



## CONSTITUTION OF THE YOUNG DEMOCRATS OF WISCONSIN

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## PREAMBLE

We, the Young Democrats of Wisconsin, in order to stimulate in young people an active interest in governmental affairs and promote their involvement in the political process, to promote the acquisition of political power by young people, to promote the policies and practices which are consistent with the highest principles, to increase the efficiency of popular government and to provide the highest degree of justice and social welfare for the citizens of our country, do associate ourselves together and establish this Charter. The primary goal of this organization is to increase enrollment and participation in the Democratic Party of Wisconsin.

## ARTICLE I: NAME AND AFFILIATIONS

### Section 1. Name.

The name of the organization shall be "The Young Democrats of Wisconsin" hereinafter YDW.

### Section 2. Abbreviations.

Throughout this Charter and any associated Bylaws, Policies, and official documents, the following terms may sometimes be referred to by the associated acronym:

- A. A. YDW. "The Young Democrats of Wisconsin," abbreviated, "YDW."
- B. B. Board. "The Board of the Young Democrats of Wisconsin," abbreviated, "The Board."
- C. C. YDWEC. "The Executive Committee of the Young Democrats of Wisconsin," abbreviated, "YDWEC."
- D. D. CDW. "The College Democrats of Wisconsin," abbreviated, "CDW."
- E. E. DPW. "Democratic Party of Wisconsin," abbreviated, "DPW."
- F. F. YDA. "Young Democrats of America," abbreviated, "YDA."
- G. G. CDA. "College Democrats of America," abbreviated "CDA."
- H. H. DNC. "Democratic National Committee," abbreviated, "DNC."

### Section 3. Affiliations.

This organization shall be affiliated with the Young Democrats of America. YDW shall, when choosing its actions, positions, and policies, consider the platforms and policies of the Democratic Party and its auxiliary organizations on the state and national levels including the DPW, CDA, YDA, and the DNC.

### Section 4. Scope.

YDW shall not take any action which is in conflict with its Charter or Bylaws or with the Constitution of the United States or of the State of Wisconsin, or with any national, state or local law.

## ARTICLE II: OBJECT AND POLICY

### Section 1. Object & Vision.

The object of YDW shall be to advocate the goals and priorities of youth within the Democratic Party of Wisconsin, and within the electoral system.

### Section 2. Charge.



YDW shall endeavor to fulfill its objective by building a state-wide, youth-led, infrastructure committed to its priorities, and composed of a federation of young professional chapters, each of which shall serve both as a social network and as a grassroots political organization in its own right.

### Section 3. Incorporation.

#### A. Choice of Organizational Status.

A duly called convention is authorized to incorporate this organization as it best sees fit, and as best reflects the activities of YDW and the laws of the United States and Wisconsin. The Convention may choose to, but shall not be required to, incorporate as a WI political action committee (PAC), as a federal PAC, as a federal or nonfederal "527" organization, as a 501(c)3, or as any appropriate and legal combination thereof.

#### B. Process of Organizational Change.

The organizational status may be changed only upon an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the members present at any duly called YDW Convention. Any such change must be accompanied by appropriate changes to the Bylaws outlining the new legal status and including rules ensuring legal compliance by both the officers and chapters of YDW.

## ARTICLE III: ORGANIZATION

### Section 1. Chapters and their scope.

Local units of this organization shall be known as County Chapters. Only one chapter may be organized in any county. Each chapter must be affiliated with the larger local Democratic county party (if applicable).

### Section 2. Other requirements.

Other requirements for organizing and chartering chapters of YDW shall be set forth in the bylaws.

## ARTICLE IV: COLLEGE DEMOCRATS OF WISCONSIN

### Section 1. Partners.

- A. CDW. CDW shall be the official organization of the Democratic Party on college campuses. Any students, professors, administrators or staff formally affiliated with a college or university must affiliate with their CDW chapter before joining YDW. YDW serves as a mechanism for CDW graduates to continue their service to the Democratic Party.
- B. County Parties. Each YDW member must also be a member in good standing of the local Democratic county party where they reside (if applicable).

### Section 2. Further Rules and Primacy.

Further rules regarding the relationship between YDW and CDW, chartering of college and university chapters, CDW dues, CDW voting at state conventions, and related matters, may be enumerated in the Bylaws, Constitution or Charter of CDW.

## ARTICLE V: OFFICERS



Section 1. Board.

The officers of the organization shall consist of a State Chair, Immediately Previous State Chair, State Vice Chair, State Treasurer, State Secretary, male representative to the National Committee of YDA (“National Committeeman”), female representative to the National Committee of YDA (“National Committeewoman”), along with a Chair and Vice Chair from each of Wisconsin’s eight congressional districts.

ARTICLE VI: AMENDMENTS

The YDW Charter may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote at any duly called and properly convened YDW State Convention.

The convention shall consider properly reported Charter Amendments from the committee on Charter & Bylaws before all others. Amendments to the Charter may be considered from the floor at a state convention by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the convention.

ARTICLE VII: INTERPRETATION

The Charter and Bylaws of YDW 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.

ARTICLE VIII. ADOPTION

This Charter was adopted by a properly called and convened convention of the Young Democrats of Wisconsin on June 1, 2019 at Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Charles Myers

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State Chair

Alicia Halvensleben

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State Vice Chair