

**THE CHARTER AND  
BYLAWS OF THE  
YOUNG DEMOCRATS  
OF GEORGIA**

As proposed by the Charter and Bylaws  
Committee, April 11, 2021.  
Ratified by the YDG Convention,  
April 11, 2021

Rachel M. Paule, President

## CHARTER ARTICLE I: ORGANIZATION

- I. SECTION C§1.1: Definition.
  - a. The name of this organization shall be the Young Democrats of Georgia (YDG), affiliated with the Young Democrats of America (YDA) and affiliated with the Democratic Party of Georgia (DPG).
- II. SECTION C§1.2: Purpose.
  - a. The purpose of the YDG is to stimulate in the youth of Georgia an active interest in governmental affairs; to increase the efficiency of popular government; to foster and perpetuate the ideals and principles of the Democratic Party; to recruit the most promising material for leadership; to encourage statesmanship; to aid the Democratic Party; to provide through its administration the highest degree of justice and social welfare; and to serve as a voice for young people within the Democratic Party.

## CHARTER ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

- I. SECTION C§2.1: Eligibility.
  - a. Any person at least fourteen (14) years of age but less than forty (40) years of age who professes and demonstrates allegiance to the principles of the Democratic Party shall be eligible for active membership with all of the rights and privileges of state, and local membership, but only those persons between the ages of fourteen (14) but less than thirty six (36) years of age shall be eligible for national membership.
- II. SECTION C§2.2: Active Members.
  - a. An Active Member shall be a member of a chartered chapter of YDG, who is a resident or domiciliary in the state of Georgia or a student of a fully accredited high school, college, university or institution of higher learning in the state of Georgia.
- III. SECTION C§2.3: At-Large Members.
  - a. An individual is only eligible for "At-Large" membership in the Young Democrats of Georgia if he or she lives in a county where no chartered chapter of the Young Democrats of Georgia exists, and, if he or she is a student, also attends a college or high school where no chartered chapter of the Young Democrats of Georgia exists.

## CHARTER ARTICLE III: NON-DISCRIMINATION & AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

- I. SECTION C§3.1: Non-Discrimination & Affirmative Action Clause.
  - a. Neither the YDG nor any chapter shall discriminate in membership or any proceeding, charter, bylaws or vote on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation or identity, disability, legal status (see B§2.10 and B§4.12), hair style or texture, or past political activity.
  - b. The YDG and all of its chapters shall make a good faith effort to recruit members of, and publicize events to, all segments of the population.
  - c. YDG chapters with over 50 members are required to partner with at least one (1) permanent caucus each year to explore how to be more inclusive and to recruit members from under-represented minorities. The chapter may not partner with the same caucus two (2) years consecutively. Selection of the permanent caucus will be by coordination between the YDG Executive Committee and the YD Chapter.

- d. New YDG chapters are required to partner with at least one (1) permanent caucus their first year to explore how to be more inclusive and to recruit members from under-represented minorities. Selection of the permanent caucus will be by coordination between the YDG Executive Committee and the YD Chapter.

#### CHARTER ARTICLE IV: ORGANIZATION

- I. SECTION C§4.1: YDG Chapters.
  - a. Chapters may charter by submitting an application in accordance with the Bylaws.
- II. SECTION C§4.2: College Democrats of Georgia.
  - a. YDG college chapters will form an organization within and subordinate to the YDG known as the College Democrats of Georgia (CDG). All college chapters within YDG shall affiliate with the CDG and all CDG chapters shall affiliate with the YDG. CDG shall have the ability to associate with College Democrats of America (CDA).
- III. SECTION C§4.3: High School Democrats of Georgia.
  - a. High School Chapters will form an organization within and subordinate to the YDG known as the Georgia High School Democrats (GAHSD) All high school chapters within YDG shall be affiliated with the GAHSD and all GAHSD chapters shall affiliate with the YDG. GAHSD shall have the ability to associate with the High School Democrats of America (HSDA).
- IV. SECTION C§4.4: Committees
  - a. There shall be four types of committees: Standing, Caucus, Convention, and Special. Each Committee's description and role are detailed in the Bylaws.

#### CHARTER ARTICLE V: CONVENTIONS

- I. SECTION C§5.1: State Conventions.
  - a. The YDG shall assemble in state convention every year for the purpose of electing officers in the YDG, for considering charter and bylaw amendments, for adopting resolutions and the transacting of any other business that may properly come before the convention. The YDG State Convention shall be the highest authority of the Young Democrats of Georgia.
- II. SECTION C§5.2: Oversight.
  - a. The Convention Oversight Committee shall assist and oversee the planning of the convention and shall, in conjunction with a host committee, make regular reports to the Executive Committee. The Convention Oversight Committee (CO-COM) shall consist of the President and Executive Vice President (who shall serve as Co-Chairs), the Vice President of Membership, the Vice President of Finance, the Vice President of Programs, and the immediate past chair or co-chair of the State Convention.
- III. SECTION C§5.3: Site Selection, Notice, Credentials.
  - a. The State Convention shall be held at a place and date selected by the YDG Executive Committee in accordance with the site selection process set forth in the Bylaws. Convention notice shall be prior to the convening of the annual convention according to

the Bylaws. The basis for vote allocation shall be a list of officers and current members that is submitted to the Credentials Committee.

IV. SECTION C§5.4: National Conventions.

- a. The delegates and alternates for the YDA Convention shall be determined in accordance with the Bylaws.

**CHARTER ARTICLE VI: ELECTED OFFICERS**

I. SECTION C§6.1: Elections.

- a. The election of elected officers of the YDG shall be held at the YDG State Convention. Each person seeking elected office must declare for the position(s), and be qualified for the same as per the Bylaws.
- b. Elections for the President, Executive Vice President, Vice President of Membership, Vice President of Programs, Vice President of Finance, Secretary, Treasurer, and two (2) National Committee Representatives shall be by Open Ballot Method using a system of STAR voting.
  - i. Voters shall be given a ratings ballot, on which each voter shall rate every candidate with a number from 0 to 5, where 0 means "strong disapproval" and 5 means "strong approval".
  - ii. The scores for each candidate are then summed, and the two highest-rated candidates are selected as finalists.
  - iii. In the instant-runoff round, the finalist who was given a higher rating on a greater number of ballots is selected as the winner.
  - iv. For the election of the National Committee Representatives, both candidates shall be instantly elected in the case of the top two candidates having different gender identities. In the case that they are the same, the instant-runoff shall proceed as normal and the next highest-rated candidate of a different gender identity shall be elected.
- c. Elections for College Democrats Chair and High School Democrats Chair shall be elected by their caucus membership at the State Convention according to their caucus bylaws and reported at the General Session.
- d. The duties of the officers are defined in the Bylaws.

II. SECTION C§6.2: Terms.

- a. The term of office for the President shall be for two (2) years. If a vacancy occurs before the completion of this term, then the remainder of the term shall be completed by the current Executive Vice President or by whoever is elected by the YDG Executive Committee in accordance with SECTION C§6.4. The president shall assume their duties upon the close of the State Convention.
- b. The term of office of other elected officers shall be for one (1) year. If a vacancy occurs before the completion of this term, then the remainder of the term shall be completed by whoever is nominated by the YDG President and confirmed by the YDG Executive Committee in accordance with SECTION C§6.4.

- c. Elected officers shall assume their duties upon the close of the State Convention, and officers shall turn over all YDG property to their successors at that time as per the bylaws.

III. SECTION C§6.3: Vacancy.

- a. In the event of a vacancy in an elected office (except President), the President shall nominate and the YDG Executive Committee shall elect by majority vote a person to fill the unexpired term at the first possible meeting, or through the electronic process as defined in the Bylaws. In the event of a vacancy in the office of President, the Executive Vice President shall assume the role of President.
- b. If the Executive Vice President is unwilling or unable to serve the unexpired term, or the office of Executive Vice President is also vacant, the YDG Executive Committee shall elect by majority vote a person to fill the unexpired term at the first possible meeting following notification to the Executive Committee of the existence of the vacancy.

