

BYLAWS OF THE YOUNG DEMOCRATS OF WISCONSIN

Article I: Organization; Purpose; Policy

Section 1: Mission and Management Section 2:
Endorsement of Party Nominees Section 3: Cooperation
with DPW Administrative Committee

Article II: Membership

Section 1: Membership
Classes Section 2:
Membership Fee

Article III: County Chapters

Section 1: Chartering of County Chapters
Section 2: Multi-County Chapters Section
3: Requirements Section 4: Charter Fee
Section 5: Annual Re-Chartering Section
6: Charter Manual

Article IV: District Organizations Section 1: Officers
Section 2: Duties of District Officers Section 3: Counties
Split by Congressional Districts Section 4: Election of
Officers Section 5: Vacancy of District Office

Article V: Executive Board

Section 1: Composition
Section 2: Duties of Officers
Section 3: Eligibility Section
4: Term Section 5: Election
Section 6: Removal Section
7: Vacancy

Article VI: Committees

Section 1: Committees

Article VII: Executive Committee

Section 1: Duties Section 2:
Composition Section 3:
Meetings Section 4: Quorum
and voting Section 5: Removal
of Members Section 6:
Vacancy

Article VIII: State Convention

Page of 1 12

Section 1: Frequency; Time; Place
Section 2: Participation Section 3:
Voting Section 4: Fees Section 5:
Quorum Section 6: Credentials
Committee

Article IX: YDA Biennial
Convention

Section 1: Incorporation of Governing Document(s)
Section 2: Delegate Approval

Article X: Fundraising

Article XI: General Provisions

Section 1: Parliamentary Authority
Section 2: Amendment Section 3:
Interpretation Section 4: Adoption

**Article I: Organization; Purpose;
Policy**

Section 1: Mission and Management A primary mission of YDW shall be the promotion of the Democratic Party, its nominees for elective offices and its elected officials. YDW shall not take any action which is in conflict with the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin, with the Constitution of the United States or of the State of Wisconsin, or with any national, state or local law.

Section 2: Endorsement of Party Nominees This organization and its members shall support actively and by appropriate means the nominees of the Democratic Party in national, state, and local elections. This organization shall not endorse or support the candidacy of any person for

public office prior to nomination by the Democratic Party; however, individual members may support candidates prior to nomination but may not use their title or affiliation with YDW as part of their support.

Section 3: Cooperation with DPW Administrative Committee The YDW organization shall seek in all of its operations the advice and cooperation of the Democratic of Wisconsin Administrative Committee.

**Article II:
Membership**

Section 1: Membership Classes Membership shall be open to all current members of the Democratic Party residing in Wisconsin and membership shall be divided into the following classification:

A. Active Any member of the Democratic Party age eighteen (18) to forty (40) shall be eligible for Active membership.

B. At-Large Any member of the Democratic Party age eighteen (18) to forty (40) residing in a county where no county chapter exists shall be eligible for At-Large membership, except that no county may have more than 25 (25) At-Large members.

C. Associate Any member of the Democratic Party who has attained the age of forty-one (41) shall be eligible for Associate membership, provided however that Associate members shall not enjoy voting privileges and shall not be eligible to hold office within the organization.

D. Honorary Any person who is not an Active, At-Large or Associate member of this organization, who professes and demonstrates allegiance with the principles of the Democratic Party, shall be eligible for honorary membership, provided however that Honorary members shall not enjoy voting privileges and shall not be eligible to hold office within the organization.

No person shall be an Active member of more than one chapter. No member shall be registered as both an Active and At-Large member.

Section 2: Membership Fee The Executive Committee of the Young Democrats of Wisconsin

have the authority to set a fee for each Active, At-Large, Associate and Honorary member at their discretion.

Article III: County Chapters

Section 1: Chartering of County Chapters The State Chair, with approval of the Executive Committee, shall have the authority to approve and issue charters to County or Multi-County chapter. The official name of each county chapter shall be the Young Democrats of the county in which the chapter exists, for example, the “Young Democrats of Barron County.”

Multi-County chapters should follow the same rule, but with the combined county names, such as the “Young Democrats of Ashland and Bayfield Counties.” No more than one chapter shall be chartered within any county, provided, however, that college chapters may be organized at any institution of higher learning within the county. Each YDW county chapter must be affiliated with the larger local Democratic Party chapter of the same county (where applicable).

Section 2: Multi-County Chapters Up to four counties may unite together in an effort to fruitfully organize, provided that the following conditions are met:

A. Each county must be represented. The charter must include at least one Active member from each county represented.

B. Adjoining Borders. Each of the associated counties must share a geographic border with at least one of the others.

C. Executive Committee Approval. The charter for any Multi-County Chapter must be approved by a majority vote of the YDW Executive Committee.

