

Bylaws of the Young Democrats of Wake County

ARTICLE I: NAME AND AFFILIATIONS

Section 1. NAME. The name of this organization shall be the “Young Democrats of Wake County.”

Section 2. AFFILIATIONS. This organization shall be affiliated with the Young Democrats of North Carolina and shall be influenced and guided by the platforms and policies of the Democratic Party on the local, state, and national levels.

ARTICLE II: OBJECTIVE AND POLICY

Section 1. OBJECTIVE. The objective of the Young Democrats of Wake County shall be to stimulate in young people an active interest in governmental affairs, to serve as a mechanism for satisfying political expression and a desire to take a more active role in the political process, to make members of the Democratic Party aware that young people intend to take an active role in Party affairs, and to promote the acquisition of political power by young people.

Section 2. POLICY. This organization and its members shall take an active interest in local, state, and national affairs.

Section 3. ENDORSEMENTS. This organization shall support actively and by appropriate means the nominees of the Democratic Party in national, state, and local elections. This organization shall not endorse the candidacy of any persons for public office prior to nomination by the Democratic Party; however, individual members may support candidates prior to nomination.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. ELIGIBILITY. The membership of the Young Democrats of Wake County shall be open to all registered Democrat and Unaffiliated voters in Wake County.

Section 2. CLASSIFICATIONS. There shall be three (3) classifications of membership- Regular (Active), Associate, and Student. Any registered Democrat or Unaffiliated voter between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty-five (35) shall be eligible for Regular Membership. Any registered Democrat or Unaffiliated voter who has attained the age of thirty-six (36) shall be eligible for Associate Membership. Any Associate Member shall carry all of the rights and privileges of Regular Membership except that no Associate Member shall be eligible to vote or hold office in the Young Democrats of Wake County. Student Memberships are available to all registered Democrat and Unaffiliated voters who are currently enrolled in either high school or full or part-time post secondary education. Student Members are eligible to vote and hold all the privileges of Regular Membership.

Section 3. DUES. Dues shall be required every calendar year beginning in January. Membership is not active until dues are paid in full, and Membership will be considered active only during the calendar year in which dues are actually paid. Membership rates for Regular and Associate Memberships shall be twenty dollars US (\$20), and for Student Memberships shall be ten dollars US (\$10).

Section 4. VOTING. All Regular (Active) and Student Members are eligible to vote on any matters submitted for a vote during monthly general membership meetings, unless otherwise noted within these Bylaws.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS

Section 1. DEFINITION. The elected officers of this organization shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, and a Secretary. A Treasurer shall be appointed by each newly elected President within 21 days of the President's election.

Section 2. PRESIDENT. The duties of the President shall be to uphold and enforce the provisions of these Bylaws; to organize and administer the organization; to preside over all meetings; to call special meetings when necessary; to appoint chairpersons of standing committees; to appoint a Treasurer and, as necessary, a Deputy Treasurer; to unilaterally remove, where necessary, the Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer; to appoint select committees to serve at his/her discretion; to represent the organization at conventions and official functions; and to chair the Executive Board. The President (or his or her designee) shall also deliver a State of the Charter Address during the regularly scheduled April meeting.

Section 3. VICE-PRESIDENT. The duties of the Vice-President shall be to advise and assist the President in the administration of the organization and to assume the duties of the executive office in the temporary absence of the President.

Section 4. SECRETARY. The duties of the Secretary shall be to maintain the files of the organization; to record the minutes of all meeting; to conduct the official correspondence of the organization; and to take necessary steps to maintain affiliations and charters with the Young Democrats of North Carolina. This officer's duties may be assumed by the Treasurer at the discretion of the Executive Board.

Section 5. TREASURER. The duties of the Treasurer shall be to keep an accurate account of all financial transactions; to compile periodic financial status reports; to collect the annual membership dues; and to conduct all other financial affairs of the organization. Every July and November, the Treasurer shall also present to the Executive Board a brief oral or written report on the financial solvency of the Young Democrats of Wake County and its compliance with all rules imposed by the North Carolina Board of Elections. The duties of the Deputy Treasurer, if appointed, shall be to support the Treasurer in all duties identified in this Section.

Section 6. QUALIFICATIONS. Any member in good standing other than an Associate member shall be eligible to hold elected office in this organization.

Section 7. ELECTIONS. Elections of officers shall be held at a general membership meeting in January every two years. Officers shall begin their terms immediately upon being sworn in and shall hold office until their successors are chosen and installed. It shall be the duty of each outgoing officer to transfer any significant records, papers, logins, and authorities to his or her newly elected counterpart within one month of the election of new officers. In the event that an officer is unable to complete their elected term, the remaining board members will seek applications from the general membership body, with a final decision on officer replacement to be made by a simple majority of the remainder of the executive board.

ARTICLE V: EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1. EXECUTIVE BOARD. The Executive Board shall serve as an advisory and planning committee for the organization. At-Large voting members shall be elected along with the officers at the annual membership meeting, as required. The Executive Board shall include at least five, but no more than ten, at-large members elected by the organization, as well as the four officers and the immediate past President.

Section 2. ELECTIONS. **The Executive Board shall seek applications from general membership body in January of each year to fill vacant positions.**

Section 3. COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE. The Communication Committee is responsible for maintaining contact with our supporters via social media and email.

Our main communications are for reminding our supporters of upcoming Young Dem events including social events and monthly meetings. We also send out a monthly newsletter that describes events from the past month and events in the upcoming month that we think will be of interest to Young Democrats.

Section 4. EDUCATION COMMITTEE. The Outreach and Education committee serves to create relationships with young people throughout the entirety of Wake County. It also serves to build and educate others on the platform of the Democratic Party. Volunteers can assist the committee with planning educational opportunities as well as by identifying and participating in opportunities to broaden the reach of the Democratic Party in Wake County.

Section 5. FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE. The Fundraising Committee serves to replenish the coffers of the organization. This Committee will be responsible for planning and implementing various fundraising activities throughout the year, sometimes in conjunction with other Committees.

Section 6. SOCIAL COMMITTEE. The Social Committee will plan and coordinate monthly and annual social events, sometimes in conjunction with other committees, in an effort to broaden our organization's appeal and foster a sense of community among members and nonmembers alike.

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS

Section 1. MEETINGS. Regular meetings of the organization shall be held each month as announced by the Executive Board, and shall be announced at least 21 days before each meeting.

Section 2. QUORUM. One-half of the Executive Board members shall be required for binding action on the business of the organization during membership meetings.

Section 3. BUSINESS OUTSIDE OF MEETINGS. When the organization is not in session during a scheduled meeting, the Executive Board shall act for the organization on all matters unless the Bylaws state that action is to be taken by the full membership of the organization.

Section 4. PLANNING SESSION. Within two months of the election of new officers each January, the newly elected officers and the newly appointed Executive Board members shall hold a formal planning session. During this planning session, the officers and Executive Board members shall identify goals for the remainder of their terms and, if necessary, develop a timeline for meeting those goals. They may also make any other decisions necessary to carry out their duties.

ARTICLE VII: GOVERNMENT

Section 1. AMENDMENTS. These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of a general membership meeting when notice of the amendment is given at the previous general membership meeting. When no previous notice is given, any amendment may be affected by a three-quarters vote of a general membership meeting.

Section 2. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY. The proceedings of this organization shall be governed by the following authorities in the following order of precedence. The Bylaws of the Young Democrats of Wake County; the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised; and executive discretion.

Revised: March 5, 2018

Approved:

