fees paid, number of votes allocated under Section 360 of the Charter, penalties under Section 125, and delegate ratio under Section 370 of the Charter. This report shall be mailed to all members of the National Committee within the preparation deadline.

(ii) The Chair of the Credentials Committee of the National Convention shall make available all original documents submitted by units in the charter applications in accordance with Section 110 for inspection by the Credentials Committee of the National Convention at the National Convention, except the Chair shall provide a copy of the check submitted pursuant to Chapter 110. These documents must be present at the location in which the National Convention is being conducted.

(iii) The Chair of the Credentials Committee of the National Convention shall prepare a Credentials Committee Report upon completion of the business of the Credentials Committee for submission to the National Convention, reflecting all actions of the Credentials Committee. This report shall be in the same form as the preliminary credentials report and shall govern voting until further action is taken by the National Convention. This report shall be available to all delegates and distributed to the chair of each Convention Committee, all convention officers, and the chair of each unit delegation. A Final Credentials Report in the same format shall be submitted to the first National Committee meeting following the National Convention reflecting the final actions by the National Convention.

## BYLAWS ARTICLE IV NATIONAL COMMITTEE

### SECTION 405 Selection of Chartered Unit Representation.

Each chartered unit shall provide for the selection and, where vacancies occur, the replacement of its representatives on the National Committee upon certification by the presiding officer and the Secretary of the chartered unit they represent provided, however, that such certification may be waived by the National Committee by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

### SECTION 410 Credentials Certification.

At each meeting of the National Committee, the members thereof shall submit their credentials to the President, the Secretary, or the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Credentials. Persons previously accredited by the National Committee need not resubmit their credentials unless challenged. However, all members of the National Committee representing Regions or units must be included in the report of the Credentials Committee in order to be entitled to vote in the pending meeting of the National Committee. Prior to the opening session of each National Committee Meeting, the Chairperson of the Credentials Committee shall present its report to the President. Pending final approval said report shall be determinative of member voting rights. Amendments to the Credentials Committee Report which enfranchise or disenfranchise National Committee members shall be effective immediately upon approval, pending adoption of the complete report.

### SECTION 415 Agenda.

Not less than thirty (30) days prior to any meeting of the National Committee the President shall prepare, and the Secretary shall distribute to all National Committee members, a written agenda for said meeting. The first order of business at every National Committee meeting shall be the report of the Standing Committee on Credentials. After the matter of credentials has been disposed of, the President shall announce the recognition of proxies and entertain any challenges to his or her acceptance or rejection thereof. Thereafter, business shall proceed in regular order as designated by the agenda.

### SECTION 420 Minutes.

#### Section 420(a) Preparation: Responsibility.



The Secretary shall ensure that accurate minutes are taken, prepared, and maintained of each and every meeting, session, or workshop of the National Convention, the National Committee, or the Executive Committee. The Secretary shall ensure that summary reports of all such meetings are included in all Young Democrats of America publications and such other national publications as may be appropriate.

Section 420(b) Delivery; Mailing.

A copy of the minutes of each Executive Committee meeting shall be delivered or mailed to each member thereof not more than fourteen days subsequent thereto. A copy of the minutes of each meeting of the National Committee shall be delivered or mailed to each member thereof not more than thirty (30) days subsequent thereto.

SECTION 425 Notices.

It shall be the responsibility of each member of the National Committee to ensure that his or her current mailing address is on file with the Secretary. It shall be the responsibility of each chartered unit to ensure that the current mailing address of its unit's headquarters, its officers, its delegates, and alternates to any forthcoming National Convention are on file with Secretary.

SECTION 430 Use of Membership Lists.

The National Records of membership in the chartered units shall be public record and open to inspection by any person at reasonable times and places, and copies of said lists shall be supplied at cost to any democratic party official, democratic office holder, or democratic candidate for office. The Finance Committee, at its discretion, may make lists available for commercial use.