IV. SECTION C§6.4: Removal from Office.

- a. The Board of Directors, Executive Committee Members, Chapter Officers and Appointed Officers of the Young Democrats of Georgia may be subject to impeachment and removal from office. The YDG Executive Committee may, after giving written notice of intent to remove to the offending officer and to the Executive Committee, remove an elected or appointed officer for cause. In the event of Presidential removal, the Judicial Council shall appoint a presiding officer for the Executive Committee meeting.
- b. Notice shall be given to the offending officer by certified mail or electronic mail and to the entire Executive Committee by the normal means for providing notice of Executive Committee meetings. A three-quarters (3/4) vote of the Executive Committee is required to move an officer from their position. Any officer subject to removal from office shall have the opportunity to present all witnesses, documents, and arguments in support of their position.
- c. Cause for removal shall include misfeasance, malfeasance (including but not be limited to the use of the officer's position to support candidates for public office that are not a member of the Democratic Party), or nonfeasance of assigned duties, or for violation of any law or rule of the Young Democrats of Georgia, the Young Democrats of America, the Democratic Party, or for the commission of high crimes and misdemeanors.

V. SECTION C§6.5: Attendance.

- a. All elected officers of the YDG shall attend all executive committee meetings of the YDG. If the President is unable to attend a regular membership meeting, he or she shall so notify the Executive Vice President in writing prior to that meeting. Such notification shall include the President's officer report.
- b. If an elected officer other than the President is unable to attend a regular membership meeting, they shall so notify the President and Secretary in writing prior to that meeting. Such written notification shall include such officer's report. Any elected officer who is absent from a regular membership meeting without notification as described above may submit a written explanation for the absence to the President and Secretary, as appropriate, within one week of the meeting.

- c. The President, or Secretary, as appropriate, may at their discretion, elect to excuse the officer's absence on the basis of such a written explanation. In all other cases, an absence without notification as described above shall be considered unexcused.
- d. Any elected officer of YDG who accumulates two consecutive unexcused absences shall be considered to have resigned as of the date of the second absence without necessity for any further action on the part of either the dismissed officer or members of the Executive Committee.
- e. If a National Committee Representative fails to attend two Young Democrats of America quarterly meetings in a row (including National Conventions), they will be deemed to have resigned without need for further action on the part of the Board of Directors or Executive Committee.

## CHARTER ARTICLE VII: APPOINTED & EX-OFFICIO OFFICERS

- I. SECTION C§7.1: Appointed Officers.
  - a. The President shall have the power to appoint members of the YDG to non-voting positions or ad-hoc committees at their discretion, subject to EX-COM approval. Confirmation, turnover of property, vacancy, removal and duties are detailed in the Bylaws.
- II. SECTION C§7.2: Ex-Officio Officers.
  - a. The Ex-Officio Officers of the YDG shall be the immediate Past YDG President and YDG members elected or appointed to national or regional positions in the YDA. Any relevant voting privileges, and details regarding the President Emeritus, are laid out in the Bylaws.

## CHARTER ARTICLE VIII: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- I. SECTION C§8.1: Voting Members.
  - a. The President, Executive Vice President, Vice President of Membership, Vice President of Programs, Vice President of Finance, Secretary, Treasurer, National Committee Representatives, the chair of the CDG, and the chair of the GAHSD shall be voting members of the Board of Directors.
- II. SECTION C§8.2: Voting.
  - a. No person shall be entitled to cast more than one vote on the Board of Directors by virtue of holding multiple offices. Secret ballot voting shall be prohibited. Unless otherwise restricted by this Charter or the Bylaws, any action required or permitted to be taken by the Board of Directors, except for an amendment to the Charter or Bylaws, may be taken electronically.
- III. SECTION C§8.3: Meetings, Authority, & Quorum.
  - a. The YDG Board of Directors shall meet at least once every eight (8) calendar weeks unless otherwise scheduled or canceled at the call of the YDG President. Two weeks calendar notice of the time and place of every meeting of the Board of Directors of the YDG must be given to all members of the Board of Directors, except in the event of an emergency meeting called for by the President or any four (4) members of the Board of Directors, in which case as much notice as possible shall be provided. In the event of an emergency meeting, the Board may vote on binding actions if a majority of the voting

- Board members are able to attend the meeting. Any decision made at an emergency Board meeting may be reviewed by the Parliamentarian at the request of any Board member for compliance with the YDG charter and bylaws.
- b. Said notice must be given by e-mail and/or by United States Mail. Board of Directors meetings may also be conducted via conference calls. All other meeting requirements shall apply.
  - c. The Board of Directors' rules of order and quorum requirements are detailed in the Bylaws.
  - d. The Board of Directors has the power to grant charters and may bestow honorary memberships. The Board of Directors may consider or act upon any business necessary and proper to the running of the YDG.

## CHARTER ARTICLE IX: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- I. SECTION C§9.1: Members.
  - a. The voting members of the YDG Executive Committee shall be composed of the President of every chartered chapter or their designee, all elected officers, the chairs of the permanent caucuses, and the chairs of the standing committees.
  - b. The non-voting members of the YDG Executive Committee shall be composed of all other appointed positions, the chair of each special committee, and all YDG Members who are elected or appointed to national or regional positions within the Young Democrats of America
- II. SECTION C§9.2: Proxy Voting.
  - a. For the purpose of a meeting called under Charter SECTION C§9.4, the President of a Chartered Unit may designate, in writing, an individual from the chapter from which the President was elected to cast the President's vote on behalf of the Chartered Unit. This written authorization must be submitted to, and received by, the President and Secretary of YDG prior to the call of the meeting. Such proxy authorization shall only be effective for the specific meeting it is submitted in advance of.
- III. SECTION C§9.3: Voting.
  - a. No person shall be entitled to cast more than one vote on the YDG Executive Committee by virtue of holding multiple offices or by virtue of proxy. Secret ballot voting shall be prohibited.
- IV. SECTION C§9.4: Meetings.
  - a. The YDG Executive Committee shall meet at least once every eight (8) calendar weeks unless otherwise scheduled or canceled, at the call of the YDG President. One week calendar notice of the time and place of every meeting of the Executive Committee of the YDG must be given to all members of the Executive Committee. Said notice must be given by e-mail and/or by United States Mail with a written and printed copy of the e-mail which was sent being available in the event of any dispute as to proper notice. All other meeting requirements shall apply. Executive Committee meetings may be held via conference call.
  - b. Special Meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the President or any three (3) members of the Board of Directors with seven (7) days notice to all members of

the Executive Committee. Special Meetings of the Executive Committee shall not satisfy the requirement for Executive Committee meetings as provided for in this section.

- c. The Executive Committee's Rules of Order and Quorum requirements are detailed in the Bylaws.

V. SECTION C§9.5: Authority.

- a. Except for powers reserved to the State Convention, the governing body of the Young Democrats of Georgia shall be the Executive Committee. The YDG Executive Committee has the power to approve the YDG Strategic Plan, have the final decision on the expulsion of a chapter, have the final decision on the appeal of a member who has been expelled from a chapter or on any Judicial Council decision which is elsewhere defined as appealable, have the final determination of any action taken by the Board of Directors up to two weeks prior to a duly called meeting of the Executive Committee, and approve the YDG budget.
- b. The Executive Committee has the option to choose the date and place of the State Convention, decide how the remaining delegates to the YDA Convention shall be chosen, approve any bank in which YDG money is held, advise the National Committee Representatives on YDA matters, and consider emergency resolutions or actions.

## CHARTER ARTICLE X: FINANCES

I. SECTION C§10.1: Financial Authority, Limits & Audits.

- a. Financial commitments may only be made by the President of YDG. Commitments exceeding \$100 must have the assent of the Treasurer. Commitments exceeding \$500 must be approved by the Board of Directors as a whole. Commitments exceeding \$1,000 must be approved by the Executive Committee as a whole.
- b. On an annual basis, the Board of Directors shall set and the executive committee shall approve discretionary spending limits for all officers as part of the budget, should such discretionary spending be deemed appropriate.
- c. The YDG fiscal year runs May 1 to April 30. In the event that newly elected officers' terms do not correspond with this timeframe, newly elected officers will coordinate with the prior administration for audit purposes. The Treasurer's books shall be audited by a committee of three appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee. This audit should take place by the close of the fiscal year.

## CHARTER ARTICLE XI: JUDICIAL COUNCIL & DISCIPLINE

I. SECTION C§11.1: Judicial Power.

- a. The judicial power of the YDG shall be vested in one Judicial Council. The Judicial Council shall serve to resolve disputes over the nature and interpretation of the YDG Charter and of the rules and regulations established by the YDG Executive Committee. The YDG Membership and the YDG 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 internal chapter disputes, disputes between a chapter and YDG, or challenges to a local chapter's application of their governing documents upon petition of either the majority of the chapter's officers or a majority of the chapter's membership. Any ruling must be based on and take into consideration any

applicable chapter, YDG, YDA, DPG, or DNC rules, and the decision shall be appealable to the YDG Executive Committee.

