



# **Constitution of the Nebraska Young Democrats**

**As Amended March 31, 2012  
NYD State Convention, Lincoln, Nebraska**

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## **Preamble**

## Constitution of the Nebraska Young Democrats

We, the Nebraska Young Democrats (NYD), in order to stimulate in young people an active interest in our government and promote their involvement in the political process, to promote the policies and practices which are consistent with the principles of the Democratic Party and to support candidates who live up to such principles, to increase voter turnout among young people and to provide the highest degree of justice and social welfare for the citizens of this country, do associate ourselves together and establish this Constitution.

### **ARTICLE I.**

#### **Name, Purpose, and Affiliation.**

**Section I.** This organization shall be known as the Nebraska Young Democrats and shall be referred to hereafter in this document as NYD.

**Section II.** NYD shall serve as the Youth Caucus of the Nebraska Democratic Party. In this capacity, it shall be the sole official organization representing young and college-aged people in the Nebraska Democratic Party.

**Section III.** NYD shall affiliate with the Young Democrats of America and the College Democrats of America.

**Section IV.** The purpose of the NYD shall be to increase political activity among young Democrats in the state of Nebraska and represent the interests and needs of young people to the Nebraska Democratic Party.

### **ARTICLE II.**

#### **Organization and Structure.**

**Section I.** This organization shall be composed of chartered chapters of NYD in the State of Nebraska as hereafter designated.

**Section II.** The structure of NYD leadership shall be as follows:

- a.) The Executive Committee shall serve as the governing body of the NYD between State Conventions.
- b.) The Executive Committee shall be comprised of elected officers and non-voting members as established in Article VII.

### **ARTICLE III.**

#### **Membership.**

**Section I.** Any Nebraska citizen or resident, or any individual involved in a chartered chapter of NYD, regardless of race, creed, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, socio-economic status or national origin, who professes and demonstrates allegiance to the philosophic principles and goals of the Democratic Party, and who is not registered or affiliated with any political party other than the Democratic Party, shall be eligible to become a member of NYD.

**Section II.** There shall be two (2) classes of membership in NYD;

- a.) Regular. An individual, having met the criteria in Article III, Section I, who has attained his or her thirteenth (13) birthday but has not yet attained thirty-six (36) years-of-age, shall be eligible for full rights and privileges as a regular member by involvement in a chartered chapter of the NYD or by service to the Democratic Party.

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b.) Honorary. An individual, having met the criteria in Article III, Section I, who has attained his or her thirty-sixth (36) year-of-age, shall be eligible to participate in NYD business and events at the discretion of the Executive Committee with the exception that he or she shall not be extended voting rights.

### **ARTICLE IV.**

#### **Chapter Chartering.**

**Section I.** There shall be four (4) classes of chartered chapters in this organization. These shall include:

- a.) **Chartered County Chapter.** There shall be only one (1) chapter per county in the State of Nebraska that is chartered and affiliated with this organization, with the exception of university, college, and high school chapters. No county chapter shall be deemed to have control over university, college or high school chapters within their county. A county chapter, in order to charter with NYD, shall have a minimum of four (4) members, as defined in Article III, Section I and II.
- b.) **Chartered University or College Chapter.** There shall be only one (1) chapter per university or college in the State of Nebraska that is chartered and affiliated with this organization. An exception shall be granted for specialized graduate programs, including but not limited to law schools and medical schools. A university or college chapter, in order to charter with NYD, shall have a minimum of four (4) members, as defined in Article III, Section I and II.
- c.) **Chartered Junior High or High School Chapter.** There shall be only one (1) chapter per junior high or high school in the State of Nebraska that is chartered and affiliated with this organization. A junior high or high school chapter with NYD, shall have a minimum of four (4) members, as defined in Article III, Section I and II.
- d.) **Other Chartered Chapters.** Other chapters that do not meet the criteria in the above mentioned classes may be granted a charter with the approval of the Executive Committee. These chapters shall have a minimum of four (4) members, as defined in Article III, Section I and II.

**Section II.** The process for approving chapter charters shall be as follows:

- a.) Chapters may submit chartering information to NYD at any time during the year, including their official title, names of members and officers, and any proposed Bylaws under which they shall be governed.
- b.) Applying chapters shall submit their chartering information for review by the Chartering Committee, which will provide temporary authorization of the charter before its submission to the Executive Committee.
- c.) The Chartering Committee shall make a report of findings and a final assessment on approval of all charters before the Executive Committee.
- d.) A majority vote by the Executive Committee shall grant charter to the applying chapter with or without the Chartering Committee's approval.

