



# The Constitution and Bylaws of the Young Democrats of Arkansas

**As amended by the State Convention  
October 24, 2020 on Zoom**

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE YOUNG DEMOCRATS OF ARKANSAS

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## **PREAMBLE**

We, the Young Democrats of Arkansas, united in common purpose, hereby rededicate ourselves to the principles of the Democratic Party and the progressive movement. Recognizing that there is nothing wrong with America that cannot be cured by what is right with America, and in order to shape a more perfect future for ourselves and our peers, stimulate in young people an active interest in government and politics, close the gap between the promise of America and the reality of America, promote rights for all and privileges for none, encourage the highest degree of justice and general welfare for the citizens of this State and Nation, and rededicate ourselves to the proposition that *all* are created equal, we do hereby associate ourselves together and establish this

Constitution.

## **ARTICLE I**

### **General Provisions**

#### **SECTION 101 Name.**

The name of this organization shall be the Young Democrats of Arkansas (hereinafter referred to as YDAR). It shall be composed of all duly chartered chapters established by this Constitution, and at-large members as provided for in the Bylaws.

#### **SECTION 102 Affiliation.**

YDAR is and shall remain affiliated with the Young Democrats of America (YDA) and the Democratic Party of Arkansas (DPA). College chapters are and shall remain affiliated with the College Democrats of America. High School chapters are and shall remain affiliated with the High School Democrats of America (HSDA).

#### **SECTION 103 Non-discrimination.**

YDAR, and all members and units thereof, shall admit members without regard to any actual or perceived personal characteristic - including without limitation but not limited to religion, race, ethnicity, national origin, socioeconomic status, disability, sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation - to all the rights, privileges, programs, and other activities generally accorded or made available to members of this organization.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **Membership & Chapters**

#### **SECTION 201 Eligibility.**

Any person not fewer than fourteen (14) years of age and not more than thirty-five (35) years of age who has openly and in good faith declared their dedication to the fundamental principles, objectives, and platforms of YDAR shall be eligible for membership in this organization.

#### **SECTION 202 Active Membership.**

Active members shall be members in good standing of a duly chartered chapter of YDAR, given that no person shall be allowed membership in more than one (1) duly chartered chapter of YDAR at any given time.

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#### **SECTION 203 Lifetime Membership.**

Any person who has reached the age of thirty-six (36) may be issued a lifetime membership in this organization upon nomination by the President and confirmation by a three-fourths majority ( $\frac{3}{4}$ ) of the State Convention. Lifetime members shall have demonstrated a commitment to the highest ideals of the Democratic Party and have performed extraordinary service to YDAR. A lifetime member shall have none of the obligations of membership in YDAR, but shall be entitled to all of the privileges except those of making motions, of voting, and of holding office.

#### **SECTION 204 Chapter Levels.**

##### **SECTION 204.1 Young Professional Chapters.**

Young Professional chapter units shall consist of graduate schools, professional schools, or not fewer than one (1) and not more than five (5) adjacent counties. Members shall be registered students of, reside, work, or receive an education within the chapter unit of which they are a member, and must not be eligible to become a member of an existing college or high school chapter.

SECTION 204.2 College Chapters.

College chapter units shall consist of all accredited colleges and universities in Arkansas. Members shall be registered students, faculty, or staff of the unit of which they are a member.

SECTION 204.3 High School Chapters.

High School chapter units shall consist of all high schools, public and private, in Arkansas. Members shall be registered students, faculty, or staff of the unit of which they are a member.

**SECTION 205 Charter Issuance.**

Charters shall be issued by the State Convention subject to the requirements set forth in the Bylaws, and are subject to renewal by each succeeding State Convention. Interim charters may be issued between State Conventions in accordance with the Bylaws. All charters not renewed by the adjournment of the State Convention shall be immediately terminated at that time.

**SECTION 206 Charter Revocation.**

SECTION 206.1 Cause.

Charters may be revoked for chapter inactivity or non-compliance with the YDAR Constitution or Bylaws.

SECTION 206.2 Authority.

The revocation of a charter shall be considered at the next regular meeting of the Local Presidents Assembly upon the submission of a petition of a simple majority ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of Executive Committee members to the Executive Vice President. A two-thirds majority ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the Local Presidents Assembly shall be required to revoke a charter.

SECTION 206.3 Notice.

All elected officers of a chapter whose charter is being considered for revocation shall be notified not fewer than thirty (30) days prior to the meeting. Said notice shall include the cause for

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revocation, and the date, time, and location of the Local Presidents Assembly meeting.

**ARTICLE III**  
**State Convention**

**SECTION 301 Authority.**

The State Convention shall be the highest decision making authority of YDAR, subject to the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws, assembling annually for the purpose of electing officers; considering charter applications, resolutions, a platform, and amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws; and to conduct other business that may properly come before the State

Convention.

**SECTION 302 Time & Place.**

The State Convention shall be held during the month of April in Little Rock on a date to be determined by the Convention Committee.