II. SECTION C§11.2: Composition, & Selection

- a. The Judicial Council shall be composed of seven (7) active members of the YDG. The Parliamentarian shall Chair the Judicial Council.
- b. At the State Convention, the Credentials Chair shall randomly select six chapters from the list of chapters that have been continuously chartered for at least five years. The final member shall be chosen from the remaining chapters that have chartered for that year's convention. Each of the chosen chapters will then nominate one member from that chapter to serve on the Judicial Council, to be confirmed by a majority vote of the Board. Judicial Council members shall be subject to impeachment and removal under the same processes as other YDG officers. Members of the Judicial Council serve a term of one (1) year or until a successor is chosen.
- c. If a vacancy occurs within the Judicial Council, the chapter whose vacancy it is shall nominate another member to be confirmed by a majority vote of the Board. If such chapter no longer exists or is otherwise defunct, another previously credentialed chapter who does not have an appointed member of the Judicial Council shall be randomly selected by the Board to fulfil the same task.
- d. A vacancy may be declared if a Judicial Council member is no longer an active YDG member or if the member fails to attend two consecutive Judicial Council meetings, provided at least two weeks notice was given by e-mail before each meeting.
- e. Current members of the Board of Directors shall be ineligible to serve on the Judicial Council.

III. SECTION C§11.3: Member and Chapter Expulsion.

- a. YDG may expel chapters as per the Bylaws, and YDG chapters may expel their members as per the Bylaws.

## CHARTER ARTICLE XII: PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE & AMENDMENTS

I. SECTION C§12.1: Parliamentary Procedure.

- a. Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern YDG in all cases in which such rules are applicable and in which such rules are consistent with this Charter and any special rules of order the YDG may adopt.
- b. Unless otherwise indicated, a reference to a vote means a majority of those present and eligible to vote, if the appropriate quorum has been met. This section will not conflict with electronic voting as permitted elsewhere in the charter or bylaws.

II. SECTION C§12.2: Amendments

- a. All proposed amendments to this Charter or the Bylaws shall be submitted to the Executive Committee no later than seven (7) days prior to the convening of the State Convention, except as otherwise provided in this section.
- b. Amendments to this Charter or the Bylaws may also be adopted at any in-person meeting of the Executive Committee, provided that representatives from at least seven (7) chartered chapters are present (representatives defined as the chapter President or their proxy).

- c. All proposed amendments to this Charter or the Bylaws shall be submitted to all members of the Executive Committee in writing (electronically or otherwise) no later than seven (7) days prior to the convening of such an in-person meeting.
- d. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the State Convention or other in-person meeting is required to adopt any Charter or Bylaw amendment.

#### CHARTER ARTICLE XIII: DISSOLUTION

- I. SECTION C§13.1: Chapter Dissolution.
  - a. In the event that a chapter dissolves, after all liabilities and obligations are satisfied, all funds in the chapter's treasury shall be transferred to the YDG treasury.
  - b. In the event that a chapter dissolves, all liabilities and obligations are the responsibility of that chapter and its President. YDG will not assume any debt incurred by the dissolving chapter.
- II. SECTION C§13.2: YDG Dissolution.
  - a. In the event that the YDG dissolves, after all the liabilities and obligations are satisfied, all funds in the YDG treasury shall be transferred to the Democratic Party of Georgia.

**CERTIFICATION OF CHARTER**

The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Charter of the Young Democrats of Georgia as amended including amendments certified by the Secretary of the Young Democrats of Georgia, as adopted by the YDG Convention on April 11, 2021.

Rachel M. Paule, President

Young Democrats of Georgia

Sean Matthew Calahan, Chair

Standing Committee on Charter and Bylaws

## BYLAWS ARTICLE I: MEMBERSHIP

- I. SECTION B§1.1 Office Eligibility & Voting.
  - a. Only active members in good standing may hold office in the YDG and vote in any meeting of the YDG. Except as otherwise provided in the Charter and Bylaws, no proxy or mail votes are acceptable.
- II. SECTION B§1.2 Honorary Members.
  - a. Honorary Members may attend meetings, but pay no dues, may not make or second motions, may not participate in debate unless an active member yields time to him/her, and may not vote.

## BYLAWS ARTICLE II: ORGANIZATION

- I. SECTION B§2.1. YDG Chapter Applications.
  - a. All applications for chartering shall be submitted to the Board of Directors through the Vice President of Membership before the meeting at which the charter is to be considered. Approved charters must have the Chapter contact information posted on the YDG Web Site.
  - b. So as not to penalize a potential chapter, in the event that the Board of Directors shall find a potential chapter's charter lacking in certain respects, or that chapter's charter conflicts with the Charter or Bylaws of the YDG, the Board of Directors shall have the right to issue a "conditional charter" to a chapter and said conditional charter must be indicated as such in the official minutes of the meeting in which the chapter's charter shall be considered. Those elements of the chapter's charter which are lacking or which are in conflict with the Charter or Bylaws of the YDG must be rectified by that chapter by the next officially noticed Board of Directors meeting or said "conditional charter" shall automatically lapse without the need for any action or vote by the Board of Directors of the YDG. A charter application must include the following:
    - i. List of at least five members (including name, address, phone and e-mail address [if available] and date of birth)
    - ii. List of duly elected officers and date elected
    - iii. Copy of governing document
    - iv. Copy of minutes from a meeting
    - v. Copy of notice of meeting sent out
- II. SECTION B§2.2: Constitution or Charter Issuance.
  - a. No charter shall be issued to any chapter whose constitution or charter conflicts with the Charter or Bylaws of the YDG or the YDA. Chapter constitutions must provide for meetings, yearly elections, dues, quorum, amendments, grounds and standards for impeachment, and dissolution.
- III. SECTION B§2.3. Chapters per County.
  - a. As a general rule, there shall be no more than one chapter per county, unless a college/university or high school wishes to have a chapter of its own. If more than one chapter is chartered per county that is not affiliated with a college, university, or high

school, no chapter should have the name of the county in its official name without approval of the Executive Committee.

- IV. SECTION B§2.4. Multi-County Chapters.
  - a. Upon recommendation of the President and Vice President of Membership, and approval of the Executive Committee, a charter may be approved for a chapter which is comprised of multiple counties as long as those counties are geographically contiguous and it is otherwise necessary or beneficial for said counties to associate as a single chartered unit.
- V. SECTION B§2.5. Multiple Chapters per College.
  - a. In the event that a college or university is comprised of multiple campuses in different locations, a chapter may be formed either: (a) at each campus, or (b) comprised of members from multiple campuses.
- VI. SECTION B§2.6. College Name Changes.
  - a. In the event of a college changing its name the existing chapter at that college shall change their chapter's name to reflect the new name of the college. The chapter shall inform the President and Secretary of the change, no further action will be required for the chapter to retain its status as an active chapter.
- VII. SECTION B§2.7. College Mergers.
  - a. In the event of two or more existing colleges merge, the chapters shall merge or organize themselves in accordance with SECTION C§2.5. The chapter or chapters shall inform the President and Secretary of the change, no further action will be required for the chapter or chapters to retain its status as an active chapter. If the chapters' merge immediate elections shall be held to combine the chapter's' Executive Committees overseen by the President of CDG and the Judicial Council.
- VIII. SECTION B§2.8. College Closing.
  - a. In the event of a college closing, the college chapter may become a county chapter or dissolve, if a county chapter already exists then the college chapter shall merge with the county chapter. If the chapters' merge immediate elections shall be held to combine the chapter's' Executive Committees overseen by the President of YDG and the Judicial Council.
- IX. SECTION B§2.9. Review.
  - a. The Board of Directors reserves the right to periodically review chapter constitutions or charters. Constitutions or charters that are found to be in conflict with the Charter or Bylaws of the YDG may be grounds for removal of a chapter's chartered status. If a chapter cannot produce a current Constitution or Charter, the Board of Directors may require that chapter to re-charter with YDG. The Board of Directors also reserves the right to review a chapter's compliance with its own Constitution or Charter. If the Board of Directors finds a chapter to be in violation of its Charter, the Board of Directors may, by a majority vote, revoke the charter of said chapter. This decision may be appealed to the Judicial Council.

- X. SECTION B§2.10. At Large Membership.
  - a. If a person who is eligible under SECTION C§2.3 so-wishes, that person may pay dues annually to the YDG Treasurer, at an amount to be determined by the Executive Committee, as an at-large active member rather than join a chapter of YDG.
  - b. Dues shall not be collected from individuals whose legal status prevents contributions to the YDG.
  