**Section III.** The charter of any recognized chapter of this organization may be suspended or revoked by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Committee for the following reasons:

- a.) non-conformance with the NYD Constitution;
- b.) non-conformance with their chapter Constitution and/ or Bylaws;
- c.) illegal activity and/ or abuse of relationship with NYD;
- d.) inactivity for a period longer than one (1) year.

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### **ARTICLE V. NYD State Convention.**

**Section I.** This organization shall convene in an NYD State Convention each year prior to the first day of May.

**Section II.** All regular members, as defined in Article III, shall have the right to participate and vote in the NYD State Convention.

**Section III.** The location of the NYD State Convention shall be set by the Convention Committee, subject to the simple majority approval of the Executive Committee.

**Section IV.** The business of the NYD State Convention shall be:

- a.) To consider and adopt amendments to this Constitution as prescribed in Article XI;
- b.) To elect State Officers as prescribed in Article VI;
- c.) To consider for endorsement resolutions or amendments to the Nebraska Democratic Party's Platform or Constitution as prescribed in Article X;
- d.) To conduct such other business (i.e. campaign or parliamentary procedure training) as the Executive Committee directs.

**Section V.** The following procedures and principles shall be followed during the NYD State Convention:

- a.) Candidates for any elected office except President shall have the ability to file for such office with the Convention Committee prior to the convention or either file or be nominated at the time of that election. Candidates for President shall be required to file for office at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the convening of the convention;
- b.) Candidates for each elected office shall, in reverse order of filing or nomination, have the right to address convention delegates;
- c.) Convention delegates shall have the right to question candidates for any elected office, and to speak to any individual candidacy either in support, in opposition, or in a neutral capacity;
- d.) All officers shall be elected by simple majority vote. When a majority is not attained, the top two vote-getters will move to a run-off election. The Convention Chair or other presiding officer shall cast a ballot for each office, but such ballot will be counted only in the event of a tie;
- e.) All votes in contested officer elections shall be cast by method of secret ballot and monitored by at least five (5) members of NYD or honorary members of NYD, appointed by the Convention Committee;
- f.) The Convention Committee shall review any proposed amendment of this Constitution submitted pursuant to Article XI, Section II, and may choose to endorse or not endorse the adoption of any amendment by convention delegates.

### **ARTICLE VI. Officers.**

**Section I.** The elected officers of this organization shall be:

- a.) President
- b.) Vice President
- c.) National Committeewoman

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- d.) National Committeeman
- e.) Secretary
- f.) Treasurer
- g.) 1st Congressional District Chair
- h.) 2nd Congressional District Chair
- i.) 3rd Congressional District Chair

**Section II.** NYD Officers shall work to increase NYD's visibility and efficacy within the Nebraska Democratic Party by regularly attending Party meetings and events and giving significant aid to Democratic campaigns.

**Section III.** Upon election or appointment, the Vice President shall be of the opposite sex or gender identity of the President.

**Section IV.** The term of office for Secretary, Treasurer, and the Congressional District Chairs shall be the period of one (1) year between state conventions. Newly elected officers shall take office immediately upon close of the NYD State Convention at which they were elected.

**Section V.** The term of office for President, Vice President, National Committeewoman, and National Committeeman shall be a period of two (2) years. Elections for President and Vice President shall be held at the NYD State Convention in even numbered years. Elections for National Committeewoman and National Committeeman shall be held in odd numbered years. Newly elected officers shall take office immediately upon close of the NYD State Convention at which they were elected.

**Section VI.** An individual shall not run for office unless his or her term can be completed while meeting the eligibility standards set forth in Article III, Section II for regular membership.

**Section VII.** No individual may serve in more than one office concurrently. Election or appointment to one office on the NYD Executive Committee will be understood and recognized as resignation from any other, taking immediate effect.

**Section VIII.** Any individual running for and elected to any of the three (3) Congressional District Chair offices must meet one of the following criteria:

- a.) be registered to vote as a Democrat in the congressional district in which the individual will serve as Congressional District Chair;
- b.) reside within the boundaries of the congressional district in which the individual will serve as Congressional District Chair.
- c.) be a member of any university or college chapter chartered with NYD that is located within the boundaries of the congressional district in which the individual will serve as Congressional District Chair.