**SECTION 302.1 EMERGENCY CLAUSE**

In the presence of an Emergency, The State Convention, and all associated and necessary activities may be held in an online setting.

**SECTION 303 Officers.**

Not less than three (3) months prior to the State Convention, the President shall appoint a temporary Convention Chair and a temporary Convention Secretary. A permanent Chair and Secretary shall be elected at the State Convention immediately following the adoption of the program and temporary standing rules and credentials reports.

**SECTION 304 Arrangements.**

**SECTION 304.1 Convention Committee.**

The Convention Chair, Convention Secretary, all Standing Committee Chairs, and one (1) representative from each congressional district appointed by the appropriate district directors shall compose the Convention Committee, which shall be responsible for the general planning and management of the State Convention before it is called to order.

**SECTION 304.2 Call to Convention.**

Not less than two (2) months prior to the State Convention, the Convention Committee shall approve and the Convention Secretary shall distribute to all Chapter Presidents the official Call to Convention, which shall contain information pertaining to the time and place of the State Convention, suggested accommodations, delegate registration procedure, chapter chartering procedure, and candidate filing procedure.

**SECTION 304.3 Preliminary Reports.**

Not less than one (1) month prior to the State Convention, the Convention Committee shall approve and the Convention Secretary shall distribute to all Chapter Presidents preliminary versions of the platform, standing rules, and program of the State Convention.

**SECTION 305 Standing Committees.**

**SECTION 305.1 Officers.**

Not less than three (3) months prior to the State Convention, the President shall appoint a Chair and a Secretary for each Standing Committee. In the absence of the Chair, the Secretary shall preside over meetings of the Standing Committee. Standing Committee officers are not entitled to a vote in Standing Committees.

**SECTION 305.2 Composition.**

All chapters that have applied for a charter shall be entitled to one (1) vote on each Standing Committee. If a credentials challenge is raised against a chapter, that chapter shall not be eligible

to vote in any Standing Committee until the challenge is resolved by the Credentials Committee.

**SECTION 305.3 Meetings.**

Standing Committees shall meet at the call of the Chair. The attendance of not less than one-third ( $\frac{1}{3}$ ) of voting chapters shall constitute a quorum of a Standing Committee.

**SECTION 305.4 Credentials & Charters.**

The Convention Standing Committee on Credentials & Charters shall review and recommend action on chapter charter applications and credential registered delegates. No sooner than the close of the chapter chartering application period and no later than the day preceding the opening of the State Convention, this committee shall convene to consider chapter charter applications and a preliminary credentials report.

**SECTION 305.5 Platform & Resolutions.**

The Convention Standing Committee on Platform & Resolutions shall recommend to the State Convention a platform for YDAR and shall consider any resolutions submitted. No resolution shall be considered by the State Convention until and unless it has been reported favorably out of this committee.

**SECTION 305.6 Rules & Bylaws.**

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

**SECTION 306 Delegations & Voting.**

**SECTION 306.1 Vote Allocation.**

All active and at-large members of YDAR are eligible to attend and vote at the State Convention. The Chapter President or their designee shall serve as Delegation Chair.

**SECTION 306.2 Voting Preference.**

The unit rule, or any rule or practice whereby all members of a chapter or delegation may be required to cast their votes in accordance with the will of a majority of the body, shall not be used at any point.

**SECTION 306.3 Delegate Selection.**

Each chapter may adopt rules governing the process for the selection of delegates and alternates. . 5

If no such rules exist, all registered delegates shall be credentialed, subject to the decision of the Credentials Committee.

**SECTION 306.4 Standing Committee Designates.**

Chapter Presidents may designate a delegate or alternate to cast that chapter's vote on any Standing Committee. In the absence of the designate, any delegate or alternate may cast their chapter's vote in a Standing Committee.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **Officers**

#### **SECTION 401 Statewide Officers.**

##### SECTION 401.1 Defined.

The statewide officers of YDAR shall be the President, the Executive Vice President, the Vice President of Young Professionals, the Vice President of Colleges, the Vice President of High Schools, the National Committeewoman, and the National Committeeman.

##### SECTION 401.2 Eligibility.

Any member who has not yet reached the age of thirty-four (34) shall be eligible for election to the offices of President, Executive Vice President, National Committeewoman, and National Committeeman. Any member belonging to the appropriate chapter level as described in Constitution § 204 shall be eligible for election as Vice President of Young Professionals, Colleges, or High Schools, given that they will meet the requirements of this section for the entirety of their term.

##### SECTION 401.3 Election.

The President, Executive Vice President, National Committeewoman, and National Committeeman shall be elected by a majority vote of the State Convention. The Vice Presidents of Young Professionals, Colleges, and High Schools shall be elected by a majority vote of State Convention delegates of the appropriate chapter level. In the event that no candidate receives a majority of votes cast, the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall enter a run-off election to be contested immediately.

##### SECTION 401.4 Terms.

The President and Vice President shall be elected to serve for two (2) years or until their successors are elected, and all other statewide officers shall be elected to serve for one (1) year or until their successors are elected. The term of office of statewide officers shall begin at the adjournment of the State Convention at which they are elected. No member shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office, except those of National Committeeman and National Committeewoman.