- XI. SECTION B§2.11. High School and College Chapters.
  - a. To be a member of a high school chapter, a member shall be a currently enrolled student of that same high school or be the advisor or faculty sponsor. A home-schooled high school student shall be deemed to be eligible for at-large membership in the High School Caucus. Similarly, to be a member of a college or university chapter, a member shall be a currently enrolled student of that college or university or be the advisor or faculty sponsor. Advisors and sponsors shall only be eligible for membership provided they meet the qualification for a regular member.
  - b. Dues shall not be collected from high school individuals in accordance with HSDA bylaws.
  
- XII. SECTION B§2.12. Rechartering Fee.
  - a. Within two months of the close of the YDG State Convention, each chapter of the Young Democrats of Georgia and the College Democrats of Georgia shall pay a \$15 rechartering fee to the YDG.
  - b. Such recharting fees shall not be collected from the GAHSD.
  - c. Financial need waivers may be granted by the YDG Board of Directors if requested by a chapter.

## BYLAWS ARTICLE III: COLLEGE DEMOCRATS & GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL DEMOCRATS

- I. SECTION B§3.1. College Democrats of Georgia (CDG)
  - a. Membership in the CDG shall be open to any Young Democrat enrolled in and attending an accredited institute of higher learning in Georgia. The CDG shall be the official college affiliate of the YDG. CDG shall be responsible for organizing college students in YDG, for advocating student issues, and for organizing the Georgia delegation to the College Democrats of America National Convention.
  - b. The CDG shall caucus to elect a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and any other officers that it deems necessary from its membership at the annual YDG State Convention. At least one third (rounded down) of the elected officers shall be of a different gender than the Chair wherever possible.
  - c. Officers will be elected by vote. The method of election shall be STAR vote if conducting election by electronic vote, STAR or majority with top-two runoff if solely voting in-person, or another method approved by the YDG Board of Directors if requested..
  - d. Voting shall take place in person during the CDG meeting at the annual YDG State Convention, however ballots may also be distributed by electronic means up to one week before the beginning of the annual YDG State Convention. Electronic voting, if occurring, may be closed no earlier than the midnight before the CDG meeting at the

convention. Votes shall be tallied during the CDG meeting. The CDG shall furnish a list to the YDG of active members as qualified voters if electronic voting, such qualified voters need not be registered to the annual YDG State Convention to vote in CDG elections.

- e. The CDG shall maintain any governing documents including descriptions of officer responsibilities and any internal rules such as providing for the removal of CDG officers. CDG may draft its own bylaws to govern meetings as long as they are consistent with the YDG, YDA, and CDA governing documents. The CDG Secretary shall keep and make these documents available to the YDG Secretary upon request.

II. SECTION B§3.2. Georgia High School Democrats (GAHSD)

- a. Membership in the GAHSD shall be open to any Young Democrat enrolled and attending a high school in Georgia. The GAHSD shall be the official high school affiliate of the YDG. Advisors of high school chapters shall also be full members of the YDG if they would like to be and fulfill the qualifications. Advisors shall be prohibited from holding executive office of the GAHSD , but may run for other positions within YDG so long as they also meet the membership requirements of YDG.
- b. The GAHSD shall caucus to elect a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and any other officers that it deems necessary from its membership at the annual YDG State Convention. At least one third (rounded down) of the elected officers shall be of a different gender than the Chair wherever possible.
- c. Officers will be elected by vote. The method of election shall be STAR vote if conducting election by electronic vote, STAR or majority with top-two runoff if solely voting in-person, or another method approved by the YDG Board of Directors if requested.
- d. Voting shall take place in person during the GAHSD meeting at the annual YDG State Convention, however ballots may also be distributed by electronic means up to one week before the beginning of the annual YDG State Convention. Electronic voting, if occurring, may be closed no earlier than the midnight before the GAHSD meeting at the convention. Votes shall be tallied during the GAHSD meeting. The GAHSD shall furnish a list to the YDG of active members as qualified voters if electronic voting, such qualified voters need not be registered to the annual YDG State Convention to vote in GAHSD elections.
- e. The GAHSD shall adopt any governing documents including descriptions of officer responsibilities and any internal rules such as providing for the removal of GAHSD officers. GAHSD may draft its own bylaws to govern meetings as long as they are consistent with the YDG, YDA, and HSDA governing documents. The GAHSD Secretary shall keep and make these documents available to the YDG Secretary upon request.

**BYLAWS ARTICLE IV: CONVENTIONS**

I. SECTION B§4.1. Date.

- a. The YDG shall assemble in state convention once per year, at a time to be determined by the Board of Directors. If deemed necessary by the YDG Board of Directors, the convention may be held in an electronic/virtual or hybrid format (in person and electronic/virtual).
- b. The convention may not be held while the Georgia State Legislature is in session.

- II. SECTION B§4.2. Oversight Reports.
  - a. The Convention Oversight Committee shall make regular reports in writing to the Executive Committee at each Executive Committee Meeting between the award of Convention to a particular city and the opening of Convention itself and no later than thirty (30) days before the opening of Convention, there shall be a written report from the Convention Oversight Committee to the Executive Committee detailing the accommodations for Convention, the agenda for the Convention, the program(s) for Convention and the speaker(s) who are committed to appear at the Convention.
  
- III. SECTION B§4.3. Bid submission.
  - a. Local chapters or other interested individuals shall submit convention site bids on a standard form to the Executive Committee by October 1, or an earlier date set at the discretion of the Executive Committee, of each year for referral to the Convention Oversight Committee (CO-COM).
  
- IV. SECTION B§4.4. Bid review.
  - a. The CO-COM shall meet on or before October 15 to review the bids. The date, time, and place of this meeting shall be announced by October 1. The announcement shall include the details of the bidding process. This meeting may also be conducted via electronic means.
  - b. The meeting shall be open to all YDG members and each chapter shall be given notice of the same. Each chapter that makes a bid to host the State Convention shall be given an opportunity to present its bid. At the regular meeting that next follows the CO-COM's meeting, the Executive Committee shall be presented with each bid in standard form and a list of Pros and Cons from the CO-COM, along with the CO-COM's recommendations. The Executive Committee shall then select a site for convention.
  
- V. SECTION B§4.5. Fallback.
  - a. Should no chapter submit a bid nor any submitted bid meet the approval of the CO-COM, the CO-COM is responsible for recommending a site to the Executive Committee by November 1 and, with three additional members appointed by the President, shall be responsible for planning the state convention.
  
- VI. SECTION B§4.6. Notification.
  - a. Convention notice shall be given at least forty five (45) days prior to the convening of the annual convention using all means necessary. This notice shall include date and location of convention.
  
- VII. SECTION B§4.7. Convention Credentials Submission.
  - a. The Credentials lists shall include name, address, birth date, phone numbers, e-mail addresses (if available), and for officers, date elected. Credentials lists are due before the adjournment of the Credentials Committee meeting as defined in SECTION B§4.8. At-Large members must submit their information individually to the Credentials Committee.
  
- VIII. SECTION B§4.8. Credentials Meeting.

- a. The Credentials packets shall not be opened until a meeting held exactly seven (7) days prior to the convening of the convention. On this date, the Credentials Committee meeting will be called to order. The Credentials Committee shall not adjourn before 12:00 PM (noon) on that day.
- IX. SECTION B§4.9. Residence and Age Verification.
- a. The Credentials Committee shall check for proper Georgia residence or school enrollment and date of birth showing proper age. Any person whose membership has not been accepted by the Credentials Committee shall be granted membership upon showing the following:
    - i. Proper Residence--Georgia Driver's License, Voter Registration card or a bill mailed to the person's residence within the last thirty days.
    - ii. Proper Enrollment--a current fees paid card (e.g. student ID) or the equivalent from the corresponding institution.
    - iii. Proper Age--Birth Certificate or government issued identification
- X. SECTION B§4.10. Challenges.
- a. All challenges to any membership must be sustained by a majority vote of the Credentials Committee members present. Challenges to the Credentials Committee's report must be registered in writing with the Credentials Committee Chair and the YDG President no later than three days prior to the convening of the Convention.
- XI. SECTION B§4.11. Credentials Committee final report.
- a. Upon the close of delegate registration, the Credentials Committee shall meet to decide the final vote allocation using the lists of those registered and employing the distance formula. The Credentials Committee will submit the final report to the State Convention for adoption.
- XII. SECTION B§4.12. Registration Costs.
- a. Any student from an accredited Georgia institution shall pay a registration fee upon registration at convention of at least \$10.00, and all other members shall pay a registration fee of at least \$15.00 to the YDG Treasurer. The entity hosting the convention may include in its bid a separate convention fee to be paid to the host entity to cover the cost of convention.
  - b. Registration fees shall not be collected from individuals whose legal status prevents contributions to the YDG.
- XIII. SECTION B§4.13. Convention Delegate Voting Distance Ratio.
- a. The distance shall be the distance between the convention city and the county seat of the chapter's county. College, university, and high school chapters shall be measured from the city listed in its official mailing address. Regional chapter's county seats for the purposes of the distance formula will be the county seat of the county from which the majority of the names on their membership list have as an address. In the event that the addresses are equally divided among more than one county, the county seat furthest from the convention site shall be used to calculate the distance formula. Online distance tools based on the Global Positioning System may be used to determine mileage. The latest Georgia Department of Transportation mileage charts shall be the final basis of

determining the mileage in the event of a dispute. The vote allocation formula is as follows:

- i. 0-50 miles--One member may represent one vote
  - ii. 51-125 miles--One member may represent one and one half votes
  - iii. 126-200 miles--One member may represent two votes
  - iv. 201-275 miles--One member may represent two and one half votes
  - v. 275+ miles--One member may represent three votes
- b. In the event of an all-virtual format, all members will represent one vote.

XIV. SECTION B§4.14. Chapter Votes & Allocation.

- a. Delegate votes can only be represented by delegates who are members of the chapter of the members being represented. A chapter's total votes will be determined by multiplying the number of registered delegates by the requisite distance ratio, with their maximum votes equaling their total membership. The allocation of delegate votes among members of a delegation shall be divided equally among the members of the delegation.
- b. None of the votes cast in accordance with this subsection shall be considered proxy votes. No proxy votes shall be allowed. Unit rule voting, the practice by which the entire vote of a delegation is cast according to the majority vote within the delegation, shall be prohibited.

XV. SECTION B§4.15. One Chapter Per Person.

- a. No person's name shall appear on more than one membership list submitted for vote allocation purposes. In the event that a person is a member of more than one chapter, that person must decide which one chapter's list will contain their name.

XVI. SECTION B§4.16. At-Large Delegation.

- a. There shall be an At-Large Delegation for those persons eligible for YDG membership but not credentialed with a chapter, who have credentialed with the Credentials Committee as At-Large. The At-Large Delegation shall be allocated one vote for each member regardless of the distance traveled.

XVII. SECTION B§4.17. Candidate Debates.

- a. The current Board of Directors of the YDG shall sponsor a debate between all duly-declared candidates for contested offices on the Board of Directors for the upcoming calendar year and it shall be the responsibility of the host chapter, person or body to make the proper arrangements for said debate. Any duly- declared candidates in contested elections for the Board of Directors shall have the right, but not the obligation, to participate in said debate and all such candidates shall have equal time and opportunity to speak for themselves. Any dispute as to the conduct of said debate shall be appealed to the Judicial Council at Convention and any decision of said Judicial Council shall be final.

XVIII. SECTION B§4.18. Financial Need Waivers.

- a. An individual's Convention registration costs may be waived upon a showing of financial need. If the individual is a member of a chartered chapter of the Young Democrats of Georgia, the Credentials Committee should grant a fee waiver if he or she attests to a

financial need, and the President of their chapter attests to their active participation in that chapter. If the individual is a qualified "at-large" member, the Credentials Committee should grant a fee waiver if he or she attests to a financial need.

XIX. SECTION C§4.19. Convention Quorum.

- a. The quorum for all State Conventions shall be thirty-five (35) delegates representing at least five (5) chapters.

XX. SECTION B§4.20. National Conventions.

- a. The National Committee Representatives, YDG President, and any member of the YDG on the YDA Executive Committees shall be delegates. The remaining places will be distributed among the chapters, as evenly as possible, by a plurality vote of the YDG Executive Committee. No delegate may be chosen who is now thirty-six (36) years of age or who would become thirty-six (36) years of age before the time of the National Convention.
- b. All YDA Affirmative Action Rules and Guidelines shall apply to the selection of delegates. All delegates shall cast the same number of votes and the delegation's votes shall be evenly distributed among the delegates.

## BYLAWS ARTICLE V: ELECTED OFFICERS

I. SECTION B§5.1. Election Order.

- a. The order of elections shall be as follows: President, Executive Vice President, Vice President of Membership, Vice President of Programs, Vice President of Finance, Secretary, Treasurer, and National Committee Representatives.

II. SECTION B§5.2. Nominations.

- a. Each person seeking elected office must declare for the position(s) in writing to the Credentials Committee Chair and the YDG President at least fourteen (14) days prior to the convening of the State Convention. If no one has declared for a particular office in advance, the floor is automatically open for nominations. Nominations for each office may be opened from the floor by a majority vote of the entire convention.

III. SECTION B§5.3 Qualifications.

- a. No person shall hold office in the YDG who is prohibited from holding office in a political organization by any government regulation. If a YDG officer takes employment covered by such regulations, that officer's resignation from office takes effect upon commencement of such employment.
- b. No person shall be a candidate for YDG President or National Committee Representative who is now thirty-six (36) years of age or who would become thirty-six (36) years of age during their term of office.
- c. National Committee Representatives shall be elected so as to have different gender identities from each other.
- d. Any individual YDG member may only hold a single elected voting office on the Board of Directors at any single time.

IV. SECTION B§5.4 Resignation Upon Attaining Public Office.

- a. Any member of the YDG Executive Committee, whether elected or member by virtue of a chapter presidency, but not to include appointed officers, shall immediately take a leave of absence from their position on the Board of Directors upon their qualification or candidacy in a contested public partisan primary election, such abstention to expire upon the conclusion of the primary.
- b. This bylaw shall not permit the President of YDG to take a leave of absence under this section. Upon their qualification for public office, the President must resign.
- c. This section shall not prohibit any YDG Executive Committee member from pursuing an office of the Democratic Party of Georgia or a subdivision thereof.

V. SECTION B§5.5. Endorsements

- a. Young Democrats of Georgia is forbidden from endorsing any candidate running for public office in an election that is either non-partisan or where multiple Democrats are running.
- b. Individual chapters of the YDG shall be permitted to endorse candidates running for office in non-partisan elections, provided that the chapter's territorial coverage includes at least one precinct in the election at issue.

VI. SECTION B§5.6. Turnover of YDG Property.

- a. Officers shall turn over all YDG property to their successors within two (2) weeks of their successors' election. The documents belonging to the YDG and which are deemed to be property of the YDG, shall include, but not be limited to, the YDG checkbook, the funds contained in said checking account, checks and monies received from outside donors or sources, cancelled checks, deposit slips, bank statements, spread sheets and audit reports. Failure to turn over any and all such documents as required by this section shall give rise to a legal cause of action to be addressed by the Board of Directors.

VII. SECTION B§5.7. Deposits.

- a. Any and all monies received by the Treasurer must be deposited in the checking account of the YDG within two (2) calendar weeks of receipt, regardless of dollar amount or the means of receipt. All deposits prior to deposit, must be verified by both the Treasurer and either the President of the YDG or another member of the YDG authorized by the President. Any fees incurred by the YDG as a result of failure to comply with this provision shall lead to the personal liability of the Treasurer and must be re-paid to the YDG checking account.

VIII. SECTION B§5.8. Duties of the President.

- a. The President shall preside at Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings and Annual and Special Conventions. In the case of absence of both the President and EVP, the president shall delegate to another Board of Directors member the job of presiding over meetings. The President shall have the power to appoint with the approval of the Executive Committee all appointed officers and all special committees deemed desirable for the operation of the YDG. The President shall serve as a member of the YDA National Committee. The President shall serve as an Ex-officio voting member of all YDG Committees. During each state convention during the President's term, he/she shall provide an Annual Report to the General Session of the convention. The President shall

not vote unless it is to make or break a tie. The President shall perform all duties assigned by the YDG Executive Committee. The President, in accordance with the policy of the Democratic Party of Georgia, shall also serve as a member of the DPG Executive Committee and the State Committee.

- IX. SECTION B§5.9. Duties of the Executive Vice President (EVP).
  - a. The EVP shall preside at all meetings in the absence of the President and shall assume the office of President if it becomes vacant. The EVP shall chair the Convention Oversight Committee and ensure coordination of the activities of the VPMem, VPProg, and VPFin. The EVP shall assist the President in the execution of their duties. The EVP shall provide a report at every Executive Committee meeting of their activities since the previous Executive Committee meeting.
  