**Section IX.** The duties, powers, and responsibilities of each office shall be as follows:

- a.) The President shall serve as the NYD's chief executive officer, overseeing operations and day-to-day functions within the parameters of this Constitution. The President shall serve on the National Committee of the Young Democrats of America, pursuant to NYD's charter with this organization. The President is responsible for developing new chapters and increasing NYD membership. The President is required to submit a quarterly

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- report on activities of the NYD and its Executive Committee to the entire membership. The President has the power to create and disband committees, as well as appoint their chairs, subject to the simple majority approval of the Executive Committee. Between meetings of the Executive Committee, the President shall have discretion over payments in a sum not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100), but shall notify the Treasurer of all expenditures within twenty-four (24) hours.
- b.) The Vice President shall assist the President in overseeing the operations of the NYD. If the presidency is vacated, the Vice President shall assume the duties of President until a special election is called.
  - c.) The National Committeewoman and National Committeeman shall, along with the NYD President, represent Nebraska on the National Committee of the Young Democrats of America. They shall also work to increase NYD's visibility in the Nebraska Democratic Party through regular attendance at State Central Committee meetings and active participation in other NDP events. They shall also serve as members of the Fundraising Committee.
  - d.) The Secretary shall keep and disseminate minutes from Executive Committee meetings. The Secretary shall make a report of the prior meeting's minutes at the start of the next meeting and shall maintain said minutes for future reference.
  - e.) The Treasurer shall be responsible for overseeing NYD's financial status, handling its accounts, and preparing their timely and accurate report to the Executive Committee and any relevant government agencies.
  - f.) The Congressional District chairs shall network with existing chapters in their respective districts and represent their chapters to the NYD Executive Committee. They shall also serve as members of the Chartering Committee, working to build new chapters in their respective districts. The Congressional District Chairs shall have the option of appointing a Vice Chair to assist with their duties and serve as a proxy vote in the event of the District Chair's absence. Any Vice Chair shall be approved by a majority vote of the Executive Committee before taking office.

**Section X.** In addition to the duties and responsibilities set forth in Article VI, Section XI, the President shall represent the NYD as a voting member of the Nebraska Democratic Party's Executive and State Central Committees and shall report to those committees. In the event that the President is unable to represent the NYD in these capacities, the President may appoint a proxy to fulfill these duties on a limited basis, and shall notify the NDP of such appointment in writing. If the President does not appoint a proxy in accordance with this Section, the next highest elected officer present, in the order listed in Article VI, Section I, shall represent the NYD.

**Section XI.** In the event that the President is no longer able to fulfill his or her duties, the Vice President shall assume the duties of the President until a special election open to all members in good standing can be held as arranged by the Executive Committee. Any President thereby elected would take office immediately and serve the remainder of his or her predecessor's term. Should the Vice President be elected President, a new Vice President shall be chosen at this same special election. Otherwise, the Vice President shall retain and resume that office exempted from Section III of this Article.

**Section XII.** All open offices not subject to Section XI of this Article shall be filled by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Committee from nominations made by

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existing members of that committee. New officers shall take office immediately and serve until the next NYD State Convention. In lieu of appointing a replacement, the Executive Committee may vote by simple majority to have a replacement elected at the next NYD State Convention or special election required under Section XI.

### **ARTICLE VII.**

#### **Executive Committee.**

**Section I.** The Executive Committee shall consist of the following members, each with one vote:

- a.) President
- b.) Vice President
- c.) National Committeewoman
- d.) National Committeeman
- e.) Secretary
- f.) Treasurer
- g.) 1st Congressional District Chair
- h.) 2nd Congressional District Chair
- i.) 3rd Congressional District Chair

**Section II.** Non-voting members of the Executive Committee shall consist of the following:

- a.) the immediate past president
- b.) any chair of an NYD standing committee, or any other committee created pursuant to Article VIII, Section II of this constitution;
- c.) the President or a duly selected representative from each chartered chapter of NYD;
- d.) any Congressional District Vice Chair appointed pursuant to Article VI, Section X, Subsection f of this Constitution not currently serving as a proxy for their Congressional District Chair;
- e.) any regular member of NYD not currently serving as a voting member of the Executive Committee who is an elected representative of the Young Democrats of America, the College Democrats of America or either of their regional affiliates;
- f.) any member appointed by the President to serve on the National Coalition of the College Democrats of America in accordance with the College Democrats of America constitution and bylaws, with simple majority approval of the Executive Committee.
- g.) any other individual appointed by the President with simple majority approval of the Executive Committee .

