



Constitution of the Nassau County Young Democrats

ARTICLE I

PURPOSE Section 1. Name. This organization shall be known as the Nassau County Young Democrats (hereinafter “NCYD”).

Section 2: Purpose. The purpose of this organization is to pursue within the County of Nassau the democratic ideals of liberty, justice, and freedom for all people regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability or social status.

Section 3: Mission. The mission of this organization shall be to advance the highest principles of the Democratic Party within the County of Nassau, to foster and maintain truly democratic procedures in the Democratic Party, to support Democratic candidates of integrity, ability and conviction for public office and party positions, and to arouse and animate participation by all Democrats in the activities of their party.

Section 4. Charter. This organization shall be chartered with the Nassau County Democratic Committee and work closely with all levels of the Democratic Party. We shall be affiliated with the New York State Young Democrats, and by and through, we shall be affiliated with the Young Democrats of America.

Section 5. Activities. This organization shall support the duly nominated candidates and the platform of the Democratic Party.

ARTICLE II

ELIGIBILITY

Section 1: Membership. A Member of the NCYD is anyone who:

- A. Is between the ages of sixteen (16) and thirty six (36), both inclusive.*
- B. Resides in, works or is an enrolled student in Nassau County.*
- C. Has paid their dues for the current year, as proscribed in the By-laws.*
- D. For voting purposes, is registered in the Democratic Party, except that anyone under the age of eighteen may be a member if they reside in Nassau County.*

Section 2: Voting Member. A Voting Member is a member who has attended one of the three previous general meetings. Only a Voting Member is authorized to cast a vote in an election for officers.

- A. The executive board may, by a majority vote, issue an excused absence to a member for reasonable cause. Such a member must still have attended one of the three previous meetings for which they have not received an excuse.*

Section 3: Nondiscrimination. Membership will not be affected by race, religion, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability.

Section 4. Honorary Membership. All enrolled Democrats over the maximum age for membership shall be eligible for honorary membership in the Young Democrats of Nassau County. No honorary member shall be entitled to vote nor shall any honorary member be entitled to the privileges of Membership Benefits. No honorary member shall hold any appointed or elected office.

ARTICLE III

Officers Section 1: Organization. The NCYD will comprise the NCYD Executive Board and the remaining members.

Section 2: Executive Board. The Executive Board will consist of the officers of the Young Democrats of Nassau County. The organization will have six (6) officers, one of which will be non-voting, except as hereinafter provided.

Section 3: Voting Officers. The four (4) voting officers will be: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer. In the event of a tie, the executive director will serve as the tie-breaking vote.

ARTICLE IV

Officer Duties

Section 1: The President. The President will be the chief executive officer for the organization. The President will preside over all chapter meetings. The President will have all of the following duties and powers. The absence of a specific power or duty from this list is not necessarily a denial of its existence.

A. Establish administrative procedures not otherwise provided for by the Constitution or By-Laws of this chapter.

B. Act for and on behalf of the county chapter when they are not in session.

C. Attend all meetings of the State Young Democrats. When the attendance of the President is not possible the President will appoint a suitable replacement and give said person his/her voting proxy.

D. Establish the agenda for each meeting of the county chapter (general and executive). E. Serve as delegation chair to the State Young Democrats state convention.

F. Have a two hundred dollar (\$200) transaction limit without approval of the Executive Board.

G. Appoint chairpersons and vice-chairpersons of all committees, standing and adjunct, except that the President shall not appoint the chairpersons of the Recruiting and the Fund-raising Committees.

H. Be an ex-officio member of all committees.

J. Remove anyone from any appointed position without the approval of the Executive Board or the general body.

Section 2: Vice-President. The Vice-President will have all the following duties:

A. Chair the Recruiting Committee.

B. . Act as President Pro-Tempore in the absence of the President.

C. Assist the President.

Section 3: Secretary. The chapter Secretary shall have all the following duties and powers:

A. Keep accurate minutes of all chapter meetings (general and Executive Board).

B. Assure publicity for all upcoming events and 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.

Section 4: Treasurer and Social Chair. The chapter Treasurer and Social Chair will be the chief financial officer of the organization and shall have all the following duties:

- A. Chair the Fund-raising committee.*
- B. Appoint a Director of Fund-raising, pending the approval of the Executive Board.*
- C. Be responsible for developing fund-raising ideas and soliciting donations.*
- D. Maintain accurate financial records for the organization.*
- E. Coordinate all financial activities, including any tax responsibilities with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).*
- F. Advise the chapter President and the Executive Board of the financial condition of the chapter.*
- G. If deemed necessary by the Executive Board, the Treasurer will file any reports for the State Democratic Party or the State Ethics Commission in a timely manner.*
- H. Write Checks and make deposits as directed by the Executive Board. The Treasurer will not have the right to make financial transactions without the approval of the Executive Board.*

Section 5. Executive Director: The Executive Director shall be the immediate past president. Should the immediate past president be ineligible as a voting member of the Nassau County Young Democrats, the President shall appoint an executive director. A majority vote of the Executive Board can replace the Executive Director. The Executive Director shall have all the following duties:

A. Serve as an Advisor for the President and Executive Board.

B. With the President, set the agenda for all meetings.

C. Ensure that records are maintained.

D. Review all external communications and correspondence.

E. In conjunction with the General Legal Counsel, ensure compliance with all state and federal laws and the NCYD Constitution and By-laws.

F. In conjunction with the Treasurer, ensure compliance with all state and federal laws and the NCYD Constitution and By-laws.

G. Ensure that Chartering responsibilities are satisfied and maintained.

H. Record receipt of Chartering forms and supplemental materials.

I. Have all other duties as designated by the President.

ARTICLE V

Executive Board

Section 1: Function. The NCYD Executive Board will be the chief policy making body for the chapter.

Section 2: Authority. The Executive Board will have all the powers necessary for the proper and legal execution of all duties of the NCYD.

Section 3: Meetings. The Executive Board will meet no less than six (6) times during the course of one (1) fiscal year. The Executive Board meetings shall provide the option of telephone conference calls and may provide for video conference call. Members of the Executive Board may be present at the meeting and vote by joining the video or telephone conference call.

ARTICLE VI

General Body

Section 1: The NCYD general body will meet no less than four (4) times during the course of one (1) year.

Section 2: Internal Investigation upon Request. Upon written request or complaint of any member alleging a violation of the Constitution, By-laws or other rules, or official misconduct of an officer or member, the General Legal Counsel shall have the authority to conduct an investigation, interview witnesses and gather other facts as necessary for its finding, and shall, within thirty (30) days, submit a report and recommendation(s) to the Executive Board. The Executive Board may overturn a decision of the General Legal Counsel by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present.

ARTICLE VII

Elections

Section 1: Elections of officers will be held In December each year. All terms are for one year.

Section 2: The order of elections will be as follows: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 3: All candidates for office shall have an opportunity to be heard and debated upon prior to their election.

Section 4: Each candidate may only run for one position.

Section 5: In an election for any position, one candidate must receive a majority of votes cast. The candidate receiving a majority in an election will be declared the winner. The failure of a candidate to achieve a majority will result in a further round of debate and voting until a majority is reached.

Section 6: Following the conclusion of elections, there will be a transition period of no more than 30 days for the continuity of the organization. In the event of a vacancy following elections, the vacancy shall be filled in accordance with the Constitution and By-laws.

Section 7. High School Caucus Chair: Committee established by the President of the Executive Board through the power granted in Article IX. The Caucus Chair will be appointed by the President. Caucus Chair will be tasked with building infrastructure and outreach to local high schools with the goal of building membership capacity. High School Caucus may hold their own events and may ask the NCYD board for financial support of events. In the event of vacancy, the President, in consultation with the Executive Board, will appoint a new chair. The President will ask for a recommendation from caucus membership before making an appointment in case of vacancy. Caucus Chair can also serve as a member of the Executive Board, or be an ex-officio member of the board if not an elected board member. Caucus Chair shall be between ages of 16-18 (or HS equivalent) and must vacate the position upon HS graduation. The High School Caucus Chair will serve as a Vice-Chair of the Recruiting Committee.