- X. SECTION B§5.10. Duties of the Vice President of Membership (VPMem).
  - a. The VPMem shall be responsible for recruitment and retention of YDG chapters and members. The VPMem shall aid in the development of chapters. The VPMem shall serve on the Convention Oversight Committee, and serve as Ex-officio voting member of the Membership Committee. The VPMem shall provide a report at every Executive Committee meeting of their activities since the previous Executive Committee meeting.
  
- XI. SECTION B§5.11. Duties of the Vice President of Programs (VPProg)
  - a. The VPProg shall be responsible for the development and management of statewide workshops, forums, lectures, dinners, and similar events in order to inform the membership concerning political participation. The VPProg shall be responsible for coordinating the YDG Campaign effort to assist Democratic nominees and shall coordinate YDG efforts to implement the YDG legislative packet. The VPProg shall co-chair the convention oversight committee.
  
- XII. SECTION B§5.12. Duties of the Vice President of Finance (VPFin).
  - a. The VPFin shall aid in the coordination of all financial matters pertaining to the raising and disbursement of YDG funds. The VPFin, together with the President and Treasurer, shall prepare a budget prior to June 1 for submission to the YDG Executive Committee. The VPFin shall serve on the convention oversight committee. The VPFin, in coordination with the president, shall be responsible for the execution of not less than two (2) fundraisers during their term of office. The VPFin shall serve as an Ex-officio voting member of the Finance Committee. The VPFin shall provide a report at every Executive Committee meeting of their activities since the previous Executive Committee meeting.
  
- XIII. SECTION B§5.13. Duties of the Secretary.
  - a. The Secretary shall record and preserve minutes of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings and all conventions. The Secretary shall make the minutes available within ten (10) days following the event via email or other electronic means (or regular mail if requested) to all Executive Committee members, elected and appointed, and all chapter presidents or designate. The Secretary shall see that the Executive Committee approves the minutes. The Secretary shall keep records of meeting place and times and shall handle all correspondence as assigned by the President or Executive Committee. The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping a file of all Convention

Programs. The Secretary shall transmit the minutes of each Executive Committee and Board of Directors meeting to the Communications Director within ten (10) days of the meeting for distribution via email or other means to members of the executive committee and representatives of each chapter. The Secretary shall further oversee the Communications Committee and all of its activities.

- XIV. SECTION B§5.14. Duties of the Treasurer.
- a. The Treasurer shall be in charge of collecting dues from both At-Large Members and Chapters. The Treasurer shall have custody of all YDG funds and shall report at each meeting of the Executive Committee and at the State Convention on the amount of funds in the YDG treasury, debts outstanding, deposits received, and any expenditures made since the last report. If the Treasurer is unable to attend a meeting of the Executive Committee, he/she shall submit a written and detailed report no less than two (2) days prior to the meeting to the President and VPFin. Such report shall be read to the Executive Committee at that meeting. The Treasurer shall be a voting, Ex-officio member of the Finance Committee.
- XV. SECTION B§5.15. Duties of the National Committee Representatives.
- a. The National Committee Representatives shall represent the YDG at all YDA functions and shall report YDA activities and information to the YDG Executive Committee for discussion and input. The National Committee Representatives have the express responsibility to attend all YDA National Meetings, unless a valid excuse prevents their attendance, in which case proxies shall be submitted if practicable. The YDA Committee Members in accordance with the policy of the Democratic Party of Georgia, shall serve as members of the DPG State Committee.

## BYLAWS ARTICLE VI: APPOINTED OFFICERS

- I. SECTION B§6.1. Appointed Officers.
- a. The Appointed Officers of the YDG are the Chief of Staff, Political Director, Communications Director, Parliamentarian, Press Secretary, Campaigns Director, and Activist Director. Additional Appointed Officers may be appointed by the President as necessary, subject to confirmation by the Executive Committee.
- II. SECTION B§6.2. Confirmation
- a. The Appointed Officers shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee by majority vote following notification. If the President does not name appointments for each of the Appointed Officers by the second regular Executive Committee meeting, the Board of Directors shall make and the Executive Committee shall approve any such appointments that the President has not yet made.
- III. SECTION B§6.3 Qualifications, Turnover of Property.
- a. Appointed officers must meet the same qualification requirements as the Elected Officers. Appointed Officers shall turn over all YDG property to their successors in the same way as the Elected Officers.
- IV. SECTION B§6.4. Vacancy, Removal

- a. In the event of a vacancy in an appointed office, the position shall be filled in the manner described in the Bylaws.
- b. Upon written recommendation of the President, the Executive Committee, by one third (1/3) vote, shall remove any appointed officer.

V. SECTION B§6.5 Duties

a. SECTION B§6.5.1 Chief of Staff.

- i. The Chief of Staff shall be responsible for working with all non-elected positions. The Chief of Staff shall be a liaison between the President and non-elected positions, and shall ensure that those positions are completing tasks delegated to them. The Chief of Staff shall also be responsible for the completion of any tasks so delegated by the President.

b. SECTION B§6.5.2. Political Director.

- i. The Political Director of the YDG shall be responsible for maintaining any legislative internship program and shall be a liaison to the Georgia General Assembly and advocacy groups under the direction of the Executive Vice President. The Political Director shall provide a report at every Executive Committee meeting of their activities since the previous Executive Committee meeting. The Political Director shall also be responsible for preparing and enacting the YDG Legislative Plan.

c. SECTION B§6.5.3. Communications Director.

- i. The Communications Director shall be responsible for the creation, publication, and distribution of the YDG newsletter in coordination with the Secretary. The Communications Director shall provide a report at every Executive Committee meeting of their activities since the previous Executive Committee meeting.

d. SECTION B§6.5.4. Parliamentarian.

- i. The Parliamentarian shall assist the Executive Committee, its committees and its members in their compliance with this charter and all other charters under which the YDG operates and will assist in drafting legislative proposals. The Parliamentarian shall also assist the Executive Committee and its committees with respect to matters of parliamentary procedure.

e. SECTION B§6.5.5. Press Secretary.

- i. The Press Secretary shall be responsible for issuing press releases for the organization, in conjunction with YDG Staff and under the direction of the Secretary and Communications Director, coordinating the sending of letters to publications on behalf of the organization, and serving as a media liaison for the organization with the Executive Director. The Press Secretary shall provide a report at every Executive Committee meeting of their activities since the previous Executive Committee meeting.

f. SECTION B§6.5.6. Campaigns Director

- i. The Campaigns Director shall be responsible for tracking GA legislative and Congressional races, and providing information to the President and Board of

Directors on key races. The Campaigns Director shall provide reports as requested to the Executive Committee. The Campaigns Director shall coordinate with DPG and YDG personnel as appropriate in any given election cycle.

- g. SECTION B§6.5.7. Activism Director
  - i. The Activism Director will be responsible for outreach and coordination to other progressive activists around the state of Georgia. The Activism Director shall provide a report at every Executive Committee meeting of their activities since the previous Executive Committee meeting. The Activism Director shall serve as a direct report to the VP of Membership. The Activism Director shall also be responsible for preparing and enacting the YDG Activism Plan in coordination with the VP of Membership, the Political Director, and the Campaigns Chair.

## BYLAWS ARTICLE VII: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- I. SECTION B§7.1. Electronic Voting.
  - a. The Board of Directors may conduct voting on business via e-mail.
  - b. The Board of Directors may adopt other electronic methods of voting as it deems fit so long as the Secretary can uniquely identify individuals and their votes.
  - c. All members of the Board of Directors are required to maintain an e-mail and, where required, other account for the adopted electronic method and to provide the Secretary with their current e-mail address and, where required, other account identifier.
  - d. The proposed resolution must be supported by at least thirty-three percent (33%) of the Board of Directors, including the person making the motion, and shall be voted upon by e-mail or adopted electronic method. The Secretary shall send the proposed resolution by e-mail or adopted electronic method to each member of the Board of Directors. The subject heading or text of the e-mail or adopted electronic method shall state “YDG Exec Urgent Electronic Vote” or similar wording. In the e-mail or adopted electronic method, the Secretary shall clearly specify the numbers of votes necessary for the resolution to pass, and when the voting period begins and ends.
  - e. Voting on the resolution shall begin immediately after the Secretary sends the resolution by e-mail or adopted electronic method to each member of the Board of Directors. Members of the Board of Directors shall have 48 hours to vote in favor or against the resolution. Amendments shall not be considered. Each member of the Board of Directors shall vote only one time in the 48 hour period permitted for voting. Passage of the resolution shall require at least an absolute majority of the Board of Directors voting in favor of the resolution, not just a majority of those casting votes.
  - f. Members of the Board of Directors shall send their votes by e-mail or adopted electronic method to the Secretary with copies to all of the other members of the Board of Directors. The e-mail message must clearly indicate whether the vote is in favor or against the resolution. Within 24 hours of the close of voting, the Secretary shall send the results of the vote by e-mail and, where applicable, by adopted electronic method to all members of the Board of Directors. The resolution and copies of the votes of the members of the Board of Directors shall be maintained by the Secretary and filed with the minutes of proceedings of the Board of Directors.
- II. SECTION B§7.2. Meeting Gavel Order, Rules of Order, & Quorum.