SECTION 435 Select Committees.

Section 435(a) Select Committee on Affirmative Action & Outreach.

The Select Committee on Affirmative Action & Outreach shall meet at the call of its Chairman and shall coordinate its activities with the National Affirmative Action & Outreach Committee of the Democratic Party of the United States and its successors. The Affirmative Action & Outreach Committee shall undertake to implement a policy and program of affirmative action at every level of the Young Democrats of America. Said committee shall establish guidelines for the selection of delegates which will encourage participation by groups heretofore under-represented in Democratic politics. Said committee shall also work to make available tools and resources to assist every level of the Young Democrats of America in accomplishing its affirmative action and outreach efforts. Said committee shall propose and administer such programs as it deems advisable to ensure future participation in Democratic politics of all persons regardless of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, or age.

Section 435(b) Select Committee on Budget.

The Select Committee on Budget shall meet at the call of its Chair and shall be responsible for review, modification, and acceptance of the Presidential Executive Budget and the YDA Fundraising Plan prepared by the Vice President for Development. The Committee will regularly report on the status of income and expenditures compared to the budget and shall approve any expenditure in excess of the approved budget. The Budget Committee is empowered to recommend to the National Committee the investment on assets, the purchase or sale of real estate, and all other fiduciary arrangements, and shall serve as the Committee on Audit. The Treasurer shall serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member of this committee.

Section 435(c) Select Committee on Finance.

The Select Committee on Finance shall meet at the call of its Chair and shall be responsible for the design, coordination and implementation of national fundraising projects. The Committee shall be responsible for review, modification, acceptance and implementation of the National Fundraising Plan to be submitted by the Vice President for Development. The Committee shall work with the officers, staff, and consultants engaged in fundraising on behalf of the Young Democrats of America to effectively oversee these programs and ensure their successful

implementation. The Vice President for Development shall serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member of this committee.

Section 435(d) Select Committee on Campaign.

The Select Committee on Campaign shall meet at the call of its Chair and shall be responsible for the development, implementation, and reporting of a national campaign plan and shall assist in the development and implementation of individual campaign plans for each chartered unit.

Section 435(e) Select Committee on Site Selection.

The Select Committee on Site Selection shall meet at the call of its Chair and shall be responsible for those powers delegated to it by the Charter and Bylaws of the Young Democrats of America.

SECTION 440 Standing Committee on Credentials.

The Credentials Committee shall review the credentials of all members of the National Committee representing regions or units at each meeting thereof. Said committee may establish administrative guidelines to promote a more efficient accreditation of National Committee members and units. All matters pertaining to the issuance or revocation of unit Charters shall be considered by the Credentials Committee prior to their consideration by the National Committee.

SECTION 445 Standing Committee on Rules and Charter.

The Standing Committee on Rules and Charter shall meet in conjunction with every sitting of the National Committee and shall review and recommend the adoption or deletion of rules governing the National Committee and/or amendments to this Charter. No rule change or Charter amendment shall be submitted until it has been reported out of this committee.

SECTION 450 Standing Committee on Resolutions.

The Standing Committee on Resolutions shall meet in conjunction with every sitting of the National Committee and shall review every resolution on matters of policy and program, which does not fall within the jurisdiction of any other Standing or Select Committee, prior to action by the National Committee. No policy resolution, as above described, may be submitted to the National Committee until it has been reported out of this committee.

SECTION 455 Voting in Standing Committees.

Although a specific individual should be certified in writing to represent each unit in each Standing Committee, any unit member present may represent and cast the vote of his or her unit in any meeting of a Standing Committee when the certified representative is not present.

SECTION 460 Officers of Standing Committees.