**Section III.** The Executive Committee shall meet at a minimum of once (1) per calendar month.

**Section IV.** One-half (1/2) of the Executive Committee's voting members shall constitute a quorum.

**Section V.** Non-voting members shall not count against quorum.

**Section VI.** No individual may cast more than one vote on the Executive Committee.

**Section VII.** The Executive Committee shall have sole authority to approve all expenditures in excess of one hundred dollars (\$100).

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**Section VIII.** In accordance and absent conflict with this Constitution, the Executive Committee has the authority to adopt, amend, and terminate bylaws governing its internal proceedings.

### **ARTICLE VIII. Committees.**

**Section I.** The standing committees of NYD shall be:

- a.) Diversity and Outreach. This committee shall work to ensure that underrepresented groups have a voice in NYD and that youth have a voice in fellow caucuses of the Nebraska Democratic Party.
- b.) Policy. This committee shall make recommendations to the Executive Committee about policy issues affecting NYD, coordinate policy-shaping efforts approved by the Executive Committee, and build relationships with elected leaders.
- c.) Chartering. This committee shall coordinate all efforts to develop new chapters, assist chapters in reorganization, and assess new charters in accordance with Article IV, Section II. The committee shall also provide an annual report to the NYD State Convention on the status and current leadership of each chartered chapter.
- d.) Convention. This committee shall organize and plan the NYD State Convention each year, including but not limited to location, agenda, and appointment of a Convention Chair and/or Parliamentarian.
- e.) Fundraising. This committee shall coordinate NYD fundraising efforts, including but not limited to the annual fundraising dinner.

**Section II.** All other committees shall be formed at the discretion of the President with the simple majority approval of the Executive Committee or as directed by the NYD State Convention.

**Section III.** Every committee will have a chair appointed by the President and approved by a simple majority vote of the Executive Committee, required to file a report at the Executive Committee's monthly business meetings. All other committee members shall be appointed by the President with the advice of the Executive Committee, but shall not require Executive Committee approval.

**Section IV.** The Convention Committee shall consist of at least five (5) regular members of NYD. Members of the Convention Committee shall be appointed by the President prior to January 1 of the calendar year, and shall serve through that respective convention.

### **ARTICLE IX.**

#### **Impeachment of Officers and Revocation of Membership.**

**Section I.** The Executive Committee shall be the ruling body in interpretation and enforcement of this Constitution.

**Section II.** The following shall constitute grounds for impeachment, removal from office, and/or revocation of membership:

- a.) Malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance of office or membership;
- b.) Theft or unauthorized use of NYD property or monetary funds;
- c.) Illegal activity and/ or abuse of relationship with NYD.



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**Section III.** To begin impeachment, removal, and/or revocation proceedings, a member of NYD must submit a signed accusation to the Executive Committee. The first order of business at the following Executive Committee meeting would be a statement by the accuser followed by a defense by the accused before the matter is put to a vote. Officers shall be impeached by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Committee, subject to removal immediately. Revocation of membership requires a separate two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Committee, taking immediate and permanent effect.

**Section IV.** Impeachment, removal, and revocation decisions by the Executive Committee are final, except that an individual whose membership is revoked shall have the opportunity to petition the next NYD State Convention for reinstatement by a simple majority vote.

### **ARTICLE X. Resolutions and Platform Positions.**

**Section I.** Resolutions and proclamations as Nebraska Young Democrats may be passed by a simple majority vote at the NYD State Convention or at any time by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Executive Committee.

**Section II.** In federal election years, the NYD State Convention will consider endorsement of additions and changes to the Nebraska Democratic Party Platform as the youth caucus to that organization. Such endorsement shall require a simple majority vote of those regular members in attendance.

### **ARTICLE XI. Ratification and Amendments to this Constitution.**

**Section I.** This Constitution must be ratified by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote at the NYD State Convention.

**Section II.** Any proposed amendment of this Constitution must be submitted in writing to the Convention Committee forty-eight (48) hours prior to the convening of the NYD State Convention.

**Section III.** This Constitution may only be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote at the NYD State Convention.

### **ARTICLE XII. Parliamentary Authority.**

The most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern all deliberations not herein contained by the appropriate authority of this organization.