



BYLAWS

BYLAWS OF THE YOUNG DEMOCRATS OF NORTH CAROLINA

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Article I. Organization; Purpose; Policy

Section 1. Mission and Management

A primary mission of YDNC shall be the promotion of the Democratic Party, its nominees for elective offices and its elected officials as prescribed in the NCDP Plan of Organization. YDNC shall not take any action which is in conflict with these Bylaws, with the Constitution of the United States or of the State of North Carolina, or with any national, state, or local law.

Section 2. Endorsement of Party Nominees

This organization and its members shall support actively and by appropriate means the nominees of the Democratic Party in national, state, and local elections. This organization shall not endorse or support the candidacy of any person prior to their nomination by the Democratic Party; however, individual members may support a candidate prior to nomination.

Section 3. Cooperation with the North Carolina Democratic Party

The Young Democrats of North Carolina shall endeavor wherever possible to seek closer cooperation with the North Carolina Democratic Party at all levels, and shall facilitate and encourage all eligible members of YDNC to play active roles within the wider structure of the North Carolina Democratic Party.

Article II. Membership

Section 1. Membership Classes

Membership shall be open to all registered and pre-registered Democrats and to all Teen Democrats registered or pre-registered to vote in, or residing in for Teen Democrats unable to register, North Carolina and membership shall be divided into the following classifications:

- a. Active.** Any registered or pre-registered Democrat aged sixteen (16) to thirty-five (35) shall be eligible for Active membership. In order to be an Active member, one must be a member of a county or multi-county chapter, as determined by the chapter. No person shall be an Active member of more than one chapter.
- b. At-large.** Any registered or pre-registered Democrat age sixteen (16) to thirty-five (35), who is not residing in a county where a YDNC county chapter exists, shall be eligible for At-large membership, except that no county may have more than five (5) At-large members. No member shall be registered as both an Active and At-large member.

- c. **Teen.** Any North Carolina resident, having achieved the age of 13, but not yet having achieved the age of 19, who is a registered or pre-registered Democrat, or who, being unable to register, actively affiliates themselves with the principles of the Democratic Party and the Young Democrats of North Carolina, is eligible for Teen membership, provided they are a member of a chartered YDNC or NCATD chapter.
- d. **Associate.** Any person under the age of thirty-six (36) who is not an Active, Teen, or At-large member of YDNC, who professes and demonstrates allegiance with the principles of the Democratic Party, shall be eligible for Associate membership; provided, however, that Associate members shall not enjoy voting privileges and shall not be eligible to hold office on the Executive Board, or be District Representatives or Chapter Presidents.
- e. **Honorary.** Any registered Democrat who has attained the age of thirty-six (36) shall be eligible for Honorary membership; provided, however, that Honorary members shall not enjoy voting privileges and shall not be eligible to hold office within the organization.

Section 2. Membership Fee

A membership fee of zero dollars (\$0.00) shall be forwarded to YDNC for each Active and At-large member annually, which shall be paid prior to the first State Convention in that calendar year. Nothing herein precludes a county or multi-county chapter from collecting their own membership dues.

Article III. County Chapters

Section 1. Chartering

- a. **Chartering authority.** The YDNC President, with approval of the YDNC Membership Committee and YDNC Charter & Bylaws Committee, shall have the authority to issue charters to county or multi-county chapters. After approval of the YDNC Membership Committee and YDNC Charter & Bylaws Committee, all new charters must also be approved by the YDNC Executive Committee prior to the chapter participating at a YDNC Convention.

The YDNC Membership Committee shall report its chartering decision and the YDNC Charter & Bylaws Committee shall report its chartering decision regarding a chapter's governing documents to the YDNC Secretary within thirty (30) days of notification that a chapter has submitted its chartering form. If either the YDNC Membership Committee or YDNC Charter & Bylaws Committee fails to report their decision within thirty (30) days of notification, then the YDNC Executive Committee has full authority to grant or deny a chapter charter. The YDNC Secretary is

responsible for notifying each committee that a chapter has submitted its chartering form.

All chapter charters submitted at least forty-eight (48) hours before the start of the first YDNC Statewide Convention must receive a vote on approval or disapproval from YDNC Membership Committee and YDNC Charter & Bylaws Committee before the start of the YDNC State Convention. If either or both committees fail to vote on approval or disapproval, the YDNC Executive Committee is required to grant or deny the chapter charter before the start of the YDNC State Convention.

- b. Naming convention.** The official name of each county chapter shall be the Young Democrats of the county in which the chapter exists. Multi-county chapters should follow the same rule, but with the combined county names or with the name of a geographic region.
- c. CDNC and NCATD exemptions.** No more than one chapter shall be chartered within any county, provided, however, that CDNC chapters may be organized at any institution of higher learning and NCATD chapters may be organized at individual high schools, a coalition of high schools, or on a county-wide basis and such College and Teen chapters may be chartered separately from the county chapter.

Section 2. Multi-county Chapters

Up to six counties may unite together in an effort to organize, provided that the following conditions are met:

- a. Each county represented.** The charter must include at least one Active or Associate member from each county represented.
- b. Adjoining borders.** Each of the associated counties must share a geographic border with at least one of the others.
- c. Maximum size.** If at any point more than one of the combined counties has a membership exceeding 20 Active or Associate members, the counties must reorganize before the next State Convention to ensure that no county with excess of 20 Active or Associate members is part of a multi-county chapter.
- d. Regions.** A multi-county chapter shall not be prohibited from forming on account of a multi-county chapter representing counties that are subdivided into different regions.