Section 8. Higher Education Caucus Chair: Committee established by the President of the Executive Board through the power granted in Article IX. The Caucus Chair will be appointed by the President. Caucus Chair will be tasked with building infrastructure and outreach to local college students, either in school within Nassau County or graduates of a Nassau County High School, with the goal of building membership capacity. Higher Education Caucus may hold their own events and may ask the NCYD board for financial support of events. In the event of vacancy, the President, in consultation with the Executive Board, will appoint a new chair. The President will ask for a recommendation from caucus membership before making an appointment in case of vacancy. Caucus Chair can also serve as a member of the Executive Board, or be an ex-officio member of the board if not an elected board member. Caucus Chair shall be between ages of 18-24 (Undergraduate, Graduate Student, or any other career education program) and must vacate the position upon the end of their studies. The Higher Education Caucus Chair will serve as a Vice-Chair of the Recruiting Committee.

Section 9. Neurodiversity Caucus Chair: Committee established by the President of the Executive Board through the power granted in Article IX. The Caucus Chair will be appointed by the President. Caucus Chair will be tasked with building infrastructure and outreach to Young Democrats that classify as Neurodiverse (as defined by Merriam-Webster) with the goal of building membership capacity as well as promoting understanding and supporting members to create an inclusive environment. Neurodiversity Caucus may hold their own events and may ask the NCYD board for financial support of events. In the event of vacancy, the President, in consultation with the Executive Board, will appoint a new chair. The President will ask for a recommendation from caucus membership before making an appointment in case of vacancy. Caucus Chair can also serve as a member of the Executive Board, or be an ex-officio member of the board if not an elected board member. Caucus Chair shall be an eligible and dues paying member of the NCYD. The Neurodiversity Caucus Chair will serve as a Vice-Chair of the Recruiting Committee.

ARTICLE VIII

Standing Committees and Caucuses

- A. *There will be five (5) standing committees. These committees will be the Fund-raising committee, the Recruiting committee, High School Caucus, Higher Education Caucus, and Neurodiversity Caucus..*
- B. For a caucus to be recognized by the Nassau County Young Democrats, they must have no less than 10 active members of their caucus, have at least 4 general meetings in a calendar year.
 - a. Active Members must attend at least 2 meetings of the Nassau County Young Democrats general body to be considered active.

ARTICLE IX

Forming New Committees The President or the Executive Board can form adjunct committees at any time for any reason they deem necessary.

ARTICLE X
Supporting Candidates

The NCYD will never oppose a Democrat candidate for political office, either by supporting non-Democrat candidates or by not supporting all Democrat candidates in a primary, nor will the chapter support a non-Democrat candidate, even if said candidate does not have a Democrat opponent.

ARTICLE XI

Constitutional Amendments

Amendments to this constitution must be submitted in writing to the chapter President and chapter 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 that meeting. The amendment will be considered approved if two-thirds (2/3) of the Executive Board and two thirds (2/3) of the general body (in attendance) vote in favor of the amendment.

ARTICLE XII

Number of Offices

No one person may hold more than one office in the NCYD organization.

ARTICLE XIII

Impeachment

Section 1. Only the elected offices may be subject to impeachment. The President reserves the right to remove anyone from an appointed position.

Section 2. Any elected officer may be impeached and removed from office by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of Voting Members at a meeting of the general body, contingent upon the following conditions:

A. The officer is found guilty of failure to adequately perform his/her duties.

B. The officer shall be notified, in writing, by certified mail, return receipt requested, of the charges against them, and the date, time and location of a hearing to consider the impeachment. Said written notice shall be provided no less than thirty days (30) prior to the meeting in which the impeachment will be discussed.

C. Members of the Executive Board who are not charged with negligence of their duties shall appoint a committee and chairperson to hear the testimony of the person or persons charged. The accused officer shall be given the opportunity to answer said charges and to know the identity of their accuser(s). The findings of the committee shall be presented to the general body.

D. A motion for removal, if passed, shall take effect immediately, at which time a vacancy shall be declared.

Section 3. An officer may submit his/her resignation prior to a removal vote to expunge his/her record of the charges.

Article XIV

Dissolution

In the event of the dissolution of the NCYD , all funds in the treasury and other assets and records shall go to the New York State Young Democrats after all obligations have been met, to be safeguarded.

