

DAVIDSON COUNTY YOUNG DEMOCRATS CONSTITUTION

Name: The name of the organization is the Davidson County Young Democrats, hereafter referred to as "DCYD" in this Constitution.

Purpose: The purpose of DCYD is to encourage in the youth of Davidson County, and surrounding areas an active interest in:

1. governmental affairs,
2. Increasing the efficiency of popular government,
3. Fostering and perpetuating the ideals of the Democratic Party,
4. Providing the highest degree of justice and social welfare for the people; and
5. Serving as a voice for young people in the Democratic Party.

This includes supporting and electing Democratic candidates for public office, widening and increasing young people's knowledge of government and the political process, training and developing young people for positions of leadership, increasing the role of underrepresented people in our Party, government, and society, and to serve those in need in our community.

Adoption: This Constitution shall be adopted when approved by two thirds majority of the membership in attendance. Amendments to this Constitution shall be made by a majority vote at two consecutive meetings of membership.

§ 1: DCYD is chartered and affiliated with the Tennessee Young Democrats. Through the Tennessee Young Democrats, DCYD is chartered and affiliated with the Young Democrats of America.

§ 2: DCYD will work in partnership with the Davidson County Democratic Party and work as closely as possible with all of the Democratic Party and democratic organizations.

ARTICLE I: MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Membership requirements for DCYD follow the guidelines of the Young Democrats of America and the Tennessee Young Democrats.

A person is eligible for membership in DCYD if the person:

1. Has not yet turned 36 years old;
2. Identifies as a member of the Democratic Party; and
3. Resides, worships, or works in Davidson County.

Dues: Membership dues are as follows:

1. Full \$25 with all privileges and voting rights
2. Student \$15 with all privileges and voting rights
3. Honorary \$15 with no privileges and no voting rights (for persons interested in joining the organization but do not fall within the age requirements)

Inclusivity Clause: Membership will not be affected by race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity, physical handicap, or sexual orientation.

A member of a college democrats of America chapter based in Davidson County (currently Belmont and Vanderbilt College Democrats) is automatically granted full membership in DCYD if the member satisfies the age requirements of the Young Democrats of America and Tennessee Young Democrats. In accordance with TNYD policy, these members are not required to pay dues.

Full and student memberships automatically obtain membership to the Tennessee Young Democrats with full privileges and voting rights. DCYD will pay the \$5 membership dues to the Tennessee Young Democrats on a bi-annual basis.

ARTICLE II: OFFICERS

The DCYD Executive Board is composed of the following members with voting privileges:

- 5 executive officers,
- 3 at large officers, and
- 2 collegiate representative officers (1 from Belmont College Democrats and 1 from Vanderbilt College Democrats). *Except as provided by an amendment to the by-laws, the collegiate representative positions will expire at the conclusion of the 2024 election meeting;* and
- 1 Immediate Past President.

The DCYD Executive Board is the chief policy making body for the chapter. The DCYD Executive Board will meet no less than twelve (12) times during the course of one (1) fiscal year.

The **executive officers** are:

President: The president is the chief executive officer for DCYD. The president will preside over all chapter meetings. The President has all the following duties and powers:

- A. Establish administrative procedures not otherwise provided by the Constitution;
- B. Act for or on behalf of the organization when not in session;
- C. Attend all meetings of the Tennessee Young Democrats. When attendance of the President is not possible, the president shall appoint a proxy with voting power;
- D. Establish the agenda of each membership and executive board meetings;
- E. Serve as delegation chair to the State Young Democrats convention;
- F. Has the right to make transactions of up to \$200 without approval of the Executive Board;
- G. Appoint chairpersons and vice-chairpersons of all committees, standing and adjunct, with the exception of the Membership, Communications, or Fundraising Committees;
- H. Be an ex-officio member of all committees; and
- I. All other powers not specifically enumerated to other officers.

Vice President: The Vice President has all the following duties and powers:

- A. Be a co-chairperson of the Membership Committee, pending the approval of the Executive Board;
- B. Maintain a list of all members, with the assistance of the Treasurer, and shall make such list available to every member annually at the election meeting;
- C. Act as President Pro-Tempore in the absence of the President. If the President's office is vacant, the Vice-President automatically becomes the President for the remainder of the term. The office of the Vice President is then filled pursuant to the Article III vacancy clause, and

D. Assist the President

Treasurer: The Treasurer is the chief financial officer of the organization with the following duties and powers:

- A. Chair of the Fundraising Committee;
- B. Be responsible for fundraising and solicitation records, mailings and events;
- C. Maintain accurate financial records for the organization including maintaining a record of members who have paid their membership dues;
- D. Coordinate all financial activities;
- E. Advise the President and the Executive Board of the financial condition of the organization;
- F. Upon request of the Executive Board, timely file reports for the State Democratic Party, County Party, or any other entities.
- G. Write checks and make deposits as directed by the Executive Board. The Treasurer has the right to make financial transactions without approval of the Executive Board. Any check in the amount of three hundred dollars (\$300) or more requires the signature of the Treasurer and the President.

Secretary: The Secretary has all the following duties and powers:

- A. Keep accurate minutes of all chapter meetings;
- B. Serve as parliamentarian at all chapter meetings;
- C. Keep an accurate mailing list and phone directory of all members;
- D. See to all correspondence of the chapter as directed by the President;
- E. Serve as Chair of the Communications Committee.

Outreach Manager: The Outreach Manager has the following duties and powers:

- A. Be a co-chairperson of the Membership committee;
- B. Develop and maintain an on-boarding process for new DCYD members;
- C. Manage DCYD's social media.