Section 3. Requirements

A chapter must have at least five (5) Active or Associate members and fulfill the following requirements in order for its charter to be considered:

1. Submit a copy of its governing documents for the approval of the YDNC Charter & Bylaws Committee;
2. Demonstrate that an open and publicized election was held in the twelve (12) months preceding the request;
3. Provide proof of active and compliant status with the North Carolina State Board of Elections, if applicable;
4. Demonstrate the support and working relationship of the Democratic Party of the county, or counties, if a multi-county chapter;
5. Submit a membership list;
6. Remit any requisite membership fees, as prescribed in Article II, Section 2; and
7. Receive the approval with a majority vote of both the YDNC Membership Committee and YDNC Charter & Bylaws Committee. After approval of the YDNC Membership Committee and YDNC Charter & Bylaws Committee, all new charters must also be approved by the YDNC Executive Committee prior to the chapter participating at a YDNC Convention. If either the YDNC Membership Committee or YDNC Charter & Bylaws Committee fail to report their decision within thirty (30) days of notification, then the YDNC Executive Committee has full authority to grant or deny a chapter charter.

Section 4. Annual Rechartering

Chapters must apply for re-chartering prior to the first State Convention of a calendar year. To be eligible for re-chartering, a chapter must satisfy all requirements set out in Article III, Section 3, as well as provide an annual report of its activities.

Article IV. District Representatives

Section 1. Definition; Eligibility

The YDNC Executive Committee shall provide for the creation and maintenance of a district organization in each congressional district, as prescribed by the NCDP Plan of Organization. Each district organization shall be composed of all Active, Teen, and At-large members registered or pre-registered to vote in the district.

Section 2. Officers

Each congressional district shall be led by a District Representative. A congressional district may choose to elect an additional eligible member to serve as an alternate to act

as District Representative in the event the elected District Representative is unable to carry out their duties in a temporary capacity.

Section 3. Duties

The District Representative shall serve as the primary liaison between the leadership of each congressional district organized under the NCDP Plan of Organization and the Young Democrats of North Carolina. They shall promote and facilitate the activities of existing organized chapters in their congressional district and work with the YDNC Regional Vice Presidents to create and maintain the existence of chapters in their congressional districts. All District Representatives shall serve on the YDNC Executive Committee and their congressional district executive committee.

Section 4. Elections

District Representatives shall be elected by a caucus of at least five eligible members residing in a congressional district at the first State Convention in a calendar year. The election of any District Representative must be reported to and ratified by a majority vote of the Convention body.

Section 5. Vacancy

In the event of a vacancy in a District Representative position without an elected alternate, or a District Representative is not elected at the first State Convention in a calendar year, the YDNC President may appoint an eligible member as defined in Article IV, Section 1 to fill the vacancy with the approval of the YDNC Executive Committee. In districts where an alternate was elected, the alternate shall succeed the District Representative for the balance of the term.

Article V. Regions

The Young Democrats of North Carolina shall subdivide the counties of North Carolina into four (4) regions as follows:

- a. Western.** Alexander, Ashe, Alleghany, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Cherokee, Clay, Cleveland, Davie, Gaston, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Iredell, Jackson, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Surry, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes, Yadkin, Yancey
- b. Piedmont.** Anson, Cabarrus, Davidson, Forsyth, Guilford, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Randolph, Richmond, Rockingham, Rowan, Stanly, Stokes, Union
- c. Triangle.** Alamance, Caswell, Chatham, Durham, Edgecombe, Franklin, Granville, Harnett, Johnston, Lee, Moore, Nash, Orange, Person, Vance, Wake, Wilson

- d. **Eastern.** Beaufort, Bertie, Bladen, Brunswick, Camden, Carteret, Columbus, Craven, Cumberland, Currituck, Dare, Duplin, Gates, Greene, Halifax, Hertford, Hoke, Hyde, Jones, Lenoir, Martin, New Hanover, Northampton, Onslow, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Pender, Perquimans, Pitt, Robeson, Sampson, Scotland, Tyrrell, Warren, Washington, Wayne

Article VI. Executive Board

Section 1. Composition

The YDNC Executive Board shall consist of the YDNC President, YDNC Executive Vice President, four (4) YDNC Regional Vice Presidents, YDNC Secretary, and the two (2) YDNC National Committee Representatives. The YDNC President shall as well appoint a YDNC Treasurer, YDNC Communications Director, YDNC Finance Director, and up to three (3) additional director-level positions who shall serve as non-voting members of the Executive Board. The Presidents of the College Democrats of North Carolina and the North Carolina Association of Teen Democrats shall serve as ex-officio, non-voting members of the Executive Board.

- a. **Regional Vice Presidents.** The YDNC Regional Vice Presidents must be registered or pre-registered to vote in the region they represent.
- b. **National Committee Representatives.** The YDNC National Committee Representatives shall be two (2) individuals of different gender identities.

Section 2. Powers

When the YDNC Executive Committee is not meeting, the YDNC Executive Board shall conduct business in its place in all matters, except those explicitly requiring action by the YDNC Executive Committee. The YDNC Executive Board shall approve financial expenditures, secure loans and lines of credit, lease space for the use of YDNC, and authorize individual(s) to execute legal documents.

