



## THE CONSTITUTION OF THE YOUNG DEMOCRATS OF ARKANSAS

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### CONSTITUTION ARTICLE I NAME

SECTION 1 – The name of this organization shall be the Young Democrats of Arkansas (hereinafter referred to in this constitution and bylaws as “YDAR”). We are and shall remain affiliated with the Young Democrats of America (“YDA”) and with the Democratic Party of Arkansas (“DPA”).

### CONSTITUTION ARTICLE II PURPOSE

SECTION 1 – The purpose of the YDAR is to inspire in the young people of Arkansas an active interest in governmental affairs and promote their involvement in the political process; to promote policies and practices that are consistent with the highest principles of the Democratic Party and to support candidates who live up to such principles; to promote the highest degree of justice and social welfare for the citizens of this State and Country; and to serve as a voice for young people within the Democratic Party.

### CONSTITUTION ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 – Eligibility: Any resident of Arkansas who has not yet reached the age of thirty-six (36) who has openly and in good faith declared their allegiance to the fundamental principles, purposes, objectives, platforms and practices of YDAR shall be eligible for membership in the Young Democrats of Arkansas, subject to the requirements and restrictions as set forth in this Constitution.

Section 2 – Membership: a. A “Member” of Young Democrats of Arkansas must be a member in good standing of a duly chartered chapter of YDAR, as set forth in Article IV of this constitution, who is a resident or domiciliary in the state of Arkansas, or a student of a fully accredited high school, college, university or institution of higher learning in the state of Arkansas; and

b. A member of a duly chartered chapter must provide the following information to their local chapter before that person will be recognized as a “Member” of YDAR, further contingent upon the membership requirements established in said chartered chapter’s constitution and bylaws:

1. Full name;
2. Date of birth;
3. Phone number;
4. Current Residential Mailing address; and
5. E-mail address.

c. A “Member” of YDAR must first be recognized as a member of a local chapter except as set forth in Section 3(b) below.

Section 3 – Limitations and Exceptions: a. No person shall be allowed membership to more than one (1) duly chartered chapter of YDAR at any given time.

b. An Arkansas resident, not yet thirty-six (36) years old, shall be allowed to be a “Member-at-Large” of YDAR so long as that person does not meet the requirements of any duly chartered chapter of YDAR. Failure to pay dues to a chartered chapter that an individual is otherwise qualified to join shall not qualify an individual for membership-at-large.

c. Persons qualifying as a Member-at-Large shall provide YDAR with the information required of Active Members as set forth in Article III, Section 2(b) of this constitution, as well as the county in which he or she is employed if applicable.

d. No more than two (2) persons shall be allowed to qualify as Members-at-Large from any county within the state of Arkansas.

Section 4 – Non-Discrimination Clause: Neither YDAR nor any duly chartered chapter of YDAR shall discriminate in any proceeding, bylaw or vote on the basis of race, religion, national origin, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability or past political activity or affiliation.

Section 5 – Liability: The members of YDAR shall not be liable for the debts or actions of YDAR except to the extent of any unpaid portion of their respective dues, nor shall YDAR be liable for the unauthorized acts of its members unless so ratified by YDAR Executive Board unanimously or YDAR Executive Committee by a simple majority. Where spending, which is unauthorized in its nature or amount, occurs, the officer or officers involved shall be personally liable for any and all debts incurred.

**CONSTITUTION  
ARTICLE IV  
ORGANIZATION**

Section 1 – This organization shall be composed of all duly chartered chapters, as set forth in this Article of this constitution, and at-large-members, as established in Article III, Section 3 of this constitution.