#### **SECTION 402 District Directors.**

##### SECTION 402.1 Defined.

There shall be two (2) district directors, one man and one woman, for each congressional district of the state of Arkansas.

##### SECTION 402.2 Eligibility.

Any member who has not yet reached the age of thirty-five (35) shall be eligible for election to the office of District Director, given that they are a member of the appropriate congressional district.

##### SECTION 402.3 Election.

District directors shall be elected by a majority vote of delegates from the appropriate district the

State Convention and Annual Conference. In the event that no candidate receives a majority of votes cast, the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall enter a run-off election to be contested immediately.

SECTION 402.4 Terms.

District directors shall be elected to serve for six (6) months or until their successors are elected, and their term of office shall begin at the adjournment of the session during which they are elected.

**SECTION 403 Appointed Officers.**

SECTION 403.1 Defined.

The Bylaws may provide for the appointment of additional officers to assist with the functioning of YDAR.

SECTION 403.2 Eligibility.

Except as provided for in the Bylaws, any member shall be eligible to be an appointed officer.

SECTION 403.3 Election.

Appointed officers shall be nominated by the President and approved by the Executive Committee.

SECTION 403.4 Terms.

Appointed officers shall serve at the pleasure of the President, and may be removed from office by the President at any time for any reason. Their term of office shall begin at the adjournment of the meeting in which they are approved, and end at the adjournment of the State Convention. Appointed officers may be renominated at will.

**SECTION 404 Removal & Vacancy**

SECTION 404.1 Cause.

Statewide officers and district directors may be removed from office for malfeasance or nonfeasance of duties, or for violation of any provision of the Constitution or Bylaws of YDAR, the Charter or Bylaws of YDA, or DPA Rules. Removal procedures may be initiated by a simple majority (½) vote of the Local Presidents Assembly.

SECTION 404.2 Referral to Judicial Council.

Upon the initiation of removal procedures, the Executive Committee will immediately refer the removal proceedings to the Judicial Council as created under Section 504.

SECTION 404.3 Hearing.

Not more than seven (7) days following the initiation of removal procedures, the Judicial Council shall approve and the Chair shall distribute to the accused the time, place, and cause of the

Judicial Council hearing. The hearing shall be held not fewer than one (1) month and not more than two (2) months following the initiation of removal procedure. The accused shall have the right to be accompanied by Counsel, to present and cross-examine witnesses, and to present evidence in their defense. The Judicial Council may dismiss the removal proceedings, or recommend the removal from office of the accused. Such recommendation shall be accompanied with the Judicial

Board's findings of fact.

SECTION 404.4 Removal.

If the Judicial Council recommends the removal of an officer, the Executive Committee shall consider such removal at the next regular meeting of the Executive Committee. A simple majority (½) vote of the Executive Committee shall be required to remove an officer.

SECTION 404.5 Vacancy.

A vacancy shall be declared when a member of the Executive Committee dies, resigns, or is removed from office. A vacancy in the office of President shall be filled by the Executive Vice President. A vacancy in any other office shall be filled by the nomination of the President and the approval of the Local Presidents Assembly.

**ARTICLE V  
Organization**

**SECTION 501 Executive Committee.**

SECTION 501.1 Authority.

Except for powers reserved to the State Convention and at such times as the State Convention is in adjournment, the authoritative and governing body of YDAR shall be the Executive Committee.

SECTION 501.2 Composition.

All elected statewide officers and all district directors shall be members of the Executive Committee. All appointed officers shall be non-voting, ex-officio members of the Executive Committee.

SECTION 501.3 Meetings.

The Executive Committee shall meet at least one (1) time every month at the call of the President, or upon the submission of a written request of a simple majority (½) of the current membership of the Executive Committee to the Executive Vice President. The Executive Committee will meet immediately following the adjournment of both the State Convention and the Annual Conference.

**SECTION 502 Local Presidents Assembly.**

SECTION 502.1 Composition.

All Presidents of chapters duly chartered at the State Convention shall be members of the Local Presidents Assembly. The President shall be the chair of the Local Presidents Assembly, and all Vice Presidents shall be ex-officio members. All Presidents of chapters with an interim charter shall be non-voting members of the Local Presidents Assembly. In the absence of the chapter President, the highest ranking chapter officer present at a Local Presidents Assembly meeting may cast the vote of that chapter.

SECTION 502.2 Meetings.

The Local Presidents Assembly shall meet quarterly at the call of the President, or upon the submission of a written request of a simple majority (½) of the current membership of the Local Presidents Assembly to the Executive Vice President.



**SECTION 502.3 Quorum.**

The attendance of not less than one-third (1/3) of voting members shall constitute a quorum of the Local Presidents Assembly.

**SECTION 503 DPA State Committee.**

One male and one female member of YDAR from each congressional district shall be nominated to serve on the DPA State Committee in compliance with DPA Rule 11 (c). Representation will be granted first to statewide officers in the order listed in Constitution § 401.1, then to district directors. Any member who is elected to the State Committee by any other means shall not be eligible under this section. The President may fill any vacancy in the DPA State Committee delegation.