- a. In the absence of the President and the EVP, the gavel order shall be set by the order in which the elected officers were elected at state convention. In the absence of all elected officers, the Board of Directors members present shall elect a chair.
- b. The YDG Board of Directors has the power to adopt Special Rules of Order and Standing Rules for Board of Directors meetings and activities.
- c. The quorum for the Young Democrats of Georgia Board of Directors shall constitute at least five (5) members.

## BYLAWS ARTICLE VIII: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- I. SECTION B§8.1 Rules of Order, Quorum.
  - a. The YDG Executive Committee has the power to adopt Special Rules of Order and Standing Rules for State Committee meetings and activities. The quorum for the Young Democrats of Georgia Executive Committee shall constitute representatives of at least five (5) chartered chapters and five (5) other Executive Committee members.
- II. SECTION B§7.1. Electronic Voting.
  - a. The Executive Committee may conduct voting on business via e-mail.
  - b. The Executive Committee may adopt other electronic methods of voting as it deems fit so long as the Secretary can uniquely identify individuals and their votes.
  - c. All members of the Executive Committee are required to maintain an e-mail and/or other account for the adopted electronic method and to provide the Secretary with their current e-mail address and/or account identifier.
  - d. Proposed motions must be supported by at least thirty-three percent (33%) of the Executive Committee, including the person making the motion, and shall be voted upon by e-mail, adopted electronic, or in-person means. The Secretary or Chair shall send the proposed resolution by chosen method to each member of the Executive Committee. The Secretary shall clearly specify the numbers of votes necessary for the resolution to pass, and when the voting period begins and ends. The time period for voting must be at least 24 hours, except in the case of amendments.
  - e. Passage of a motion shall at minimum require a majority of those voting, provided that the votes compromise at least a quorum for the Executive Committee.

## BYLAWS ARTICLE IX: COMMITTEES & CAUCUSES

- I. SECTION B§9.1. Standing Committees Generally.
  - a. The Standing Committees shall be Campaign, Charter and Bylaws, Platform, Membership, Budget and Finance, Political and Legislative, Communications, and Issues. Standing Committees shall be chaired by a member of the YDG appointed by the President subject to the approval of the Executive Committee. Standing Committees shall meet at the call of the Chair and in a manner defined by the chair. Each chartered chapter is eligible to have at least one (1) voting representative on each Standing Committee. Each Standing Committee shall be directly supervised by one Board of Directors member, who also serves on the committee ex-officio.
- II. SECTION B§9.2. Standing Committee on Campaign.
  - a. The Standing Committee on Campaign shall meet at the call of its Chair and shall be responsible for the development, implementation, and submission to the Executive

Committee for approval of a state campaign plan and shall assist in the development and implementation of individual campaign plans for each chartered chapter upon request. The VPProg shall supervise this committee.

III. SECTION B§9.3. Standing Committee on Charter and By-laws.

- a. The Standing Committee on Charter and By-Laws shall meet at the call of its Chair or the YDG President and shall review and recommend the adoption or deletion of rules governing the Executive Committee and/or amendments to this Charter and Bylaws. No rule change, Charter amendment or Bylaw amendment shall be submitted to the Executive Committee until it has been favorably reported out of this committee. The EVP shall supervise this committee.

IV. SECTION B§9.4. Standing Committee on Platform.

- a. The Standing Committee on Platform shall plan and execute an annual Platform convention to recommend to the State Convention an Annual Platform for the YDG and shall consider any proper plank proposals submitted. A proper plank proposal is a statement of general principle that is generally timeless. Proposals that express support or opposition to a current piece of legislation, reference a specific person, provide a statement of gratitude for service, or sorrow about a specific death are out of order at Platform convention and should be referred to the Resolutions Committee at State Convention. The VPProg shall supervise this committee.

V. SECTION B§9.5. Standing Committee on Membership.

- a. The Standing Committee on Membership shall meet at call of its Chair and shall be responsible for the design, coordination, and implementation of state membership projects. The Committee shall be responsible for review, modification, implementation and submission to the Executive Committee for approval of the State Membership Plan. The Committee shall work with the officers, staff, and consultants engaged in fundraising on behalf of the YDG to effectively oversee these programs and ensure their successful implementation. The Standing Committee on Membership shall be overseen directly by the Vice President of Membership. The VPMem supervises this committee.
  - i. The President of YDG shall have the power to appoint Congressional District directors, who serve at the pleasure of the President, to serve on the Membership Committee as liaisons between chapters in a certain Congressional District, the permanent caucuses, and the Membership Committee as a whole. Congressional District Directors may also develop programs to charter new chapters within their districts and plan events that promote district unity. The district boundaries and number shall be defined by the Congressional Districts of Georgia.

VI. SECTION B§9.6. Standing Committee on Budget and Finance.

- a. The Standing Committee on Budget and Finance shall meet at the call of its Chair and shall be responsible for the design, coordination and implementation of state fundraising projects. The Committee shall be responsible for review, modification, implementation and submission to the Executive Committee for approval of the State Fundraising Plan. The Committee shall work with the officers, staff, and consultants engaged in fundraising

on behalf of the YDG to effectively oversee these programs and ensure their successful implementation.

- b. The Standing Committee on Budget and Finance shall also draw up a budget to be presented for approval at the second Executive Committee meeting after the State Convention closes and before June 1 of that same calendar year. At this Executive Meeting, a balanced and final budget draft of the budget for the next YD fiscal year must be approved for recommendation to the State Committee. If the budget is not recommended by the adjournment of the second Executive Committee meeting following the closing of the state convention, then no money shall be appropriated from the YDG treasury except to resolve the debts outstanding until a budget is recommended. The Standing Committee on Budget and Finance shall be overseen directly by the Vice President of Finance and Treasurer.

VII. SECTION B§9.7 Officers of Standing Committees.

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

VIII. SECTION B§9.8. Voting in Standing Committees.

- a. Although a specific individual should be certified in writing to represent each chartered chapter in each Standing Committee, any unit member present may represent and cast the vote of their unit in any meeting of a Standing Committee when the certified representative is not present. The officers of the Standing Committee shall not be entitled to a vote because of their position as an officer. However, the Vice Chair and Secretary may cast the vote of the unit they represent provided they are not serving in the capacity of Chair at the time of the vote.

IX. SECTION B§9.9. Duties of Standing Committee Chairs.

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

X. SECTION B§9.10 Permanent Caucuses.

- a. The permanent standing caucuses shall be the Minority Caucus, the Women's Caucus, the Black Caucus, the LatinX Caucus, the Rural Caucus, the Veteran's Caucus, and the LGBTQ (alternatively referred to as Stonewall) Caucus, and shall be coordinated and chaired by the appropriate Chair. Caucuses shall meet at the call of the Chair and in a manner defined by the chair.

XI. SECTION B§9.11 Addition of New Caucuses.

- a. New caucuses may be created upon petition of at least three members by the recommendation of the President, with majority approval of the Executive Committee.

XII. SECTION B§9.12 Caucus Chairs and Responsibilities.

- a. The Chairs of each caucus shall be elected at their respective gathering at the annual YDG convention.
  - b. Caucuses shall be responsible for recruitment of members into YDG, in conjunction with the Membership Committee, and the creation of programs related to its membership, with the VPProg.
- XIII. SECTION B§9.13. Convention Committees Generally.
- a. Convention Committees shall be Awards, Credentials, Rules, and Resolutions. The President shall appoint with approval of the Executive Committee the chairs of all Convention Committees. Committee vacancies, other than the Chair of any committee, shall be filled by appointment of the chapter president. All Convention Committees shall be composed of a chair and one representative from each chapter.
- XIV. SECTION B§9.14. Awards Committee.
- a. The Awards committee shall be authorized to grant Honorary Memberships. Nominations for Honorary Membership may be submitted to the Awards Chair up to thirty (30) days prior to the State Convention. Recipients will be announced at the State Convention.
- XV. SECTION B§9.15. Special Committees.
- a. The YDG President shall have the power to appoint with the approval of the Executive Committee any Special Committee (and its members) deemed necessary for the operation of the YDG. As soon as the Special Committee presents its final report, the Special Committee is automatically dismissed. Vacancies in Special Committees are filled by appointment by the President.