Section 2 – Duly Chartered Chapters: Duly chartered chapters shall include and be limited to:

- a. County Chapters (including multi-county chapters);
  - i. Multi-county chapters may not encompass more than three (3) counties;
  - ii. Those counties joining together in Multi-County chapters must be contiguous with each of the other counties in the chapter; and
  - iii. Multi-county chapters must be fully contained within a single Congressional District
  - iv. County and Multi-County chapter officers and members must reside, work or receive an education in the county where they are a member.
- b. College Chapters (including all post-secondary educational institutions); and
  - i. College Chapter officers and members must be registered students, faculty or staff of the school where they are a member.
- c. High school chapters (including all elementary, middle, junior and high schools).
  - i. High School chapter officers and members must be registered students, faculty or staff of the school where they are a member.
- d. The Bylaws of YDAR shall establish the criteria for chartering the various chapters of YDAR, including but not limited to the establishment of chapter chartering dues, which shall be determined by the number of members included on the chapter roster at the time of chartering each year, and shall not be less than \$0.50 per member listed.

Section 3 – The authoritative and governing body of YDAR shall be the State Convention, which shall meet pursuant to and abide by the provisions of Article V of this constitution.

Section 4 – At such times as the State Convention is in adjournment, the State Committee shall be the authoritative and governing body of YDAR.

Section 5 – The State Committee: a. The State Committee shall consist of the following individuals:

- i. All elected State Officers;
- ii. The immediate Past-President;
- iii. One (1) woman and one (1) male from each congressional district who shall be elected by congressional district caucuses annually at

State Convention specifically for the purpose of serving on the State Committee;

1. The appropriate congressional district for persons participating in congressional district caucuses shall be determined based upon the location of the duly chartered chapter through which they derive membership in YDAR, or
2. The county in which at-large members are residing, working or receiving an education.

- iv. The one (1) woman and one (1) man from each congressional district who shall be elected by congressional district caucuses annually at State Convention specifically for the purpose of serving on the Executive Committee;
  1. The appropriate congressional district for persons participating in congressional district caucuses shall be determined based upon the location of the duly chartered chapter through which they derive membership in YDAR, or
  2. The county in which at-large members are residing, working or receiving an education.
- v. The one (1) woman and one (1) man from each congressional district who shall be elected by congressional district caucuses annually at State Convention specifically for the purpose of serving on the YDAR DPA State & Judiciary Committee. These members shall be non-voting members of the YDAR State Committee.
  1. The appropriate congressional district for persons participating in congressional district caucuses shall be determined based upon the location of the duly chartered chapter through which they derive membership in YDAR, or
  2. The county in which at-large members are residing, working or receiving an education.
- vi. Chartered Chapter Presidents;
- vii. One member from each duly chartered chapter as appointed by the respective chapter president;
- viii. Appointed state officers as named in the Bylaws; and
- ix. Young Democrats of America National Committee members that reside in Arkansas;
- x. The President of the College Democrats of Arkansas.
- xi. The President of the Teen Democrats of Arkansas.

- xii. Standing Committee chairpersons.
- b. The State Committee shall meet at least quarterly and upon the call of the President of YDAR or a majority of the elected state officers. Thirty (30) days written notice of any meeting shall be provided to all members of the State Committee and to the general membership of YDAR. Written notice shall be satisfied through direct mail or electronic mail.
- c. If any member of the State Committee shall be absent from two (2) consecutive state committee meetings without cause, a vacancy may be declared by the President, who shall then nominate a replacement subject to confirmation by a majority vote of present members of the State Committee.
- d. The State Committee shall make space and time available for the meeting of the standing committees as set out in the bylaws and hear standing committee reports during the State Committee meeting.
- e. State Committee meetings shall be broadcast over phone conference and must be made available to all members of YDAR. Phone conferencing shall only be used to increase accountability and transparency and shall not be used for voting in absentia, unless votes cast in absentia via phone conference is approved by unanimous consent of the State Committee members physically present at the meeting.
- f. The attendance of 1/3 (33%) of voting members is required to constitute a quorum of the State Committee. The State Committee shall be prohibited from conducting any official business in the absence of a quorum.