**SECTION 504 Judicial Council**

**Section 504.1 Definition**

A. The judicial power of the Young Democrats of Arkansas shall be vested in one Judicial Council. The Judicial Council shall serve to resolve disputes over the nature and interpretation of the YDAR Guiding Documents and of the rules and regulations established by the YDAR Executive Committee. The YDAR Membership and the YDAR Executive Committee shall be bound by the decision of the Judicial Council. The Judicial Council's review powers, quorum and rules of order are detailed in the Bylaws.

B. The Judicial Council may also arbitrate disputes between a chapter and YDAR, between multiple chapters. Any ruling must be based on and take into consideration any applicable chapter, YDAR, YDA, DPA, or DNC rules, and the decision shall be final. The judicial council may only overturn precedent set by the prior council for compelling reason or interest.

C. The Judicial Council may also oversee investigations into misconduct, criminal activity, and malfeasance by officers, chapter leaders, and members in the official conduct of their duties or in election campaigns for YDAR office. The Judicial Council shall have full access to YDAR's books, and any chapter's books that they may request. The Judicial Council shall make final determination in the disposition of these matters and may make criminal referrals by a three-fifths majority vote.

D. The Judicial Council shall also meet quarterly (January, April, July, and October) to review the books of YDAR, and shall make a report to Convention and Conference regarding the fiscal health of YDAR.

**Section 504.2: Composition, Selection, and Term Limits**

A. The Judicial Council shall be composed of one member elected by secret ballot in each

Congressional District Caucus at Annual Convention for a term of one year. The District Members shall have been an active member of YDAR in good standing for one year prior to election. The Chair of the Council is to be elected by the Annual Convention for a period of one year. The Chair shall have been an active member of YDAR in good standing for two years as evidenced by attendance at one annual convention prior to election. The Council shall elect its own Vice Chair from among its membership who shall also serve as Secretary

B. The President, Executive Vice President, section Vice Presidents, and District Directors may not serve as Judicial Council members, if a member is elected to any of these offices, they will be considered to have vacated their seat on the Judicial Council.

C. No person shall serve on the Judicial Council for more than four years.

D. Should a vacancy occur in the district membership of the Council the Chair may appoint a successor until the next election subject to the approval of the remaining council members. Should the Chair become vacant the Vice Chair will immediately become Chair, and will appoint their successor according to the above process.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **Miscellaneous Provisions**

#### **SECTION 601 Amendment.**

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the State Convention. This Constitution may also be amended by a unanimous vote of the Executive Committee and a two-thirds majority ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the Local Presidents Assembly, given that such amendments will be subject to a vote of the next State Convention.

#### **SECTION 602 Bylaws.**

YDAR may adopt such Bylaws as deemed necessary for the effective functioning of the organization. The Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds majority ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the Executive Committee or a simple majority ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) vote of the State Convention.

#### **SECTION 603 Parliamentary Authority.**

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern YDAR in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Constitution and Bylaws, or any special rules of order YDAR may adopt.

#### **SECTION 604 Liability.**

YDAR members shall not be liable for the debts or actions of YDAR, nor shall YDAR be liable for the unauthorized acts of its members or chapters unless so ratified by a two-thirds majority ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the Executive Committee. Where gross misspending or unauthorized spending occurs, the responsible officer or officers shall be personally liable for any and all debts incurred.

The undersigned hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Constitution of the Young Democrats of Arkansas as ratified by the State Convention and certified by the Chair of the State Convention on April 17, 2021 in held on zoom.

Micah Wallace  
President

Convention Chair  
Blake Ross

Little Rock, Arkansas

## **ARTICLE I**

### **Members & Chapters**

#### **SECTION 101 Membership Information.**

To maintain good standing, members shall make available to their chapter their name, address, city, zip code, date of birth (including month, day, and year), phone number, and email address.

#### **SECTION 102 At-Large Membership.**

##### **SECTION 102.1 Eligibility.**

Any person eligible for membership in YDAR who is not eligible to become a member of any existing chapter may become a member-at-large of YDAR, given that they transmit to the Executive Vice President the information required in Bylaws § 101.

##### **SECTION 102.2 Limitations.**

No more than two (2) persons shall become members-at-large from any county. At-large members shall each be eligible to cast one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) vote at the State Convention and Annual Conference.

#### **SECTION 103 Chapter Regulations.**

##### **SECTION 103.1 Officers.**

Chapters shall annually elect a President and a Vice President. Chapters shall annually elect either a Secretary and a Treasurer, or a Secretary-Treasurer. Other officers may be elected or appointed pursuant to that chapter's bylaws. Chapters shall hold officer elections in the month of March to maintain their active charter.

##### **Section 103.2 Meetings.**

Chapters shall hold at least four (4) regular meetings between State Conventions to maintain their active charter. The Executive Committee may require proof of meetings in the form of meeting reports or minutes.