The President, within ninety (90) days of assuming office, shall appoint a Chair and Vice Chair for each Standing Committee. Standing Committee Chairs shall serve at the pleasure of the President conterminously with the appointing administration. Chairs of the Standing Committees shall be ex-officio, voting members of the National Committee and Executive Committee. Vice-Chairs of Standing Committees shall preside at meetings in the absence of the Chair but not succeed in the event of the Chair's death, resignation, or removal.

SECTION 465 Duties of Standing Committee Chairs.

The Chair of each Standing Committee shall present a report to each meeting of the National Committee as to matters being reported out of committee for consideration by the National Committee. This report shall be in writing and, where feasible, copies should be distributed to all National Committee members.

SECTION 470 Select Committees; Designation.

The President shall have the discretion to establish and instruct Select Committees and appoint the Chairs thereof. Each select Committees shall consist of one (1) representative selected by each region and up to three (3) at-large members appointed by the President. The President shall designate a Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary from among the members of each Select Committee. Select Committees shall include, but not be limited

to, Affirmative Action and Outreach, Budget, Finance, Campaign, and Site Selection. The President shall also appoint one member of the YDA Disability Issues Caucus to serve on the Site Selection Committee to ensure that the provisions of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) are taken into consideration when selecting a YDA National Convention site. The Chair of each Select Committee shall serve as an ex-officio non-voting member of the National Committee and Executive Committee.

BYLAWS  
ARTICLE VI  
OFFICERS

SECTION 605 Elected Officers Duties.

Section 605(a) President.

The President shall be the principle administrative officer of the Young Democrats of America and shall chair meetings of the National Convention, National Committee and Executive Committee. The President shall prepare by October 15 of each year of their administration an Executive Budget, to be submitted to the Budget Committee for review, based on a calendar year in conjunction with the YDA Fundraising Plan prepared by the Vice President for Development for submission to the Finance Committee of the National Committee and, except as may otherwise be provided shall appoint all administrative officers, committee chairman, select committees, and consultants, subject to reconsideration or approval by the National Committee at its first meeting subsequent to said appointment.

Section 605(b) Executive Vice President.

The Executive Vice President shall assist the President in the performance of the President's duties and shall act as President during the President's absence and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the President and the National Committee.

Section 605(c) Democratic National Committeeman and Committeewoman (DNC Members).

The Democratic National Committee Members shall lobby and vote on behalf of the Young Democrats of America at every meeting of the Democratic National Committee. They shall coordinate the participation of the Young Democrats of America in the Democratic National Convention and any other conferences of committees of the Democratic National Committee.

Section 605(d) Vice President for Programs.

The Vice President for Programs shall develop and administer programs on behalf of the Young Democrats of America, and shall perform other duties as may be assigned by the President and the National Committee.

Section 605(e) Vice President for Development.

The Vice President for Development shall prepare by October 15 of each year of their administration a YDA Fundraising Plan based on a calendar year in conjunction with the Executive Budget prepared by the President for submission to the Finance Committee of the National Committee and administer fund raising efforts on behalf of the Young Democrats of America, and shall perform other duties as may be assigned by the President and the National Committee.

Section 605(f) Secretary.

The Secretary shall be responsible for non-financial records of the Young Democrats of America, including but not limited to; the minutes of all meetings of the National Committee and the Executive Committee, the Charter, the Standing Rules, and copies of the formal reports of National Officers, and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the President and the National Committee.

Section 605(g) Treasurer.

The Treasurer shall receive and disburse all funds of the organization, which shall be

administered in full compliance with all applicable laws and regulations, and which shall be deposited in a Federally Chartered Banking Institution. The Treasurer shall file all necessary reports to the FEC as required by law, and keep a record of receipts and disbursements which shall be audited biannually and upon demand of the National Committee. The treasurer shall publish and distribute a Finance Report to the National Committee meeting not less than (10) days prior thereto, and shall perform other duties as may be assigned by the President and the National Committee or are customarily performed by a treasurer. Within thirty (30) days after election, the Treasurer shall obtain bond for satisfactory performance of his or her duties in an amount not less than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) and shall submit proof thereof to the Secretary. Payment of the premium thereon is authorized out of the National Treasury.