Section 3. Duties of Elected Officers

- a. **President.** The duties of the YDNC President shall be to uphold and enforce the provisions of the YDNC Charter, Bylaws, and adopted Rules of YDNC; to organize and administer the organization; to appoint chairpersons and members of standing, temporary, and select committees; to make appointments to YDA and NCDP committees in which YDNC is entitled to representation; to represent the organization at official functions; to represent the organization on the North Carolina Democratic Party Executive Council and NCDP Platform and Resolutions Committee; to preside over all meetings; to present an annual report on the functions

and activities of the organization to the NCDP Chair; and to chair the YDNC Executive Committee.

- b. Executive Vice President.** The duties of the YDNC Executive Vice President shall be to advise and assist the YDNC President in the administration of the organization and to assume the duties of the executive office in the temporary absence of the YDNC President. The YDNC Executive Vice President shall serve as chair of the YDNC Membership Committee. The YDNC Executive Vice President shall actively recruit and assist in the development of new chapters, and shall oversee the district organizations and officers. The YDNC Executive Vice President shall oversee the functions of the YDNC Caucuses.
- c. Regional Vice Presidents.** The duties of the YDNC Regional Vice President shall be to represent their region's chapters and at-large members on the YDNC Executive Board; to coordinate with the chapters in their region to bolster and support their activities. Each YDNC Regional Vice President shall serve on the YDNC Membership Committee and shall assist the YDNC Executive Vice President in their duties.
- d. Secretary.** The duties of the YDNC Secretary shall be to record the minutes of all meetings; maintain an updated and accurate membership list of the organization; maintain files of the organization; chair the YDNC Credentials Committee; notify the YDNC Membership Committee and the YDNC Charter & Bylaws Committee when a newly organized chapter has submitted chartering documents; submit all official records to the state archives; and, with the approval of the YDNC President, to conduct the official correspondence of the organization.
- e. National Committee Representatives.** The duties of the YDNC National Committee Representatives shall be to serve as liaisons between the Young Democrats of North Carolina and the Young Democrats of America. The YDNC National Committee Representatives shall serve on the North Carolina Democratic Party Executive Council and shall co-chair the YDNC Charter and Bylaws Committee.

Section 4. Duties of Appointed Officers

The YDNC President shall appoint a YDNC Treasurer, YDNC Communications Director, YDNC Finance Director. Similarly, the YDNC President may appoint up to three (3) additional director-level positions to the YDNC Executive Board. These appointed officers must be nominated by the YDNC President and approved by a majority vote of the YDNC Executive Board and may be removed by a majority vote of the YDNC Executive Board at any time.

- a. Treasurer.** The duties of the YDNC Treasurer shall be to keep an accurate account of all financial transactions; to compile periodic financial status reports; to file

financial reports as required with the appropriate governmental agency or agencies; to furnish a bond in an amount determined by the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall forward a copy of financial reports filed with the North Carolina State Board of Elections to the State Party Staff upon request. Additionally, the YDNC Treasurer shall develop and reconcile a budget in consultation with the YDNC Finance Director.

- b. Communications Director.** The duties of the YDNC Communications Director shall be to consolidate efforts related to messaging, media, outreach, and external communication of the YDNC Executive Board and to facilitate the messaging efforts of the various committees and caucuses of YDNC.
- c. Finance Director.** The duties of the YDNC Finance Director shall be to raise funds for the organization and to collaborate with the YDNC Treasurer and the remainder of the Executive Board to develop a budget for the operation of the organization. In the event of the YDNC Treasurer's position becoming vacant, the YDNC Finance Director shall act as YDNC Treasurer until a successor is appointed.
- d. Additional appointed officers.** Additional appointed officers who serve on the YDNC Executive Board may be appointed at the discretion of the YDNC President as described in Article V, Section 1. The duties of these officers shall be determined by the YDNC President with the approval of the YDNC Executive Board. The duties of these appointed officers shall not be in conflict with or subsumed those of any officer or body as described in these Bylaws.

Section 5. Eligibility

Any candidate for elected or appointed office must be an Active, At-large, or Teen member of YDNC. All candidates must also be a registered or pre-registered Democrat in North Carolina. If a member of the YDNC Executive Board ages out during the course of their term, their office shall be considered vacated. Elected officers of the YDNC Executive Board are eligible for appointment by the YDNC President to serve as appointed officers.

Section 6. Term

All state officers shall serve a two-year term following their election and until their successor is elected and installed.

- a. Appointed officers.** The term of the Appointed Officers expires at the end of the first State Convention held in an even-numbered calendar year.

Section 7. Election

Officers shall be elected by a majority of the votes cast at the first State Convention of an even-numbered calendar year in accordance with Article XI of the YDNC Bylaws and the adopted Rules for such convention.

- a. Regional Vice Presidents.** YDNC Regional Vice Presidents shall be elected by a majority of the votes cast by all delegates present and voting at the first State Convention of an even-numbered calendar year.
- b. National Committee Representatives.** The YDNC National Committee Representatives shall be elected in alternating years, one of whom shall be elected in odd-numbered years and the other of whom shall be elected in even-numbered years.