##### **SECTION 103.3 Membership.**

Chapters shall maintain a current membership roster at all times. Members in good standing shall have attended at least one (1) chapter meeting within the last year. Chapters shall not require payment in any amount, for dues or any reason, in order to gain full membership in that chapter.

#### **SECTION 104 Interim Charter.**

Chapters newly organized between meetings of the State Convention, and those with fewer than ten (10) members, shall be eligible to receive an interim charter. Interim charter applications shall be submitted to the President, Executive Vice President, or appropriate district director. Interim charters may be granted by unanimous consent of the Executive Committee or a simple majority ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of the Local Presidents Assembly. Presidents of interim chapters shall be non-voting members of the Local Presidents Assembly, and delegates from interim chapters may cast one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) vote at the Annual Conference.

#### **SECTION 105 Charter Applications.**

Charter applications shall require information pertaining to the unit being chartered, the chapter name, contact information for chapter officers and advisors, a current membership roster, and a full and complete copy of the chapter's guiding documents.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **State Convention**

#### **SECTION 201 Delegate Registration.**

##### **SECTION 201.1 Pre-registration.**

Online pre-registration for delegates to the State Convention shall begin upon the distribution of the Call to Convention and end seven (7) days prior to the opening meeting of the State Convention. Absent chapter delegate selection procedures pursuant to Constitution § 306.3, all pre-registered delegates shall be credentialed. If the preliminary credentials report finds that more delegates have pre-registered than are eligible to attend from any chapter, the Standing Committee on Credentials & Charter shall determine which, if any, delegates shall be credentialed.

##### **SECTION 201.2 On-site Registration**

In the event that there are fewer delegates pre-registered than are eligible to attend the State Convention from any chapter, delegates may register at the site of the State Convention. On-site registrants shall be credentialed on a first-come first-served basis.

#### **SECTION 202 Chartering Deadline.**

Active charter applications shall be submitted no later than seven (7) days prior to the opening meeting of the State Convention.

#### **SECTION 203 Elections.**

##### **SECTION 203.1 Oversight.**

The Convention Committee shall facilitate and oversee all elections at the State Convention. Members of the Convention Committee shall not express any preference for any candidate seeking office, but shall retain the right to vote once properly credentialed.

##### **SECTION 203.2 Candidate Filing.**

The deadline for candidates to file for statewide office shall be fourteen (14) days prior to the opening meeting of the State Convention. The Convention Committee shall decide the procedure for candidate filing. If, at the time of voting, no candidates are eligible for election, the floor of the State Convention shall be open for nominations.

##### **SECTION 203.3 Campaign Finances.**

Candidates for YDAR office shall not spend in excess of \$500 on their election, and campaign finances shall be subject to audit by the Convention Committee. Any candidate found to be in violation of this Section shall be ineligible for election.

#### **SECTION 204 Maximum Votes.**

Delegates to the State Convention must be present to vote and shall not cast more than one vote.

## **SECTION 205 Emergency Provisions**

### **Section 205.1 Definition**

In the presence of an assumed Emergency that would prevent The Convention from being held in person, The Convention Chair may request an Emergency meeting of the Local Presidents Assembly and Executive Committee in order to consider the passage of a resolution authorizing an online Convention.

### **Section 205.2 Resolution**

A Resolution affirming the presence of an Emergency Should consist of a 2/3rds Supermajority (66%) of the Local Presidents Assembly and a Unanimous Vote (100%) of the Executive Committee

### **Section 205.3 Arrangements**

Following the adoption of an Emergency Declaration, the Convention Committee shall be responsible for the planning and distribution of all necessary Convention materials as well as the execution of all requisite Convention processes as spelled out in these bylaws.

## **ARTICLE III Annual Conference**

### **SECTION 301 Purpose.**

There shall be an Annual Conference of YDAR, to take place at the call of the President in the month of September, October, or (in non-election years) November in order to train and energize the membership, celebrate and encourage the diversity of YDAR, and provide an open forum for networking and idea sharing.

### **SECTION 302 Site Selection.**

#### **SECTION 302.1 Bids.**

Not later than August 1, the Executive Committee shall distribute to all chapter presidents a list of information which prospective bidders must submit with their bids to host the Annual Conference, to include a deadline for bidding. Not later than September 1, the Executive Committee may select from among the bidders a site for the Annual Conference.

#### **SECTION 302.2 Failure to Bid.**

Should no bids to host the Annual Conference be submitted or deemed acceptable by the Executive Committee, the Executive Committee shall itself select a site for the Annual Conference not later than September 1.

### **SECTION 303 Officers.**

The President shall be the Chair of the Annual Conference, and the Executive Vice President shall

be the Secretary of the Annual Conference. The President of the host chapter shall be the Vice

Chair of the Annual Conference.

**SECTION 304 Arrangements.**

**SECTION 304.1 Conference Committee.**

The President, Executive Vice President, Chief-of-Staff, host Chapter President, and one member appointed by the host Chapter President shall compose the Conference Committee. The Vice Presidents, National Committeepersons, Political Director, and Finance Director shall be ex-officio non-voting members of the Conference Committee. The Conference Committee shall be responsible for establishing the program of the Annual Conference and all credentialing procedures.