Section 6 – The Executive Committee:

- a. The Executive Committee shall consist of the following individuals:
  - i. All elected State Officers;
  - ii. One (1) woman and one (1) man from each congressional district who shall be elected by congressional district caucuses annually at State Convention specifically for the purpose of serving on the Executive Committee; and
    - 1. The appropriate congressional district for persons participating in congressional district caucuses shall be determined based upon the location of the duly chartered chapter through which they derive membership to YDAR, or
    - 2. The county in which at-large members are residing, working or receiving an education.
  - iii. Any Young Democrats of America Executive Committee members who reside in the state of Arkansas.

- iv. The immediate past-president shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Executive Committee.
- b. The Executive Committee shall constitute a planning and advisory board which shall be empowered to implement YDA policy between meetings of the State Committee.
- c. The meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held at such times and places as the President or three (3) members of the Committee shall specify. Thirty (30) days written notice of the time and place of any such meetings shall be provided to all members of the Executive Committee.
- d. The Executive Committee shall prepare and approve an annual budget for YDAR. In the event that an elected officer submits a budget for approval, thirty (30) days shall be provided for submission of amendments by Executive Committee members before final approval or rejection.
- e. The Executive Committee shall promulgate such budgetary rules as may be necessary to advance the goals and functions of YDAR.
- f. The fiscal year of YDAR shall begin on each July 1.

Section 7 – The DPA State & Judiciary Committee: a. The DPA State & Judiciary Committee shall consist of the following individuals:

- i. One (1) woman and one (1) man from each congressional district who shall be elected by congressional district caucuses annually at State Convention specifically for the purpose of serving on the Judiciary Committee.
- b. The DPA State & Judiciary shall convene (by teleconference or otherwise) within fourteen (14) days of receiving a complaint from a member of YDAR.
- c. The DPA State & Judiciary shall elect from among its members a Chief Justice.
- d. The DPA State & Judiciary committee shall not issue advisory opinions on interpretational questions. Every judiciary or committee opinion shall be dated and kept on file in the YDAR records and shall be attached to or identify the constitution and bylaws in effect at the time of writing.
- e. The members of the DPA State & Judiciary committee shall also serve as the YDAR representatives on the DPA State Committee.

Section 8 – Elected Officers: a. the elected state officers shall be as follows:

- i. President;
  - ii. Vice President;
  - iii. Secretary-Treasurer;
  - iv. National Committeewoman; and
  - v. National Committeeman
- b. Additional state officers and the selection thereof may be provided for in the Bylaws.
- c. All elected state officers shall be elected by a majority of the credentialed delegates to the State Convention. Members must strictly comply with the membership requirements of Article III of this constitution in order to be deemed credentialed delegates, as defined in Article V of this constitution.
- d. The term of office for the President shall be two (2) years and the election for which shall occur in every odd numbered year.
- e. The term of office for the Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer shall be one (1) year.
- f. The term of office for the National Committeewoman and National Committeeman shall be two (2) years and the election for which shall occur in every even numbered year.
- g. All terms of office shall begin on the first day of the month following the State Convention in which the officer was elected and shall last until the last day of the month following the State Convention in which a successor is chosen.
- h. No person shall hold any office for more than two (2) terms.
- i. No person shall run for an elected office unless his or her entire term can be served while eligible for membership in YDAR.
- j. All candidates for elected office must have been a member in good standing of any duly chartered chapter for a continuous ninety (90) day immediately preceding the day the election is held for that office. A candidate shall not be penalized for transferring membership from one duly chartered chapter to another duly chartered chapter, as long as the above requirements are met.

**CONSTITUTION  
ARTICLE V  
STATE CONVENTION**

Section 1 – YDAR shall assemble in State Convention every calendar year for the purposes of electing officers, for considering constitutional amendments, for adopting resolutions and the transacting of any other business that may properly

come before the convention. The YDAR State Convention shall convene beginning the third Friday in April. The State Committee, by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) approval, may temporarily modify the date of State Convention as needed; however, such a vote must occur prior to the end of February in the year of the effected convention.