Section 8. Removal

- a. Initiating removal.** In order to initiate the removal process, the removal of an officer must be requested by the YDNC President, a voting majority of the YDNC Board by petition, or a voting majority of the YDNC Executive Committee by petition. The petition or request for removal must be submitted to the YDNC Secretary. If the YDNC Secretary is the subject of the petition or request for removal, the petition or request must be submitted to the YDNC President. The recipient of the petition or request for removal must, within 48 hours, certify the petition or request for removal and then notify the YDNC Executive Committee of the receipt of a petition or request, as well as the names of the signatories, grounds for removal, and any other information that was included in the petition or request, if applicable and germane to the removal request.
- b. Investigation process.** Once a petition for removal has been certified or the YDNC President has formally requested the removal of an officer and the YDNC Executive Committee has been notified of the certification, the YDNC President, with the confirmation of a voting majority of YDNC Executive Board members, shall appoint at least one (1) and a maximum of three (3) independent investigator(s) to review any evidence, which must be submitted within a window of time that shall be prescribed by the adopted Rules of the YDNC Executive Committee, submitted by any person who believes their evidence is germane to the removal of the officer. If the YDNC President is the subject of the petition for removal, the YDNC Executive Vice President shall appoint the independent investigator(s), with the confirmation of a voting majority of YDNC Executive Board members. The independent investigator(s) have a window of time prescribed by the adopted Rules of the YDNC Executive Committee to review all evidence and compile reports of the evidence. The independent investigator(s) shall submit reports to the YDNC President, or the YDNC

Executive Vice President if the YDNC President is the subject of the investigation. At no point throughout the process may the investigator(s) give a recommendation on the vote, voice an opinion beyond the facts of the case, or allow bias to influence their work. If an investigator is found, by a majority vote of the Executive Committee, to have violated any of these principles, the investigation process shall be null and void and must restart with the appointment of the independent investigator(s).

- c. **Voting Process.** After the deadline to submit the evidence reports, the YDNC President, or YDNC Executive Vice President if the YDNC President is the subject of the removal process, shall circulate the evidence reports to all YDNC Executive Committee members and notify the members of the meeting at which the removal vote will occur, which must occur in a window of time prescribed by the adopted Rules of the YDNC Executive Committee. Officers may be removed from office upon a vote approving such removal by more than a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority of the present and voting members of the YDNC Executive Committee at the duly called meeting of the YDNC Executive Committee. The subject of the removal shall not receive a vote. If the independent investigator(s) are members of the YDNC Executive Committee, they shall not receive a vote. A member of the YDNC Executive Committee may deem themselves unable to vote due to a conflict of interest or a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority of members of the YDNC Executive Committee present and voting may disqualify a member from voting due to a conflict of interest. The vote of any member disqualified or self-removed due to the conflict of interest should not be included in the total number of votes of members of the YDNC Executive Committee.

Section 9. Leave of Absence

- a. **Leaves of absence.** Members of the YDNC Executive Board are empowered to invoke a leave of absence at any point during their individual term upon formally notifying the YDNC President and YDNC Secretary by letter. In the case of the YDNC Secretary taking a leave of absence, they shall notify the YDNC President and YDNC Executive Vice President by letter. For non-medical leaves of absence, an Executive Board member may remain on leave for fourteen (14) days consecutively. For medical leaves of absence, an Executive Board member may remain on leave for twenty-eight (28) days consecutively. Members of the Executive Board may resume the fulfillment of their duties at any point prior to, or at the expiration of, the intended length of the leave of absence upon formally notifying the YDNC Secretary by letter.
- b. **Designation of duties.** If the YDNC President invokes a leave of absence at any point during their term, the YDNC Executive Vice President shall assume the duties of the office for the duration of the YDNC President's leave of absence. If other members of the Executive Board invoke a leave of absence, the YDNC President is empowered, subject to the approval of the YDNC Executive Board, to divide the

primary duties of the officer in question among members of the Executive Board as prudent to the operations of the organization.

- c. **Extending leaves of absence.** Any member of the Executive Board shall be able to renew a leave of absence once more for the full allotted time as described in Subsection A. Any further renewal of an Executive Board member's leave of absence beyond what is immediately allowed in these bylaws must be approved by majority vote of the YDNC Executive Board.

Section 10. Vacancy

Any vacancy among the elected officers shall be filled by a majority vote of the YDNC Executive Committee until the next State Convention. In the event of a vacancy of the position of YDNC President, the YDNC Executive Vice President shall serve as Acting President until the position is filled. If the position of YDNC Executive Vice President is vacant, or they are unable to serve as Acting President, the longest-serving YDNC National Committee Representative shall serve as Acting President. The YDNC Executive Committee shall then elect from its members a successor to the office of YDNC President.

Article VII. Caucuses

Section 1. Caucuses

Caucuses may be established by majority vote at the first statewide Convention in a calendar year. Caucuses may also be provisionally established by members of YDNC between a Convention by majority vote of the YDNC Executive Committee. If a caucus that has been provisionally approved by the YDNC Executive Committee fails to submit chartering paperwork at the next statewide Convention, the caucus shall be dissolved with immediate effect following the close of the Convention.

Section 2. Requirements

A caucus must have at least five (5) Active or Associate members and fulfill the following requirements for its charter to be considered:

1. Submit a copy of its governing documents to the YDNC Charter & Bylaws Committee for approval;
2. Hold an election of all leadership positions at the first statewide Convention in a calendar year, and;
3. Submit a membership list to the YDNC Secretary.

Section 3. Operation and Officers

Each caucus shall establish bylaws and rules necessary for its operation, which shall not be in conflict with the YDNC Charter, YDNC Bylaws, or adopted Rules of YDNC, and are subject to the approval of a majority vote of the YDNC Charter & Bylaws Committee. Each caucus shall elect officers in accordance with its governing documents and such elections shall occur annually at the first State Convention of a calendar year.