Section 605(h) Vice President for Students and Youth.

The Vice President for Students and Youth shall develop and administer the efforts of the Young Democrats of America to recruit members and organize clubs at high schools, vocational schools, and technical schools, and shall perform other duties as may be assigned by the President and the National Committee.

Section 610 Reimbursement of Expenditures.

During the two year administration beginning with the election at the national convention and ending with the re-election of the current officeholders or the election of a new president, the national president of the Young Democrats of America shall be entitled for reimbursement for some expenses incurred in the commission of official duties while acting on behalf of the Young Democrats of America. These expenses shall include but are not limited to: travel, lodging, meals, telephone, fax and other reasonable office expenses. Receipts must be presented for payment to the chair of the Finance committee for approval of the committee during each meeting of the National Committee of the Young Democrat of America. Presidential expenses of less than \$200 will not be subject to the provisions of this section.

SECTION 640 Vacancies.

Section 640(a) Office of the President.

In the event of the death, resignation or removal of the President, the resultant vacancy shall be filled at a special meeting for the National Committee called for that purpose not less than thirty (30) days nor more than forty five (45) days from such occurrence, provided, that no special meeting shall be called within sixty (60) days prior to the National Convention. The call to meeting shall be issued by the Secretary, and a majority vote of the National Committee will elect the Presidential successor who shall serve for the balance of the current unexpired term.

Section 640(b) Officer other than the President.

In the event of the death, resignation or removal of a National Officer other than the President, the President shall appoint an interim officer to fill the resultant vacancy until the next meeting of the National Committee, occurring at least thirty (30) days subsequent to written notice of the vacancy being provided to the members thereof. The National Committee shall fill the vacancy for the balance of the current unexpired term upon its majority vote.

Section 640(c) Democratic National Committee Members.

The President and the National Committee shall fill vacancies in the Offices of the Democratic National Committee Members, including that of the President, as provided in Section 340(a) and 340(b).

Section 640(d) Initial Appointment for Newly Created Officers.

In the event of the creation of a new office between National Conventions, the President shall appoint the initial holder of the office, subject to confirmation by the National Committee, as soon as practical after adoption of the Charter amendment creating the office. The term of the appointed officer shall be from confirmation until their successor is elected at the next National Convention, or that National Convention adjourns without ratifying the amendment creating the

office.

SECTION 655 Impeachment.

Section 655(a) Impeachment, Initiation.

Impeachment proceedings may be initiated upon majority vote of the Judicial Council, which shall serve its resolution and a Bill of Particulars to the accused and the Executive Director by registered mail within ten (10) days of its action.

Section 655(b) Impeachment, Hearing.

Not less than twenty (20) days nor more than sixty (60) days subsequent to service of the Impeachment Resolution and Bill of Particulars upon the accused, the Chair of the Judicial Council shall convene an open hearing in Washington, DC, to hear evidence of the impeachment and the defense of the accused. The accused shall have the right to be accompanied by Counsel and to present and cross-examine witnesses and present evidence in his or her defense. The Judicial Council may upon majority vote dismiss the impeachment or recommend to the National Committee removal from office of the accused, such recommendation shall be accompanied with its findings of fact and conclusions of law. The notice of dismissal or recommendation for removal shall be served upon the accused and the Executive Director by registered mail within five (5) calendar days.

SECTION 660 Removal from Office.

Upon receipt of an affirmative recommendation for removal of a National Officer, the National Committee, meeting not less than thirty days after such notice, shall consider said removal as a special order. The National Committee shall be empowered to remove National Officers it adjudges guilty of stated charges upon its majority vote.

BYLAWS  
ARTICLE VII  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

SECTION 710 Administrative Officer Duties.

Section 710(a) Duties of All Administrative Officers.