**SECTION 304.2 Call to Conference.**

No later than one (1) month prior to the Annual Conference, the Conference Committee shall approve and the Executive Vice President shall distribute to all chapter presidents the official Call to Conference, which shall include information pertaining to the time and place of the Annual Conference, suggested accommodations, delegate registration procedure, and a preliminary program.

**SECTION 305 Voting.**

**SECTION 305.1 Registration.**

Registration for the Annual Conference shall begin upon the distribution of the Call to Conference and continue through at least the opening meeting of the Annual Conference. Credentials shall be provided to delegates to the Annual Conference shall be distributed on a first-come first-served basis based on the time of registration.

**SECTION 305.2 Elections.**

Members of interim chapters shall be afforded one-half (½) vote and members of active chapters shall be afforded one (1) vote, given that no chapter may cast votes exceeding one-half (½) of the number of members on their membership roster seven (7) days prior to the opening meeting of the Annual Conference.

**ARTICLE IV**  
**Elected Officers**

**SECTION 401 President.**

The President shall be the highest administrative officer of YDAR and shall chair meetings of the Executive Committee and Local Presidents Assembly. The President shall make reasonable effort to attend all YDA National Committee and South Central regional meetings, and represent YDAR on the State and Executive Committees of the DPA. The President may establish special committees and determine their membership and duty. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all action teams.

**SECTION 402 Executive Vice President.**

The Executive Vice President shall be the Treasurer and Secretary of YDAR and shall chair

meetings of the Executive Committee and Local Presidents Assembly in the absence of the President. The Executive Vice President shall keep the official records of YDAR, coordinate

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internal communication, and perform other duties assigned by the President or Executive Committee. The Executive Vice President shall be an ex-officio member of all action teams.

**SECTION 403 Vice President of Young Professionals.**

The Vice President of Young Professionals shall assist and advise young professional chapters in membership retention, chapter improvement, and leadership development. The Vice President of Young Professionals shall coordinate involvement in relevant community events and activities.

**SECTION 404 Vice President of Colleges.**

The Vice President of Colleges shall assist and advise college chapters in membership retention, chapter improvement, and leadership development. The Vice President of Colleges shall serve as YDAR's liaison to the College Democrats of America, and is charged with maintaining member certification in the organization as well as organizing and promoting participation in its meetings and activities.

**SECTION 405 Vice President of High Schools.**

The Vice President of High Schools shall assist and advise high school chapters in membership retention, chapter improvement, and leadership development. The Vice President of High Schools shall serve as YDAR's liaison to the High School Democrats of America, and is charged with maintaining official charter in the organization as well as organizing and promoting participation in its meetings and activities.

**SECTION 406 National Committeepersons.**

The National Committeeman and National Committeewoman shall attend all meetings of the YDA National Committee and represent YDAR at all regional and national functions of YDA at their own expense, unless appropriation is otherwise made, and serve as a link between the national and state organization, promoting participation in YDA meetings and activities.

**SECTION 407 District Directors.**

District directors shall coordinate new chapter expansion, existing chapter growth, and volunteer mobilization and training efforts within their congressional district. District directors shall assist in strategic planning and the implementation of statewide field campaigns, and perform other duties assigned by the President or Executive Committee.

**ARTICLE V**  
**Appointed Officers**

**SECTION 501 Chief of Staff.**

The Chief of Staff shall assist the President in directing the day-to-day activities of YDAR chapters and ensure the correct functioning of the leadership structure of the organization.

**SECTION 502 Political Director.**

The Political Director shall implement the voter contact and registration strategy of YDAR, and coordinate chapter expansion and growth efforts. The Political Director shall advise chapter



leaders on best practices for volunteer recruitment, mobilization, and training, as well as leadership development.

**SECTION 503 Communications Director.**

The Communications Director shall cultivate and protect the brand and image of YDAR and the creation of a cohesive message on behalf of the organization through social media outreach and maintenance of positive press relations.

**SECTION 504 Outreach Director.**

The Outreach Director shall coordinate the activities and efforts of the constituency caucuses to ensure the effective inclusion of members of underrepresented communities in YDAR, and engage the membership in community service activities in line with the mission of YDAR.

**SECTION 505 Finance Director.**

The Finance Director shall assist in fundraising on behalf of YDAR, coordinate the fundraising events of the organization, and organize travel to YDA national and regional functions.

**SECTION 506 Development Director.**

The Development Director shall coordinate volunteer and leadership training activities at the state and chapter level, and to connect members to fellowship, internship, job, and training opportunities with allied organizations.

**ARTICLE VI  
Action Teams**

**SECTION 601 Membership Team.**

**SECTION 601.1 Duty.**

The Membership Team shall disburse chapter grants as authorized by the budget, coordinate the purchase of materials for chapters across the state, and ensure that the needs of individual chapters are being met.