Section 4. Vacancy

In the event of a vacancy in any caucus leadership position, the respective caucus shall fill the vacancy within thirty (30) days of the vacancy occurring, in a manner in accordance with its governing documents. If a caucus does not fill a vacancy within thirty (30) days, the YDNC President shall nominate a replacement, which shall be confirmed by majority vote of the YDNC Executive Committee.

Article VIII. NCATD & CDNC

North Carolina Association of Teen Democrats and College Democrats of North Carolina may charter at conventions with YDNC by:

1. Submitting a copy of its governing document(s) for the approval of the YDNC Charter & Bylaws Committee;
2. Demonstrating that an open and publicized election was held during the year in which the request was made;
3. Submitting a membership list to the YDNC Secretary; and
4. Receiving the approval with a majority vote of both the YDNC Membership Committee and YDNC Charter & Bylaws Committee. After approval of the YDNC Membership Committee and YDNC Charter & Bylaws Committee, all new charters must also be approved by the YDNC Executive Committee prior to the chapter participating at a YDNC Convention. If either the YDNC Membership Committee or YDNC Charter & Bylaws Committee fail to report their decision within thirty (30) days of notification, then the YDNC Executive Committee has full authority to grant or deny a chapter charter.

Article IX. Committees

Section 1. Standing Committees

The standing committees of the organization shall be the YDNC Convention Committee, the YDNC Resolutions Committee, the YDNC Charter & Bylaws Committee, and the YDNC Membership Committee, which shall be governed as follows:

Section 2. Convention Committee

The YDNC Convention Committee shall be responsible for the site selection, planning and overall management of each State Convention. The committee shall work to develop a bidding process for each State Convention and serve as a liaison between each Convention host and YDNC.

The YDNC Convention Committee shall be composed of the YDNC Convention Committee, the YDNC Awards Committee and the YDNC Credentials Committee. The YDNC Awards Committee and the YDNC Credentials Committee shall be considered subcommittees of the YDNC Convention Committee.

- a. Awards Committee.** The YDNC Awards Committee shall be a subcommittee of the YDNC Convention Committee. It shall consider and select, from all nominees, the recipient of the annual YDNC awards. The annual YDNC awards shall consist of the following: Tyre Taylor Award, awarded to the most outstanding Young Democrat of North Carolina for which officers are ineligible; Outstanding Chapter Award; Outstanding Young Democrat Award(s); the O. Max Gardner Award, given annually to a person who is not a Young Democrat, but has been most supportive of the organization; the May Thompson Evans Award, given to a Young Democrat who serves as an elected or appointed public official; and any other award the committee deems necessary.
- b. Credentials Committee.** The YDNC Credentials Committee shall be a subcommittee of the YDNC Convention Committee. It shall be chaired by the YDNC Secretary and shall meet prior to any State Convention to certify, by a majority vote of the Committee, the list of chartered chapters, the number of votes allocated to each chapter, the duly authorized delegates, and the list of candidates running for each position. The YDNC Credentials Committee Report shall require approval of a majority of the YDNC Executive Committee prior to the General Session of a YDNC State Convention.
- c. Timeframe of Convention.** The YDNC Convention Committee shall be required to announce at least forty-five (45) days before the start of a Convention's Opening Session the dates and location of Convention.

Section 3. Resolutions Committee

The YDNC Resolutions Committee shall propose and publicize resolutions that reflect the positions and principles of the Young Democrats of North Carolina. The Committee shall consider and report, by a majority vote of the Committee, on all proposed resolutions. The Resolutions Committee shall not consider any resolution that has the force of changing the Charter & Bylaws of YDNC.

- a. Resolutions considered at State Convention.** The Resolutions Committee Chair shall submit in writing all resolutions proposed by the YDNC Resolutions Committee to the YDNC Executive Committee fifteen (15) days prior to any YDNC State Convention. Resolutions may be considered from the floor at a YDNC State Convention by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the YDNC State Convention. The YDNC Resolutions Committee Report and resolutions considered from the floor shall require approval of a majority vote at a YDNC State Convention.
- b. Resolutions considered by YDNC Executive Committee.** The YDNC Resolutions Committee Chair shall submit a Committee Report of all resolutions reported favorably by the Committee to the YDNC Executive Committee at least fifteen (15) days prior to the YDNC Executive Committee meeting at which they will be considered. The YDNC Resolutions Committee Report shall require approval of a two-thirds (2/3) vote at a YDNC Executive Committee meeting.

Section 4. Charter & Bylaws Committee

The YDNC Charter & Bylaws Committee shall consider and report, by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority vote, on all proposed amendments to the Charter or Bylaws of YDNC. The YDNC Charter & Bylaws Committee shall also review and approve, by a majority vote, all governing documents of YDNC county and multi-county chapters, YDNC caucuses, CDNC, and NCATD.

The YDNC Charter & Bylaws Committee shall be required to submit at the first State Convention in a calendar year a report on the status of governing documents for all chapters seeking a charter with YDNC for the upcoming year. That report shall require the approval of a majority of the YDNC Executive Committee prior to the General Session of State Convention. Additionally, any report by the YDNC Charter & Bylaws Committee concerning amendments to the YDNC Charter or Bylaws shall require approval at a YDNC State Convention or YDNC Executive Committee with approval thresholds determined respectively by Article VII of the YDNC Charter and/or Article XIV of the YDNC Bylaws.