In addition to performing the specific tasks specified for each position in these bylaws, administrative officers are expected to attend all National Committee and Executive Committee meetings, report regularly on duties performed, and to perform other duties assigned by the President and National Committee.

Section 710(b) Administration Director.

The Administration Director will coordinate and provide support for the business functions provided in the charter for the standing and select committees of the organization and help oversee the functions of the national committee and executive committee as well provide support as needed to national officers. Roles will include but are not limited to: preparing materials for committee meetings, working with chairs to develop agendas, coordinating business of national committee general sessions.

Section 710(c) Communications Director.

The Communications Director will serve as the point person on external communications; utilize resources of the parties, respective state communication directors, the House and Senate resources to create external publications, press releases and media materials for use nationally, in state and local chapters; works with campaign committee to produce communication materials that compliment the campaign efforts including lit pieces, template releases and press advisories and talking points.

Section 710(d) Membership Director.

The Membership Director will work with existing groups, caucuses and regions to coordinate the implementation of plans and ideas to help further the growth of individual membership of YDA and will work to build individual membership within YDA and increase participation of individuals in all levels of the organization.

Section 710(e) Operations Director.

The Operations Director will coordinate meeting planning with host states, oversee meeting schedules and smooth implementation of national conferences, and will work to make meetings more like conventions by coordinating a national message and speakers to increase participation and media coverage of national meetings.

Section 710(f) Organizing Director.

The Organizing Director will work with regional directors, state presidents and local chapters to build stronger local and state chapters by making more YDA resources available and will assist Regional Directors in chartering new states and assisting new and existing local chapters in their development. The Organizing Director will also develop manuals for state and local chapter officers on their responsibilities and organizing new chapters.

SECTION 720. NON-VOTING ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS.

Section 720(a) Chief of Staff.

The chief of staff will coordinate the overall functions of the administrative officers and their relationship with the elected officers.

Section 720(b) Community Service Liaison.

The community service liaison will establish programs for national committee meetings for community service activities and help state and local chapters find opportunities in their own areas for participation, and promote positive non-campaign and political community participation for our organization and a national and local level to help engage our members.

Section 720(c) Congressional Liaison.

The Congressional liaison will build up YDA's profile and relationship with members of Congress and keep YDA informed of Congressional activities, and provide talking points and message information on a regular basis to our membership from Capitol Hill.

Section 720(d) General Counsel.

The General Counsel must be an attorney licensed to practice in one or more jurisdictions within the territorial boundaries of the United States. He or she must be admitted to practice in one or more of the United States District Courts or must secure such admission within (30) days of confirmation. The General Counsel shall give legal opinions to the National Office, members of the National Committee and the National Officers. He or she shall represent the Young Democrats of America in such forums as it may be required to appear.

Section 720(e) High School Liaison.

The High School Liaison shall be responsible for developing and executing a recruitment strategy for high school young democrat chapters, subject to review by the executive committee, shall be responsible for working with the Vice President for Students and Youth to recruit high school students into the YDA.

Section 720(f) International Affairs Liaison.

The International Affairs Liaison shall be responsible for initiating and coordinating contact between the YDA and youth political organizations outside the United States, shall organize joint programs and activities, shall recommend to the National Committee international organizations for formal affiliation, and shall educate members of the YDA about international issues and the political process in other countries. The International Affairs liaison shall also work with Young Democrats Abroad on getting ballots to and from those living abroad.

Section 720(g) Issues Liaison.

The Issues Liaison shall plan and lead issues discussions, forums, and panels for each national meeting, help keep YDA online forums or discussions moving, work on rapid response message network, and come up with weekly or monthly action activities for state and local chapters to take action through a variety of activities like rallies, or press releases.

Section 720(h) Legislative Liaison.

The legislative liaison shall work at the state level on pending legislation, work with individual state legislatures to establish relationships with democratic state legislators throughout the country, specifically targeting issues that YDA can be involved at the state level.