Article XV

Vacancy

Section 1. Occurrence. If any of the following events occurs to any elected officer, a vacancy in that office shall exist:

A. Death.

B. Resignation.

C. Removal following impeachment.

D. Remains convicted of a felony after his or her rights to appeal are exhausted.

Section 2. Vacancy of President. Should the position of President become vacant, the Vice President shall succeed as Interim Acting President. The Interim Acting President shall convene a special meeting of the Executive Board within thirty (30) days to set forth a call for candidates and a Special Election within thirty (30) to ninety (90) days of the vacancy.

Section 3. Vacancy of Vice President. Should the position of Vice President become vacant, the President shall appoint an Interim Acting Vice President. The President shall convene a special meeting of the Executive Board within thirty (30) days to set forth a call for candidates and a Special Election within thirty (30) to ninety (90) days of the vacancy.

Section 4. Vacancy of President and Vice President. Should the positions of President and Vice President become vacant the Executive Board shall elect an Interim Acting President and Interim Acting Vice President within thirty (30) days and set forth a call for candidates and a Special Election within thirty (30) to ninety (90) days of the vacancy.

Section 5. Vacancies Generally. In the event any other elected office shall become vacant, the vacancy shall be filled by interim appointment by the President subject to confirmation by the Executive Board at its next meeting.

Section 6. Special Elections. Special Elections shall be conducted in the same manner as general elections.

Section 7. Special Elections Not Applicable. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, a Special Election shall not be conducted to fill any vacancy whose term is three (3) months or less and the individual serving as interim acting shall complete their term.

ARTICLE XVI

ADOPTION

This Constitution and any amendment shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.



By-Laws of the Nassau County Young Democrats

BY-LAW I

Membership Dues

Section 1 Dues for general membership shall be set at twenty-five dollars (\$25) per year.

Section 2 Dues for student membership shall free.

- A. In order to be eligible for the student membership rate, a person must be enrolled full time in a state accredited educational institution.*
- B. Such person must include a copy of their student identification card with the submission of their membership application as proof of enrollment.*
- C. Such person is limited to six years of eligibility at the student membership rate at any level of higher learning or combination thereof.*

Section 3 If any member joins the NCYD after October 1st of any given year, the paid dues for the respective member will be credited for both the current and following year.

Section 4 Prorated membership dues are prohibited.

Section 5 All membership dues will be deposited into the organization's savings account.

- A. Such revenue shall be strictly earmarked for the sole purpose of membership benefits.*
- B. The use or transfer of such revenue for non-member based purposes with out a vote of the general membership is strictly prohibited and grounds for judicial review.*

BY-LAW II

Endorsements

Section 1 The NCYD will not endorse any candidate for office in a contested Democratic primary, but will provide campaign information to members of the NCYD upon request from any Democratic candidate for office.

Section 2. In the case of a primary with only one viable candidate, a two-thirds majority of the membership may vote to offer support to a candidate prior to the primary by offering volunteers. The NCYD will not financially support any candidates until after the primary election has ended.

Section 3. The organization may also provide publicity and/or other benefits to Democratic campaigns prior to an endorsement as long as it offers to do so on an equal basis to all Democratic candidates running for a particular office.

BY-LAW III

Issue positions

This organization may enact resolutions expressing the political sentiments of the membership. A simple majority of the Voting Members present at an official general membership meeting will be required for passage. An adopted resolution may be distributed to appropriate public officials or other persons or entities as deemed necessary.

BY-LAW IV

Prohibition Against Involvement in Primaries.

Any officer or member of this organization using his or her official designation or the official stationery or emblem of the organization to advance the cause of any individual primary candidate shall be subject to summary expulsion by action of the Executive Board excluding as reference in By Laws II Section 2.

BY-LAW V

Notification of Officers to Nassau County Democratic Committee.

- a. The Secretary shall advise the Secretary of the County Committee within ten (10) days after each election of the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the Club's officers.*
- b. The Club shall file with the County Committee, within thirty (30) days after adoption, a copy of these Bylaws, and of any amendments thereto, which must be consistent with the County Bylaws and shall be amended at the request of the County Executive Committee acting by resolution*