- a. Amendments considered at State Convention.** The YDNC Charter & Bylaws Committee Chair shall submit, in writing, a Committee Report of all amendments reported favorably by the Committee to the YDNC Executive Committee at least

fifteen (15) days prior to any YDNC State Convention and to the delegates of the YDNC State Convention once certified by the YDNC Credentials Committee.

- b. **Amendments considered by YDNC Executive Committee.** The YDNC Charter & Bylaws Committee Chair shall submit a Committee Report of all bylaws amendments reported favorably by the Committee to the YDNC Executive Committee at least fifteen (15) days prior to the YDNC Executive Committee meeting at which they will be considered.

Section 5. Membership Committee

The YDNC Membership Committee shall oversee the formation of new chapters and strengthen existing chartered chapters. The Committee shall have the authority by majority vote to authorize the YDNC President to grant new charters; approve re-charting for existing chapters, pending the approval of the governing documents of each chapter by the YDNC Charter & Bylaws Committee; grant At-large membership; and approve the charters of CDNC and NCATD.

The YDNC Membership Committee Report shall require approval of a majority of the YDNC Executive Committee prior to the General Session of a YDNC State Convention. The YDNC Membership Committee shall have the authority to authorize the YDNC President to grant charters to new chapters in between YDNC State Conventions, but all new charters must be approved by the YDNC Executive Committee prior to the chapter participating at a YDNC State Convention.

Section 6. Establishment of Temporary and Select Committees

The YDNC President, with majority approval of the YDNC Executive Committee, may form temporary or select committees whose purpose and function shall be clearly outlined by the YDNC President.

Section 7. Committee Membership and Approval

Unless otherwise stated, the YDNC President shall, subject to the approval of a majority vote of the YDNC Executive Board, appoint the chairpersons and committee members of all standing committees.

Article X. Executive Committee

Section 1. Duties

The YDNC Executive Committee shall be the governing body of YDNC between State Conventions.

Section 2. Composition

Voting members of the YDNC Executive Committee shall consist of both elected and appointed officers of the YDNC Executive Board, District Representatives, the CDNC President, the CDNC Vice President, the NCATD President, the NCATD Vice President, chairpersons of YDNC Standing Committees, chairpersons of all chartered caucuses of YDNC, presidents of all chartered county and multi-county chapters, and any voting member of the Young Democrats of America National Committee or DNC Youth Council registered to vote in North Carolina. If a member of the YDNC Executive Committee holds two or more positions on the YDNC Executive Committee, that member shall only have one vote on the YDNC Executive Committee. If a member of the YDNC Executive Committee ages out during the course of their term, the member may serve the remainder of their term and keep their full rights and duties up to that time.

Section 3. Meetings

The YDNC Executive Committee shall meet virtually or in person at least four (4) times each year. Such meetings may be called in one of four (4) ways:

- a. President.** YDNC Executive Committee meetings may be called by the YDNC President, the time and place for such meetings shall be set by the YDNC President.
- b. Petition.** YDNC Executive Committee meetings may be called upon written request of one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the members of the YDNC Executive Committee; the time and place of such meetings shall be set forth in the request.
- c. Board.** YDNC Executive Committee meetings may be called by a majority of the YDNC Executive Board. The time and place for such meetings shall be set by the YDNC Executive Board.
- d. Executive Committee.** The YDNC Executive Committee, while in session, may designate the time and place of the next meeting with a majority vote of the Committee.

Section 4. Quorum and Voting

Quorum shall exist at any meeting of the YDNC Executive Committee when one-fifth ($\frac{1}{5}$) of the members of the YDNC Executive Committee are present.

Any member may designate an Active, College, or Teen Young Democrat from the group they represent to serve as their proxy for a YDNC Executive Committee meeting by notifying, in writing, the presiding officer of the meeting prior to the call to order. If a member of the YDNC Executive Committee does not represent a group, they may designate any Active, At-large, or Teen member as their alternate, provided, however,

that no person may serve as an alternate for more than one member at any meeting, and no person may cast more than one vote.

Section 5. Removal

A member of the YDNC Executive Committee may be automatically removed from their role as chairperson of a YDNC Standing Committee, chairperson of a YDNC Caucus, or President of a chartered county or multi-county chapter under the provisions below. Any member subjected to an automatic removal must be given seven (7) days notice before their removal goes into effect. A member subjected to automatic removal may appeal the decision to the YDNC Executive Committee and a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) voting majority of the YDNC Executive Committee must vote to overturn an automatic removal.

- a. Inactive.** The member is no longer an Active, At-large, or Teen member of the Young Democrats of North Carolina.
- b. Truant.** The member misses three (3) YDNC Executive Committee meetings in a year without designating a proxy.

Section 6. Non-Automatic Removal

A member of the YDNC Executive Committee may be removed from their role as District Representative, chairperson of a YDNC Standing Committee, chairperson of a YDNC Caucus, or President of a chartered county or multi-county chapter under the following provisions:

- a. Initiating removal.** In order to initiate the removal process, the removal of a chairperson of a YDNC Standing Committee, a chairperson of a YDNC Caucus, or chartered county or multi-county chapter President must be requested by the YDNC President, a voting majority of the Board by petition, or a voting majority of the YDNC Executive Committee by petition. The petition or request for removal must be submitted to the YDNC Secretary. The YDNC Secretary must, within 48 hours, certify the petition or request for removal and then notify the YDNC Executive Committee of the receipt of a petition or request, as well as the names of the signatories, grounds for removal, and any other information that was included in the petition or request, if applicable and germane to the removal request.
- b. Investigation process.** Once a petition for removal has been certified or the YDNC President has formally requested the removal of a member of the YDNC Executive Committee and the YDNC Executive Committee has been notified of the certification, the YDNC President, with the confirmation of a voting majority of YDNC Board members, shall appoint at least one (1) and a maximum of three (3) independent investigator(s) to review any evidence, which must be submitted within a window of time that shall be prescribed by the adopted Rules of the YDNC Executive