**SECTION 601.2 Composition.**

The Membership Team shall be led by the Chief of Staff, who shall be an ex-officio member of the team. The Vice Presidents of High Schools, Colleges, and Young Professionals shall compose the Membership Team.

**SECTION 602 Mobilization Team.**

**SECTION 602.1 Duty.**

The Mobilization Team shall assist the Political Director in creating and growing chapters, advocating the policy objectives of YDAR, developing and training volunteers and leadership, and activating volunteers to implement the YDAR field plan and elect Democrats.

**SECTION 602.2 Composition.**

The Mobilization Team shall be led by the Political Director, who shall be an ex-officio member of the team. The District Directors and Policy Director shall compose the Mobilization Team.

### SECTION 602.3 Policy Director.

The Political Director may appoint a Policy Director to coordinate issue advocacy and lobbying activities in accordance with the platform.

## **SECTION 603 Communications Team.**

### SECTION 603.1 Duty.

The Communications Team shall assist the Communications Director in maintaining the active internal and external communications of YDAR, promoting and protecting the brand and image of YDAR, and implementing a digital strategy to further engage young people in the political process.

### SECTION 603.2 Composition.

The Communications Team shall be led by the Communications Director, who shall be an ex-officio member of the team. The Press Secretary, Creative Director, and not more than eight other members appointed by the Communications Director shall compose the Communications Team.

### SECTION 603.3 Creative Director.

The Communications Director may appoint a Creative Director to coordinate the design of logos and other graphics on behalf of YDAR.

### SECTION 603.4 Press Secretary.

The Communications Director may appoint a Press Secretary to maintain positive relations with the press and media, and actively pursue positive press coverage of YDAR.

### SECTION 603.5 Social Media Captains.

The Communications Director may appoint Social Media Captains to coordinate activity on the official social media accounts of the Young Democrats of Arkansas. The Social Media Captains shall be non-voting members of the Communications Team unless otherwise entitled to a vote.

## **SECTION 604 Outreach Team.**

### SECTION 604.1 Duty.

The Outreach Team shall assist the Outreach Director in coordinating community service events on behalf of YDAR and encouraging diversity within the organization.

### SECTION 604.2 Composition.

The Outreach Team shall be led by the Outreach Director, who shall be an ex-officio member of the team. The Caucus Chairs and not more than four other members appointed by the Outreach Director shall compose the Outreach Team.

## **SECTION 605 Finance Team.**

### SECTION 605.1 Duty.

The Finance Team shall assist the Finance Director in meeting fundraising goals, planning fundraising events, and coordinating travel to YDA national and regional functions.

SECTION 605.2 Composition.

The Finance Team shall be led by the Finance Director, who shall be an ex-officio member of the team. The National Committeepersons and not more than eight other members appointed by the Finance Director shall compose the Finance Team.

**SECTION 606 Development Team.**SECTION 606.1 Duty.

The Development Team shall assist the Development Director in the training and education of YDAR leaders and membership.

SECTION 606.2 Composition.

The Development Team shall be led by the Development Director, who shall be an ex-officio member of the team. Not more than one man and one woman from each congressional district appointed by the Development Director shall compose the Development Team.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **Constituency Caucuses**

**SECTION 701 Purpose.**

The constituency caucuses of YDAR are hereby established in order to work to increase representation, participation, and leadership development among historically underrepresented communities within YDAR.

**SECTION 702 Rules.**

Each constituency caucus may establish rules to govern their membership and functioning, which shall be transmitted to the Executive Vice President for records keeping purposes. The Caucus Chair may submit proposed rules for a vote by the respective Vice Chairs. Those proposed rules will be binding upon submission to the Executive Vice President and the respective Vice Chairs but may be overturned by a veto by any of the respective Vice Chairs. If a Caucus Chair does not propose rules or if the proposed rules are not approved by the respective Vice Chairs, the most recent binding Caucus Rules will continue to be binding. In furtherance of these Caucus Rules, each Caucus Chair will be required to conduct a business meeting with the respective Vice Chairs for the purpose of discussing Caucus business. The definition of 'business meeting' will include informal meetings, such as discussion through videoconferencing or group chats.

**SECTION 703 Officers.**SECTION 703.1 Defined.

Each constituency caucus shall elect a Chair, as well as a Vice Chair from each congressional district, at the Annual Conference. Other officers may be elected or appointed as provided for in the rules of each constituency caucus. The Chair of each caucus shall be the official liaison between YDAR and similar caucuses in the DPA and YDA.

SECTION 703.2 Removal.

Caucus officers may be removed from office for nonfeasance or malfeasance of duties by unanimous

consent of the Executive Committee or a two-thirds majority ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of the Local Presidents Assembly, given that notice is provided at least one (1) month in advance of the vote.

**SECTION 703.3 Vacancy.**

A vacancy shall be declared when a caucus officer dies, resigns, or is removed from office. A vacancy in the position of Caucus Chair shall be filled by the President with the approval of the

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Local Presidents Assembly. A vacancy in the position of Caucus Vice Chair shall be filled by the Caucus Chair.