Section 720 (i) Parliamentarian.

The Parliamentarian shall assist the National Committee and its members and committees in their compliance with the Charter, advise the presiding officers of the National Committee and its committees with respect to matters of parliamentary procedure.

SECTION 730. ADDITIONAL OFFICERS.

Section 730(a) Hostmaster.

The hostmaster shall be responsible for technical aspects of hosting website, setting up email accounts, managing web servers, working with state and local chapters, caucuses and other subgroups to provide the free web services that we offer.

Section 730(b) Message Board Editor.

The message board editor shall work under the direction of the YDA secretary to manage and edit the listserves, weblog, and message boards of YDA.

Section 730(c) Marketing Advisor.

The marketing advisor shall be responsible for the development and utilization of the YDA logo; production and sale of YDA merchandise at YDA events and via online store; professional production of YDA recruitment and informational brochures, pamphlets and handouts, and coordination of an overall marketing identity for YDA.

Section 730(d) Newsletter Editor.

The newsletter editor shall work under the direction of the YDA secretary to solicit and edit stories from states, officer reports for quarterly printed YDA newsletter; will be responsible for the production and layout of the newsletter.

Section 730(e) Press Secretary.

The press secretary shall actively pursue press coverage for YDA, work with local chapter leaders to earn media coverage for YDA events, edit and publish the YDA Pace E-Newsletter.

Section 730(f) Webmaster.

The Webmaster refreshes the webpage with up-to-date content, which includes YDA press releases, features on Young Democrats and chapter activities, photos and other information from the YDA Communications Department.

Section 730(g) Executive Director and Other Paid Staff.

The Executive Director shall serve as the administrator of the national office of the Young Democrats of America. The Executive Director and any other staff employed by YDA or working as contractors for YDA shall work under the day-to-day supervision of the President and shall be responsible for implementing programs and projects as assigned by the President and the Executive Committee.

Section 730 (h) Additional Non-Voting Officers.

Additional Non-Voting Administrative Officers may be appointed by the President as necessary, subject to approval by the National Committee.

BYLAWS  
ARTICLE VIII  
JUDICIAL COUNCIL

SECTION 810 Composition.

Section 810(a) Officers.

The President shall appoint the Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary of the Judicial Council within thirty (30) days after assuming office. The Chair of the Judicial Council shall be an ex-officio, voting member of the National Committee and the Executive Committee.

Section 810(b) Members.

Each of the eight (8) regions shall elect one (1) member of the Judicial Council at a regional conference or caucus convened prior to, or during each National Convention.

SECTION 815 Term of Office.

Members of the Judicial Council shall serve a term of two years or until their successors are elected or appointed.

SECTION 820 Filling Vacancies.

Section 820(a) Officers of the Judicial Council.

The Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary shall serve at the pleasure of the President and in the event of their death, resignation, or removal, the President shall appoint their successors.

Section 820(b) Eight Regional Members.

In the event of a vacancy among the eight (8) members elected to the Judicial Council by Regional Caucuses, the Director of the Regional Caucus of the vacant member's region shall appoint a successor to fill the unexpired term.

SECTION 825 Rules of Procedure and Records.

The Judicial Council may adopt its own rules of procedure, and shall keep a record of its proceedings and make the same available to the National Committee.

BYLAWS  
ARTICLE IX  
REGIONAL CAUCUSES

SECTION 905 Composition.

There shall be eight (8) Regional Caucuses designated as follows:

Northeast: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont

Mid-Atlantic: Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Young Democrats Abroad

Southeast: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virgin Islands

Great Lakes: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio

Midwest: Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin

Southcentral: Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas

Southwest: Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming

Pacific: Alaska, American Samoa, California, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington

SECTION 910 Directors of Regional Caucuses.