Section 2 – Convention Committee:

- a. The convention committee shall be chaired by the State Convention Chairperson, who shall be appointed by the President no later than thirty (30) preceding the Friday of State Convention.
- b. The Convention Chairperson shall be charged with the responsibility of planning and scheduling state convention; delegating to the elected officers certain responsibilities; and assembling volunteers, speakers and trainers as may be required to host a successful state convention.
- c. The Convention Chairperson shall not express any preference for any candidate seeking office, but shall retain the right to vote once properly credentialed.

Section 3 – Credentials:

The credentials committee, whose composition shall be set forth in the bylaws, shall submit to the State Committee for approval a roster of the credentialed delegates who shall serve as the voting assembly of the State Convention.

Section 4 – Convention Quorum:

Following the approval of the credentials committee report by a simple majority of the State Committee, a quorum, as necessary for hearing the business of State Convention, shall be the presence of fifty percent (50%) plus one of the credentialed delegates.

Section 5 – Notices:

- a. Written notice shall be provided to the general membership of YDAR no later than thirty (30) days prior to the Friday of State Convention regarding the location of the State Convention, chapter chartering procedures, hotel availability and rates, and registration procedures. Written notice shall be satisfied through mail or electronic communication addressed and delivered to the general membership.
- b. Written notice shall be provided to the various duly-chartered chapters of YDAR no later than thirty (30) days prior to the Friday of State Convention regarding the date and location of State Convention and shall include the contact information for the Chairperson of the State Convention.

Section 6 – Voting:

- a. Only credentialed delegates shall have a vote in State Convention proceedings.
- b. Only present delegates shall have a vote.
- c. Elections procedures and ballot form shall be established by the elections committee unless guidelines are established in the Bylaws.

Section 7 – Registration: Registration guidelines shall be established in the Bylaws.

Section 8 – Site Selection: Site selection guidelines shall be established in the Bylaws.

**CONSTITUTION  
ARTICLE VI  
BYLAWS**

The governing body of the YDAR may adopt and/or amend those Bylaws which it deems necessary. A vote of two-thirds (2/3) majority of those members of the State Committee present and voting, whereupon quorum is met, is required for amending the Bylaws. A simple majority of the present and voting delegates, whereupon quorum is met, shall be required at the State Convention for amending the Bylaws.

**CONSTITUTION  
ARTICLE VII  
AMENDMENT AND RATIFICATION**

Section 1 – This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the delegates to State Convention.

Section 2 – Any proposed amendment of the Constitution not promulgated by the Constitution, Bylaws, and Adjudication Committee must be submitted in writing to the Convention Chairperson ten (10) days prior to the convening of the State Convention.

Section 3 – Adopted amendments to the Constitution and/or Bylaws shall take effect on the first day of the month following the State Convention in which the amendment was adopted.

**CONSTITUTION  
ARTICLE VIII  
PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

The Robert's Rules of Order, current on the date applied, shall govern all deliberations of the Young Democrats of Arkansas, unless otherwise provided for herein this Constitution or the Bylaws of YDAR, or superseded by the promulgation of a rule by the

Rules Committee. Unless otherwise stated herein, any proceeding of YDAR requires the attendance of fifty percent (50%) plus one to meet a quorum necessary to conduct the business of YDAR.

#### **CERTIFICATION OF CONSTITUTION**

The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of The Constitution of the Young Democrats of Arkansas was ratified by the State Convention of the Young Democrats of Arkansas and certified by the President of the Young Democrats of Arkansas and the Chairman of the Constitution, Bylaws and Adjudication Committee on Saturday, April 17, 2010 in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Christopher Burks, President  
Young Democrats of Arkansas

Adam B. Fogleman, Chairman  
Constitution, Bylaws & Adjudication  
Standing Committee