D. Maximum Size. If at any point more than one of the combined counties has a membership exceeding 25 Active members, the largest county must separate to form an independent chapter.

Section 3: Requirements A chapter must have at least five (5) Active members and fulfill the following requirements in order for its charter to be considered:

Submit a copy of its Bylaws to the YDW State Vice Chair for the approval of the Executive Committee;

Demonstrate that an open and publicized election was held during the year in which the request was made;

Submit a membership list to the YDW State Vice Chair; and

Remit a membership fee (if applicable) for each Active and Associate member to the YDW State Vice Chair, as prescribed in Bylaws Section 2.

Section 4: Charter Fee Any chartering fees paid by a chapter shall be credited to that chapter at other State conventions during the year in which fees were paid; provided, however, that additional membership fees may be due to reflect an increase in membership between state conventions.

Section 5: Annual Re-Chartering Chapters must apply to the Executive Committee for re-chartering annually. To be eligible for re-chartering, a chapter must submit a membership list, remit a membership fee (if applicable), provide an annual report of its activities, and, if applicable, provide proof of active and compliant status with the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board prior to the first state convention held after the election of officers or November 30th, whichever is earlier. Otherwise, the application will be considered as a new charter request or may be denied.

Section 6: Chapter Manual Upon Chartering and Re-chartering of county organizations, each county Chair will receive a YDW Chapter Manual from the YDW Executive Committee within 30 days of charter approval.

Article IV: District Organizations

The Executive Committee includes the creation and maintenance of a district organization in each congressional district.

Section 1: Officers of District Organizations The officers of a district organization shall consist of a Chair and a Vice-Chair.

Section 2: Duties of District Officers A. District officers shall represent their districts on the YDW Executive Board. B. District officers shall promote the organization of Young Democrats chapter in counties in their districts, and facilitate the activities of chapters already in

existence. C. District officers shall act as a liaison and conduit of information between the state organization and county chapters in their districts.

Section 3: Counties Split by Congressional Districts Where congressional district lines do not follow county lines, the Executive Board, or the district officers themselves, shall distribute responsibility for split counties among district officers in such a way that each county elects and is represented by only one district Chair/ Vice-Chair team.

Page of 5 12

Section 4: Election of District Officer; Caucus The elected officers of a district organization shall be nominated at a district caucus held not more than one month prior to the election of the officers of the Young Democrats of Wisconsin. All nominees for district office must be approved by the state convention at which the officers of the Young Democrats of Wisconsin are elected.

Section 5: Vacancy of District Office In the event that a district officer takes up residence in a county outside of the district which they represent, the office shall be considered vacant and filled in accordance with the YDW Charter.

Article V: Executive Board

Section 1: Composition The Executive Board shall consist of a State Chair, Immediately Previous State Chair, State Vice Chair, State Treasurer, State Secretary, a male representative to the National Committee of the Young Democrats of America ("National Committeeman"), a female representative to the National Committee of the Young Democrats of America ("National Committeewoman"), the Chair of the High School Democrats of Wisconsin and each District Chair and Vice Chair. These elected officers shall collectively constitute the "Board" of YDW.

Section 2: Duties of Officers State Chair: The duties of the State Chair shall be to uphold and enforce the provisions of the YDW Charter, Bylaws, and adopted Rules; to organize and administer the organization; to appoint chairpersons and members of standing and select committees; to represent the organization at official functions; to preside over all meetings; to present an annual report on the functions and activities of the organization to the DPW Chair; and to Chair the Executive Committee of YDW.

State Vice Chair: The duties of the State Vice Chair shall be to advise and assist the State Chair in the administration of the organization and to assume the duties of the executive office in the temporary absence of the State Chair. The State Vice Chair shall chair the Membership Committee; and shall actively recruit and assist in the development of new chapters.

State Treasurer: The duties of the State Treasurer shall be to keep an accurate account of all financial transactions; to compile periodic financial status reports; to file financial reports as required with the appropriate governmental agency or agencies. The State Treasurer shall forward a copy of financial reports filed with the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board or the Democratic Party of Wisconsin (DPW) staff upon request.

YDA Representatives: The duties of the National Committeeman and National Committeewoman shall be to serve as liaisons between the Young Democrats of Wisconsin and the Young Democrats of America.

Page of 6 12

State Secretary: The duties of the State Secretary shall be to conduct the official correspondence of the organization; maintain an updated and accurate membership list of the organization; verify chartering and memberships; send bylaws copies of the county and affiliate organization to the bylaws committee chair; and submit all official records to the state archives.