Directors for each Regional Caucus shall be elected to two (2) year terms at Regional Conferences held between sixty (60) and one hundred eighty (180) days prior to the opening general session of each National Convention and shall serve until their successors are elected. Each Director shall serve as Chair of any Regional Conference which may be called during said Director's tenure. Regional Directors may be removed for misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance by a majority vote of the National Committee members representing units within that Director's Region. A vacancy in the office of Regional Director may be filled by a majority vote of the National Committee members representing units within that Region at the next National Committee meeting or by the delegates to the next Regional Conference.



SECTION 915 Regional Conferences.

Regional Conferences may be called by the Director of the Regional Caucus, by the President of the Young Democrats of America, or by a majority of the National Committee members representing units within that Region upon thirty (30) days written notice to all National Committee members representing units within that Region.

SECTION 920 Voting at Regional Conferences.

Each chartered unit shall cast a vote at Regional Conferences equal to that chartered unit's total votes cast at convention. This shall include limitations on the final vote totals imposed pursuant to the ratio in Section 870, as indicated in the final report of the Credentials Committee at the previous National Convention. However, no chartered unit, including interim chartered units, shall be allocated less than five (5) votes. This section will not apply, if a Regional Caucus has adopted its own voting procedures within its Regional Bylaws.

SECTION 925 Regional Bylaws.

Regional Conferences may adopt bylaws and rules, which shall not conflict with this Charter, or any standing rules of the Young Democrats of America.

BYLAWS  
ARTICLE X

REMOVED BY ACTION OF THE YOUNG DEMOCRATS OF AMERICA  
NATIONAL CONVENTION

BYLAWS  
ARTICLE XI  
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SECTION 1110 Proxies.

Section 1110(a) Form.

All proxies shall be written and shall include the name of the person executing the proxy, the name of the person to whom the proxy is given and the period of time for which the proxy is valid and instructions, if any, on the voting of the proxy. Every proxy and such acknowledgment or swearing shall be attested to by a notary public or other officer authorized by law to so attest in the jurisdiction where executed.

Section 1110(b) Approval.

Proxies shall be presented to the Chair of the Standing Committee on Credentials of the National Committee who shall determine whether they are in proper order. Proxies approved by the Chair are immediately entitled to a vote. A majority vote upon appropriate motions shall be sufficient to reject a proxy approved by the Chair or approve a proxy rejected by the Chair.

Section 1110(c) Instructions.

Proxies may not be voted inconsistent with instructions at any time. Should the Chairman or any member discover that a member has voted a proxy in violation of this Section, that proxy shall be discarded and cannot be used for any purpose other than recording the attendance of the person who executed the proxy. On any vote, violated proxies shall be indicated as having voted 'present.'

BYLAWS  
ARTICLE XII  
GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1205 Endorsements.

It shall be the policy of the Young Democrats of America National Officers, National

Committee, Convention, Committees, and Caucuses, not to provide official endorsements to any candidate in a contested primary election. State and local organizations are not bound by this policy, but are urged to carefully consider the possible organizational risks of such an endorsement.

SECTION 1210 Contributions.

It shall be the policy of the Young Democrats of America National Committee, or any Standing Committee or Caucus, to not make direct financial contributions to candidates, or to party organizations in support of candidates with the exception of contributions to Coordinated Campaign Committees and National Party Committees. National Party Committees shall be defined for this section as the Democratic National Committee, Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, and the Association of State Democratic Chairs. State and local organizations are not bound by this policy.

SECTION 1215 Dual Affiliation.

Young Democrats of America strongly encourages its campus chapters to dually affiliate with the College Democrats of America.

BYLAWS  
ARTICLE XIII  
AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1305 Amendments.

Bylaws may be adopted or amended by a majority vote of the National Committee or the National Convention; and must comply with all procedural requirements for charter amendments as to notice and committee approval, as provided for in the Charter. Bylaw amendments adopted by the National Committee do not require ratification by the National Convention. Bylaws may not conflict with the Charter.