The **at-large officers** have the following duties and powers:

- A. Serve on the Executive Board;
- B. Serve on at least one committee of their choice;
- C. Assist the other officers of the Executive Board in executing events and policies;
- D. One member shall serve as a liaison between the Davidson County Young Democrats and the Davidson County Democratic Party and will report back to the Executive Board.

The **college representative officers** have the following duties and powers for:

- A. Serve on the Executive Board;
- B. Serve on at least one committee of their choice;
- C. Assist the other officers of the Executive Board in executing events and policies;
- D. Serve as a liaison between the Davidson County Young Democrats and the officers' respective college Young Democrats chapter.

The **Immediate Past President** has the following duties and powers:

- A. Advise the President;
- B. Serve on the Executive Board;

- C. Provide advice to the Executive Board as to the previous term's policies, meetings, and events;
- D. Provide assistance and advice to the current President;
- E. If the immediate past president does not or is not able to serve on the Executive Board, the position will be replaced with a 4th At-large officer to serve for the term, subject to election by the general membership.

ARTICLE III: ELECTIONS

Election: Elections shall be held at the last general meeting of each calendar year. A person is elected if that person receives a simple majority of the votes cast for that office. If no person receives a majority, a runoff election shall be held between the two frontrunners receiving the greatest number of votes. The President shall take nominations from the floor until there are no more nominations or upon motion and second for cessation of nominations. Votes shall be tallied separately by the Treasurer and Secretary. Any member in attendance at the meeting is entitled to vote. In all other respects, the elections shall be held in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

Tie-breaking procedure: In the event that a head-to-head election results in a tie between the two votes, the candidates will be subject to a brief question and answer period moderated by the President—or Secretary and Treasurer if the current President is the candidate. After the question and answer period, another round of voting will be held. If the second round results in a tie, then all members of the board present at the election will vote by paper ballot.

An executive officer's term is two years. An at-large and college representative officers' term is one year. No person can serve in one office for more than two consecutive terms.

The President and Vice President are elected in even-numbered years.

The Secretary, Treasurer, and Outreach Manager are elected in odd-numbered years.

The college representative officers are not elected. These officers will be chosen by the respective college democrats organizations pursuant to the organization's bylaws.

Any full member in good standing is permitted to run for an elected position, including members already elected to office. If a current officer runs for another elected position midway through the officer's term (ex. The treasurer runs for president) and is elected to the new position, the officer vacates their original office.

If an office becomes vacant, an election shall be held as soon as possible to elect a new officer to fill out the remainder of the term.

Removal from Office: Only elected officers may be subject to impeachment. The President reserves the right to remove anyone from an appointed position. College representative officers are subject to removal pursuant to the bylaws of their respective chapters or by a majority vote of the Board.

Impeachment procedures:

- A. Any person holding an elected office within the chapter may be impeached if found guilty of failing to adequately perform their duties;
- B. The person must be notified of the charges against them no less than thirty (30) days prior to the meeting in which the impeachment will be discussed;

- C. The officer is removed by two-thirds majority of the membership present at the meeting;
- D. An impeached officer retains their right to be a member of the organization with full privileges and voting rights.

ARTICLE IV: COMMITTEES

Committees shall be set by the Executive Board. Except as specified in this Constitution, the chairperson of each committee is appointed by the President.

Membership of the committees is open to any eligible member who would like to participate on the committee.

The Standing Committees are: Communications; Membership; Finance/Fundraising; and Community Outreach. These standing committees can only be eliminated by approval from the Executive Board.

The Executive Board can form ad hoc committees as the Board sees fit.

ARTICLE V: MEETINGS AND QUORUM OF GENERAL BODY

General meetings shall be conducted only after determination of a quorum. The quorum consists of five members in good standing, in addition to the President. Meetings of the general body must be held at least twice per quarter, at such a place as deemed convenient by the Executive Board. Notice of the meetings must be given in advance by mail or email.

ARTICLE VI: PROXIES

Unless explicitly provided for in this Constitution, proxies are prohibited.

ARTICLE VII: CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENTS

General Provisions: As limited by the provisions of this Article, DCYD may endorse candidates for any and all elections, provided that the candidate is a bona fide Democrat or otherwise supports and advocates the values of DCYD and the Democratic Party. Nominations may be made by any member in good standing, and the Board shall vote on such nominations. For the purposes of this Article, “non-partisan” means one running for an office that does not attach partisan labels and “independent” means one running for partisan office who elects not to officially identify with a partisan label.

Non-Partisan Elections: DCYD may endorse a candidate for a race without partisan labels, both General and Runoff, by a simple majority vote of Board Members present at the meeting where the endorsement is presented.

Partisan General Elections: DCYD may endorse a candidate for a general election race, including a runoff, with partisan labels by a simple majority vote of Board Members present at the meeting where the endorsement is presented.

Partisan Primary Elections: DCYD may endorse a candidate for the Democratic primary. DCYD shall not make endorsements in another party’s primary. DCYD may endorse a candidate for a

Democratic primary by a two-thirds vote of Board Members present at the meeting where the endorsement is presented.

Special Provisions for Non-Democratic Candidates in Partisan Races: DCYD shall not endorse any non-Democratic partisan candidate or independent candidate who cannot reasonably be said to support and advocate the values of DCYD and the Democratic Party. The Board shall review such applications with the rebuttable presumption that they do not support or advocate the values of DCYD and the Democratic Party and therefore are ineligible for consideration. DCYD shall not consider such application at all when there is a Democratic candidate running in said partisan race.

Article VIII: Constitutional Amendments

Amendments to this constitution must be submitted in writing to the President and Secretary at least two weeks (14 days) prior to the meeting at which the amendment will be considered. The President is obligated to place the amendment on the agenda for such meeting. The amendment will be considered and approved if two-thirds (2/3) of the Executive Board and two-thirds (2/3) of the general body vote in favor of the amendment.