Committee, submitted by any person who believes their evidence is germane to the removal of the YDNC Executive Committee member. The independent investigator(s) have a window of time prescribed by the adopted Rules of the YDNC Executive Committee to review all evidence and compile reports of the evidence. The independent investigator(s) shall submit reports to the YDNC President. At no point throughout the process may the investigator(s) give a recommendation on the vote, voice an opinion beyond the facts of the case, or allow bias to influence their work. If an investigator is found, by a majority vote of the Executive Committee, to have violated any of these principles, the investigation process shall be null and void and must restart with the appointment of the independent investigator(s).

- c. **Voting process.** After the deadline to submit the evidence reports, the YDNC President shall circulate the evidence reports to all YDNC Executive Committee members and notify the members of the meeting at which the removal vote will occur, which must occur in a window of time prescribed by the adopted Rules of the YDNC Executive Committee. Members of the YDNC Executive Committee may be removed from office upon a vote approving such removal by more than a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority of present and voting members of the YDNC Executive Committee at the duly called meeting of the YDNC Executive Committee. The subject of the removal shall not receive a vote. If the independent investigator(s) are members of the YDNC Executive Committee, they shall not receive a vote. A member of the YDNC Executive Committee may deem themselves unable to vote due to a conflict of interest or a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) voting majority of members of the YDNC Executive Committee present and voting may disqualify a member from voting due to a conflict of interest. The abstention vote of any member disqualified or self- removed due to the conflict of interest should not be included in the total number of votes of members of the YDNC Executive Committee. If a member of the YDNC Executive Committee is removed, the YDNC President shall notify the county party, if the member was the President of a county chapter; NCDP; and any other relevant Democratic organization, if applicable.

Section 7. Removal of Vote

Members of the YDNC Executive Committee that serve in that role due to their position in an organization other than YDNC or their affiliated organizations, including but not limited to NCATD, CDNC, YDA, and DNC, may not be removed from those positions by the YDNC Executive Committee, but their vote on the YDNC Executive Committee may be revoked through the same process that a member of the YDNC Executive Committee may be removed, as outlined in Article XI, Section 5 and Article XI, Section 6. If the person's vote on the YDNC Executive Committee is revoked, the YDNC President shall notify that member's organization, NCDP, as well as any other relevant Democratic organization, if applicable.

Section 8. Vacancy

Any YDNC Executive Committee vacancy due to the removal or resignation of a member should be filled using the governing documents of that organization. If applicable, the next highest ranking office of that organization shall serve as a temporary voting member of the YDNC Executive Committee until the position has been filled.

Article XI. Board of Trustees

Section 1. Composition

The Board of Trustees shall consist of nine (9) individuals that are not Active, At-large, College, or Teen Members and support the mission of YDNC. The Board of Trustees shall be appointed by the YDNC President, with approval of a majority vote of the YDNC Executive Committee.

Section 2. Duties

The duties of the Board of Trustees shall include advising YDNC in its fundraising efforts. The Board of Trustees shall also have primary responsibility for alumni engagement, which includes, but is not limited to, working in collaboration with the YDNC Executive Board to create an annual Alumni event for alumni fundraising efforts.

Section 3. Term

All members of the Board of Trustees shall serve staggered three (3) year terms. In the event of a vacancy, the YDNC President shall have the authority to name a replacement to fill the balance of the term, subject to the approval of the YDNC Executive Committee.

Section 4. Vacancy

In the event that a Board of Trustee position becomes vacant before expiration of their term, the YDNC President shall appoint another individual to fill the vacancy, with the approval of a majority vote of the YDNC Executive Committee.

Article XII. State Convention

Section 1. Frequency; Time; Place

A State Convention may be called by the YDNC President upon the recommendation of two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of the YDNC Executive Committee, or by the adoption of a resolution calling for a State Convention by a majority of chartered chapters at least two months prior to the date of the Convention.

- a. **Even-numbered years.** In even-numbered years, the State Convention shall approve charters, reports from standing committees, conduct elections for the elected officers of the YDNC Executive Board, and any other business for the good of the organization as needed.
- b. **Odd-numbered years.** In odd-numbered years, the State Convention shall approve charters, reports from standing committees, conduct elections for any YDNC Executive Board offices that fell vacant after the last State Convention or fall vacant at this State Convention, and any other business for the good of the organization as needed.

Section 2. Participation

A chapter may participate in a State Convention if it holds a current charter and has paid any fees outlined in Article II, Section 2. If a chapter has been chartered or re-chartered in between YDNC State Conventions, the charter must be approved by the YDNC Executive Committee before the chapter may participate in a YDNC State Convention.