**Section 703.4 Rights and Membership.**

Each Caucus Chair will have a non-voting membership in the Executive Committee for the purpose of attending Executive Committee meetings and participating in Executive Committee discussions. This includes the right to attend 'closed' Executive Committee meetings, subject to the restrictions imposed by the Executive Committee.

**SECTION 704 Recognized.**

The following are recognized as official caucuses of YDAR: the Women's Caucus, the Black Caucus, the Hispanic Caucus, the Asian Caucus, the Stonewall Caucus, the Labor Caucus, the Faith Caucus, the Veterans Caucus, the Sunrise Caucus, and the Rose Caucus.

**Section 705:**

Constituency caucuses within the Young Democrats of Arkansas shall be divided into categories of 'active' and 'inactive' caucuses. An active caucus is defined by maintaining the position of caucus Chair and a minimum of two (2) vice-chairs. An active caucus is entitled to all constitutional authorities and penalties therein. A caucus shall be defined as 'inactive' if it fails to meet the criteria of maintaining a caucus chair and two (2) vice-chairs. An inactive caucus shall not be entitled to all constitutional authorities or penalties therein. Should a chair submit a statement to the executive Vice President declaring that they shall be able to fill the required number of vice chair positions no more than forty-five (45) days following the latest convention in which the caucus last held its elections, it shall not be declared inactive.

**ARTICLE VIII**

**Budget & Expenditure**

**SECTION 801 Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year of YDAR shall begin on July 1. If no budget is approved by this time, no funds may be expended on behalf of the organization, and the Executive Committee shall not consider any other business until a budget has been approved through the process provided in this Article.

**SECTION 802 Budgeting.**

**SECTION 802.1 Spending Levels.**

Not later than June 1, the President shall, upon consultation with the Finance Director, submit to

the Executive Committee budgeted spending levels for each action team, and set aside certain funds for discretionary spending. The Executive Committee may amend this proposal and, upon approval, will distribute spending levels to each action team.

**SECTION 802.2 Appropriation.**

Not later than July 1, each action team shall determine specific appropriations for their spending and transmit said appropriations to the Executive Vice President. Not later than July 1, the

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Executive Committee shall consider and may approve or amend these appropriations.

**SECTION 803 Expenditure Authorization.**

All Executive Committee members, including appointed officers, are authorized to expend budgeted funds subject to the approval of the President, Executive Vice President, or Finance Director. Written approval - physical or digital - of the President, Executive Vice President, or Finance Director must be obtained for discretionary spending by any member in excess of \$50.

**ARTICLE IX**  
**Miscellaneous Provisions**

**SECTION 901 Remote Meetings.**

All meetings of the Executive Committee and Local Presidents Assembly shall be accessible to members of those bodies by internet or phone. Members attending by either of these means shall be entitled to all privileges generally accorded, unless rights are restricted by a two-thirds majority ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote.

**SECTION 902 Open Meetings.**

All meetings of YDAR shall be open to the public, except meetings of the Executive Committee and Local Presidents Assembly. Meetings of the Executive Committee and Local Presidents Assembly shall be open to all members.

**SECTION 903 Primaries.**

Chapters, units, and officers acting in an official capacity shall not endorse the candidacy of any candidate seeking the nomination of the Democratic Party in a Primary Election, unless said candidate has no declared challenger. Any action in violation of this Section shall be null and void, and penalty for violation may include charter revocation or removal from office.

**SECTION 904 YDA Delegates.**

**SECTION 904.1 Automatic Delegates.**

Thirty percent (30%) of delegates allocated to Arkansas for the YDA National Convention shall be selected by virtue of their rank in YDAR, providing as possible for gender balance, in the following order: Statewide Officers in order of Constitution § 401.1, District Directors in numerical order, Appointed Officers in order of Bylaws Art. V, Caucus Chairs in order of Bylaws § 704, Chapter Presidents in descending order of membership.

**SECTION 904.2 Full Participation.**

Forty percent (40%) of delegates allocated to Arkansas for the YDA National Convention shall be

selected by the general membership in congressional district caucuses. Delegates selected in this manner shall be equally divided between males and females as closely as possible.

SECTION 904.3 Underrepresented Groups.

Thirty percent (30%) of delegates allocated to Arkansas for the YDA National Convention shall be selected by the constituency caucuses in accordance with their rules.

SECTION 904.4 Additional Delegates.

To ensure maximum representation and gender balance, additional delegates may be appointed,

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when possible, by the President.

**Section 905 YDAR Judicial Council**

SECTION 905.1 Review Process

In order for the Judicial Council to review an issue or intervene in a dispute, a forty percent (40%) vote of the Executive Committee present requesting such a review shall be required, or 3 members each from at least 4 chapters (at least one from each congressional district) may submit a petition to the Chair of the Judicial Council requesting such a review.

SECTION 905.2 Quorum

Quorum for the Judicial Council shall be three members at least one of whom must be the Chair or Vice Chair

SECTION 905.3 Access to Records

The rulings, reports and acts of the Judicial Council shall be made available to the membership of YDAR immediately upon adoption.