## BYLAWS ARTICLE XI: JUDICIAL COUNCIL

- I. SECTION B§11.1. Review
- a. In order for the Judicial Council to review an issue, a forty percent (40%) vote of the Executive Committee present requesting such a review shall be required, unless the convention is in session, in which case a forty percent (40%) vote of the members of credentialed chapters shall be required.
- II. SECTION B§11.2. Quorum and Rules
- a. Quorum for the Judicial Council shall be five (5) members at least one of whom must include the Parliamentarian. The Judicial Council shall set the rules by which it deliberates and is governed.
- III. SECTION B§11.3. Member & Chapter Expulsion
- a. Any member may be expelled by their chapter in accordance with the chapter's bylaws. An at-large member of YDG may be expelled in the same way as a chapter may be expelled.
  - b. To expel a chapter for just cause or for violation of the YDG Charter and Bylaws requires a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Executive Committee. What constitutes "just cause" is to be at the discretion of the Executive Committee, but may include, though is not limited to: failure to comply with the chapter's governing documents, failure to adhere

to the YDG Charter and Bylaws, prolonged chapter inactivity, or failure to comply with the vision and mission of YDG.

- c. The Chapter may appeal this decision to the Judicial Council. A one-half (1/2) vote of the Judicial Council is required to reverse the expulsion. This option shall consist of a comprehensive unified appeal and may only be utilized once.

## BYLAWS ARTICLE XII: STAFF

- I. SECTION B§12.1. Executive Director.
  - a. The Executive Director shall serve as the administrator of the state office of the YDG. The Executive Director shall work under the day-to-day supervision of the President and shall be responsible for supervising staff and contractors and implementing programs and projects as assigned by the President and the Executive Committee.
- II. SECTION B§12.2. Other Staff and Contractors.
  - a. Other staff and contractors shall be hired as necessary and as provided for in the budget to fulfill programs and projects as assigned by the President and the Executive Committee. These staff and contractors shall work under the day-to-day supervision of the Executive Director or an officer or staff member designated by the Executive Director.
- III. SECTION B§12.3. Employment, Contracting and Human Resources.
  - a. The Board of Directors shall establish written policies and processes for all matters relating to hiring, bidding, managing and terminating of employees or contractors, specifically providing for the fair and equal opportunity of employment, evaluation and treatment of all employees and contractors. In the absence of such written policies and procedures, which must be passed by a majority (1/2) vote of the Board of Directors, YDG may not hire any individuals to serve in paid positions.
- IV. SECTION B§12.4. Vendor Qualifications.
  - a. Any external vendors retained by the organization, whether at cost or without any cost incurred by YDG, the vendor must provide a prospectus or CV of their relevant qualifications before any action can be taken based on their advice.
- V. Section B§12.5. Free Legal Council.
  - a. The Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or President may retain free legal counsel for matters related to the organization. Nothing in these Bylaws shall be interpreted to restrict this allowance except for adherence to Section B§12.4.

## BYLAWS ARTICLE XIII: LEGAL MATTERS

- I. SECTION B§13.1. Liability.
  - a. The members of the YDG shall not be liable for the debts or actions of the YDG, except to the extent of any unpaid portion of their respective dues, nor shall the YDG be liable for the unauthorized acts of any of its members unless so ratified by the YDG Executive Committee. Where gross misspending or unauthorized spending occurs, said officer or officers involved shall be personally liable for any and all debts incurred.
- II. SECTION B§13.2. Mandatory Reporter Training.

- a. Section §13.2 in its entirety is effective as of the March 2019 Convention.
- b. YDG and its chapters are subject to mandatory reporter status under Georgia law as organizations that provide trainings and programming for individuals under the age of eighteen. Each newly elected YDG Board, or vacancy appointments to the same, shall be required to complete training covering their duties as mandatory reporters within thirty days of assuming office, with an acknowledgement form to be filed with YDG's Secretary upon completion.
- c. The Board shall also require the officers of all chapters to complete training provided by the YDG as a mandatory requirement for chartered status, with an acknowledgement form to be filed with YDG's Secretary upon completion. Chapters shall require newly elected officers and vacancy appointments to complete this training within thirty days of assuming office.
- d. The Board shall conduct a training at each Convention, and shall require all Chapters to confirm when their officer elections are to be held. Any chapter that fails to notify YDG's Secretary of when their officer elections are to be held, or does not complete their mandatory training within the required time, their charter shall be deemed to automatically have been revoked as of the date of noncompliance, and shall not be restored until proof of full compliance has been provided.
- e. The newly-elected YDG Board shall distribute a training to all chapters within thirty days of the March 2019 Convention, and shall require all chapters to provide proof of full compliance within 30 days of receipt of the training. This sub-provision shall be operative until the 2020 Convention, at which time it shall be removed.

III. SECTION B§13.3. Board Procedures for Legal Matters

- a. Immediately upon any legal matter being brought to the attention of a YDG elected officer, that officer shall notify the full Board, and call for an emergency Board meeting to discuss any additional steps needed, such as retaining the advice of outside legal counsel, notifying DPG's counsel, or contacting the appropriate authorities. Legal matters are to be resolved by the Board through this internal process and are not to be addressed via the Judicial Council.

IV. SECTION B§13.4 Privacy Policy

- a. Privacy of member personal data (personal data is defined as name, age, mailing address, permanent address, email address, phone number, and other identifying information) shall be maintained at all times. Member personal data shall not be sold or shared outside of YDG, its parent, and its subsidiary organizations without the consent of the personal data subject.

## APPENDIX: EDITOR'S NOTES

During the past two revision cycles, the Charter and Bylaws Committee was not able to address certain areas satisfactorily, and strongly recommend that the next administration's Charter and Bylaw team consider the following issues. This list also includes areas for review referred by the in-person meeting of the YDG Executive Committee.

### I. Items from 2021 Convention

- A. Ability for Co-chairs to be a method for caucus leadership
- B. ExComm e-meetings/allow work "voting" over slack outside of called meetings, etc.
- C. Revisit the need for the distance formula, removal?
- D. Recharting fees
- E. EXcomm SHALL have 3 months from 4/11/21 to consider access to broadband and voting in convention, to work with rural caucus on suggestions, etc and present bylaws changes as such to B.4.13.b. to the YDG.

### II. Older items

- A. Cleaning up the credentialing process at Convention - recommended to work in conjunction with prior
- B. Whether to make EX-COM call attendance mandatory for YDG chapters
- C. Further clarifying the YDA delegation selection process, and the organization's policy on the use of official YDG funds to subsidize the delegation
- D. Reviewing the Committee and Caucus structure to address mission overlap, low participation, and an absence of a committee description for the Rules and Resolutions committees.
- E. The addition of an appendix outlining all Charter and Bylaw-mandated deadlines, and an outline of state Convention processes with a timeline to assist with compliance
- F. Conduct a review of DPG and YDA bylaws to make sure that terminology is being consistently used across the documents.
- G. Working to ensure the Judicial Council is independent from the rest of the organization. One suggestion is to have Regional Directors call for Judicial Council candidates from within their regions, each chapter in the region to vote on their representative for the Council.
- H. Further follow ups on the mandatory reporter training: we want a training that goes beyond the minimum needed to cover against legal liability. Also, add cross-references to the chartering and credentialing requirements for chapters that refers to the mandatory reporter training requirements.
- I. Review and consider revising the deadlines and dates defined for fiscal years, audits, budget deadlines, and executive committee meetings. The goal would be to streamline this process so that more of the dates involved match up.
- J. Annual dues from the chapters to the YDG as part of the charter renewal process.

**CERTIFICATION OF BYLAWS**

The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Bylaws of the Young Democrats of Georgia as amended including amendments certified by the Secretary of the Young Democrats of Georgia, as adopted by the YDG Convention on April 11, 2021.

Rachel M. Paule, President  
Young Democrats of Georgia

Sean Matthew Calahan, Chair  
Standing Committee on Charter and Bylaws