Section 3. Delegates

There shall be three (3) types of delegates to a State Convention:

- a. **Active.** Any Active member of a properly chartered chapter and on a membership list submitted to the Young Democrats of North Carolina, upon the approval of the Credentials Committee, shall be considered an Active delegate and entitled to a vote as prescribed by these bylaws.
- b. **At-large.** Any properly registered At-large member, having paid their membership fee, upon the approval of the Credentials Committee, shall be considered an At-large delegate and entitled to a vote as prescribed by these bylaws.
- c. **College & Teen.** Any member of a CDNC or NCATD chapter, upon the approval of the Credentials Committee, shall be considered a College or Teen delegate and entitled to a vote as prescribed by these bylaws. If a member of a CDNC or NCATD chapter is also a member of a YDNC chartered chapter, they shall be considered an Active delegate. If a member of a CDNC or NCATD chapter has satisfied the requirements to be an At-large delegate, they shall be considered an At-large Delegate.

Section 4. Calculation of Votes

No member shall cast votes with more than one chartered organization during any State Convention. Organizations that have been chartered shall be granted votes based on the following formula:

- a. **County chapters.** Each chartered county or multi-county chapter shall have a maximum of five (5) votes for each active delegate present, as determined by the YDNC Credentials Committee.
- b. **Maximum chapter votes.** The number of votes for a YDNC chapter shall not exceed the number of Active members of the chapter.
- c. **At-large members.** At-large members from non-chartered counties shall cast one (1) vote each.
- d. **College and Teen Democrats.** CDNC and NCATD shall receive one (1) vote for each College and Teen delegate present, as determined by the YDNC Credentials Committee.

Section 5. Fees

The YDNC Convention Committee may set a fee to participate in other aspects of a State Convention, but shall not require a fee for a delegate to vote.

Section 6. Quorum

A quorum shall exist at any State Convention when a majority of chapters holding current charters are represented by one or more duly registered delegates.

Article XIII. YDA National Convention

Section 1. Delegates

Any Active or At-large member of the Young Democrats of North Carolina shall be entitled to be a delegate to the Young Democrats of America National Convention, provided that the name and address of any potential delegate is submitted to the YDNC President at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the convening of the National Convention.

The YDNC Executive Committee shall approve a delegate selection plan to govern the consideration and selection of delegates representing the Young Democrats of North Carolina at the Young Democrats of America National Convention at least forty-five (45) days before the convening of the National Convention.

Section 2. Delegate Approval

Any delegates to the National Convention must be approved by a majority vote of the YDNC Executive Committee.

Article XIV. General Provisions

Section 1. Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern this organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this Charter, the YDNC Bylaws, and any special rules of order the organization may adopt.

Section 2. Amendment

The Bylaws of YDNC may be amended by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of the YDNC Executive Committee, or by a majority vote of any duly called and properly convened YDNC State Convention in the following manner:

- a. **Charter & Bylaws Committee.** Any YDNC State Convention shall consider properly reported Bylaws Amendments from the YDNC Charter & Bylaws Committee before all others, as prescribed in Article IX, Section 1, Subsection E of these Bylaws.
- b. **Amendment from the floor.** Bylaws amendments may be considered from the floor at a state convention by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of the convention.
- c. **Amendments by the YDNC Executive Committee.** Proposed amendments to the Bylaws must be submitted, in writing, and distributed to the members of the YDNC Executive Committee no less than 15 days before the meeting.

Section 3. Formatting or Grammatical Amendment

The YDNC Charter & Bylaws Committee may amend the Bylaws by a majority vote of the Committee, so long as the amendments contain only formatting or grammatical changes to the Bylaws and do not change any meaning or intent of the Bylaws. The YDNC Charter & Bylaws Committee must notify the YDNC Executive Committee after a formatting or grammatical amendment is approved. Any member of the YDNC Executive Committee has the ability to veto any formatting or grammatical amendment and instead require the amendment to be approved through the standard amendment process.

Section 4. Technology

Technology or internet services used to promote the organization per the enumerated duties of the YDNC Communications Director shall be under the purview of the YDNC Communications Director; if this position is vacant, the YDNC Secretary shall maintain technological oversight. Technology or internet services used to administer the organization shall be under the purview of the YDNC Secretary; if this position is vacant, the YDNC President shall maintain technological oversight.

Section 5. Interpretation

These Bylaws should be interpreted with a broad construction. Any actions of YDNC not specifically disallowed in the Charter, Bylaws, or adopted Rules of the YDNC are allowed, subject to the approval of the YDNC Executive Committee.

Section 6. Enacting Clause

- a. Immediate effect.** The following amendments to these articles shall go into effect immediately upon the passage of the YDNC Bylaws: Article I (Organization; Policy; Purpose), Article II (Membership), Article III (County Chapters), Article IV (District Representatives), Article VIII (NCATD & CDNC), Article IX (Committees), Article X (Executive Committee), Article XI (Board of Trustees), Article XII (State Convention), Article XIII (YDA National Convention), Article XIV (General Provisions).
- b. Effective upon amendment of charter at the 2023 YDNC Convention.** The following article shall go into effect upon the successful amendment of the YDNC Charter by the Convention body at the 2023 YDNC Convention at Morganton, with the effect of eliminating conflicts between this article and the Charter: Article VI (Executive Board).
- c. Effective upon the adjournment of the 2023 YDNC Convention.** The following articles shall go into effect upon the start of the 2023 YDNC Convention: Article VII (Caucuses).
- d. Effective upon adjournment of the 2024 YDNC Convention (exhaustion).** Article XIV, Section 6 (Enacting Clause) will be considered exhausted and will be stricken from the YDNC Bylaws for having served its purpose.

Section 7. Adoption

These Bylaws were adopted by a properly called and convened Executive Committee Meeting of the Young Democrats of North Carolina on April 2, 2023 via Zoom.