District Chairs and Vice Chairs: Duties of the District Chairs and Vice Chairs shall be to coordinate regionally specific efforts of the YDW Board to facilitate efforts of the various committees of YDW in their region. The District Chairs and Vice Chairs shall be standing members of the Membership Committee, shall actively recruit and assist in the development of new chapters, and shall assist with the district organizations and officers within their respective regions.

Section 3: Eligibility Any candidate for elected state office must have been a member of a chartered chapter, or a registered At-Large member current on their dues (if applicable), for a minimum of one year prior to the state convention at which elections are held.

Section 4: Term All state officers shall be elected at the State Convention. State officers serve for a period of one year following their election or until their successors are elected and

installed. There are no term limits.

Section 5: Election Officers shall be elected by a majority of the votes cast at the annual state convention in accordance with the rules adopted at such convention.

Section 6: Removal Officers may be removed from office upon a vote approving such removal by more than 3/4th of the members of the Executive Committee present and actually voting at a duly called meeting of the Executive Committee.

Section 7: Vacancy Any vacancy among the officers shall be filled by the Executive Committee; provided, however, that the State Vice Chair shall succeed the State Chair and the Executive Committee shall then select from its members a successor to the office of State Vice Chair.

Article VI: Committees

Section 1: Committees Committees may be created at the pleasure of the Executive Committee whose purpose and function shall be clearly outlined by the State Chair. The State Chair shall, subject to the approval of the Executive Board, appoint the chairpersons and committee members of all committees. Possible committees of the organization include the Convention Committee, Platform & Resolutions Committee, Finance Committee, Membership Committee, and the Charter & Bylaws Committee.

Page of 7 12

Article VII: Executive Committee

Section 1: Duties The affairs of this organization shall be conducted between state conventions by the Executive Committee.

Section 2: Composition Voting members of the Executive Committee shall consist of the State Chair, Immediately Previous State Chair, State Vice Chair, State Treasurer, State Secretary, National Committeeman, National Committeewoman, District Chairs, District Vice-Chairs, Chairs of all chartered county chapters (if applicable), and any voting member of the Young Democrats of America Executive Committee or DNC Youth Council member from Wisconsin. If a member of the Executive Committee holds two or more positions on the Executive Committee, that member shall only have one vote on the Executive Committee.

Section 3: Meetings The Executive Committee shall meet by teleconference or in person at least four (4) times each year. Such meetings may be called in one of four (4) ways.

A. State Chair. Executive Committee meetings may be called by the State Chair, the time and place for such meetings shall be set by the State Chair.

B. Petition. Executive Committee meetings may be called upon written request of one-third (1/3) of the members of the Executive Committee; the time and place of such meetings shall be set forth in the request.

C. Board. The Executive Committee meetings may be called by a majority vote of the YDW Board. The time and place for such meetings shall be set by the Board.

D. Executive Committee. The Executive Committee, while in session, may designate the time and place of its next meeting.

Section 4: Quorum and Voting Quorum shall exist at any meeting of the Executive Committee when one-fifth (1/5) of the members of the Executive Committee are present.

Any member may designate an Active or At-Large Young Democrat from the group he or she represents to serve as his or her alternate for an Executive Committee meeting by notifying, in writing, the presiding officer prior to the call to order. No person may serve as an alternate for more than one member at any meeting, and no one may cast more than one vote.

Section 5: Removal of Members Members of the Executive Committee may be removed from office under the following provisions:

Page of 8 12

A. Inactive. The member is no longer an Active or At-Large member of the Young Democrats of Wisconsin; or,

B. State Chair removal. The State Chair may recommend to the Executive Committee that any member be removed from office. The State Chair shall state the nature of the charges in writing to the Executive Committee at least twenty (20) days prior to any Executive Committee meeting. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present at the Executive Committee shall be necessary to

remove any member from officer; or,

C. Truant. The member misses two (2) Executive Committee meetings without sending a proxy vote.

D. Put Up or Shut Up. The Executive Committee on a two-thirds (2/3) vote may remove any member who does not have verifiable results in relation to commitments made by the member and recorded by the State Vice Chair of the YDW for a period of two (2) consecutive Executive Committee meetings.

The State Chair shall inform the removed party of their removal and their appeal rights within three (3) business days by certified letter. Documentation of the removal shall be forwarded to the YDW State Vice Chair for safekeeping and a copy shall be sent to the DPW Chair. Any individual who has been removed from office may appeal to the Executive Committee for reinstatement. A vote of two-thirds (2/3) of those present at the Committee meeting shall be necessary for reinstatement.

Once an individual has been removed from the Executive Committee, it is the responsibility – but not requirement - of that individual's county chapter or district organization to vote on their removal from that organization as well.

Section 6: Vacancy Any vacancy occurring in the Executive Committee may be filled upon nomination of the State Chair which nomination shall be approved by majority vote of the Executive Board.

Article VIII: State Convention

Section 1: Frequency; Time; Place This organization shall assemble as a state convention at least once each year at a time and place to be determined by the Executive Committee.

A state convention may be called by the State Chair upon the recommendation of two-thirds (2/3) of the Executive Committee, or by the adoption of resolutions calling for a state convention by a majority of chartered chapters.

Section 2: Participation A county chapter may participate in a state convention if it holds a current charter and has paid chartering fees for the fiscal year (if applicable).

Section 3: Delegates and Voting There shall be three (3) types of delegates to the State Convention:

A. Active. Any Active member of a properly chartered chapter on a membership list submitted to the Young Democrats of Wisconsin, upon being duly registered at a YDW state convention, shall be considered a delegate and entitled to vote a proportionate share of said chapter's vote.

B. At-Large. Any properly registered At-Large member, having paid their membership fee (if applicable), upon being duly registered at a YDW state convention, shall be considered a delegate and entitled to a single vote.

C. Non-Voting. Associate and other non-voting members shall be duly registered as non-voting delegates, seated with their respective delegations, and extended the courtesies of the convention.

D. One Vote. No member shall cast votes with more than one chapter during any state convention.

E. Calculation of Votes. Chapters that have chartered shall have convention votes based on the following formula:

i. County chapters. Each chapter, upon chartering and registering at a state convention, shall have a maximum of (5) votes per member present. If only one person from a chapter attends, then that person has ten (10) votes per member present. ii. Maximum chapter votes. The number of votes for a chapter shall not exceed the number of Active members of the chapter. iii. Maximum individual vote. No single delegate at a state convention shall cast more than ten (10) votes.

Section 4: Fees The YDW Executive Board has the authority to designate a nominal fee for a delegate to attend the YDW convention.

Section 5: Quorum A quorum shall exist at any state convention when a majority of local chapters holding current charters are represented by one or more duly registered delegates.

Section 6: Credentials Committee A Credentials Committee shall meet prior to any state convention and certify the list of chartered chapters, the number of votes allocated to each chapter, and the duly authorized delegates. The State Chair shall have the option of

appointing up to twelve (12) members of the Credentials Committee. Each candidate for state office may appoint one (1) member of the Credentials Committee, provided they first turn in a nominating petition signed by ten registered delegates, and that no delegate's name appears on more than one candidate's nominating petition.

Page of 10
12

Article IX: YDA Biennial Convention

Section 1: Delegates Any Active or At-Large members of the Young Democrats of Wisconsin shall be entitled to be a delegate to the Young Democrats of America National Convention; provided that the name and address of any potential delegate is submitted to the State Chair at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the convening of the National Convention.

Section 2: Delegate Approval Any delegates to the National Convention must be approved by the Executive Committee. Special consideration shall be given to historically under-represented groups in the Young Democrats of America.

Article X: Fundraising Standardized Fundraising. YDW State Officers, the State Treasurer and members of an appointed Fundraising Committee shall seek to raise YDW annual operating and campaign funds through a series of statewide fundraising events.

Article XI: General Provisions

Section 1: Parliamentary Authority The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern this organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this Charter, the YDW Bylaws, and any special rules of order the organization may adopt.

Section 2: Amendment The Bylaws of YDW may be amended by a three-fifths vote of the YDW Executive Committee, or by a majority vote of any duly called and properly convened YPW State Convention in the following manner: i. Committee on Charter & Bylaws. Any YDW Convention shall consider properly reported Bylaws Amendments from the committee on

Charter & Bylaws before all others. ii. Amendments from the floor. Bylaws amendments may be considered from the floor at a state convention by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the convention. iii. Amendments by the Executive Committee. Proposed amendments to the Bylaws must be submitted, in writing, and distributed to the members of the Executive Committee no less than 14 days before the meeting.

Section 3: Interpretation These Bylaws should be interpreted with a broad construction. Any actions of YDW not specifically disallowed in the Charter, Bylaws, or adopted Rules of the Executive Committee, are, by definition, allowed.

Page of 11
12

These Bylaws have been adopted by a properly called and convened convention of the Young Democrats of Wisconsin on June 1, 2019 at Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Charles Myers Alicia Halvensleben _____
_____ State Chair State Vice Chair

