

The Constitution of the Dallas County Young Democrats

*Adopted on January 9, 2007
Last Revision January 14, 2014*

Article I. The Organization

Section 1. The name of the organization shall be the Dallas County Young Democrats.

Section 2. This organization shall be affiliated with the Texas Young Democrats.

Section 3. The purpose of this organization shall be to mobilize and energize young individuals interested in progressive candidates and issues within the Democratic Party and to promote progressive, liberal agendas within the State of Texas and Dallas County.

Article II. Membership

Section 1. General membership in this organization shall be open to any resident of Dallas County, Texas, who is a Democrat of 14 years of age or older, but who has not yet attained the age of 41. Any eligible Democrat may become a member of this organization by completing a membership form. All such members shall also be members of the Texas Young Democrats.

Section 2. Membership is also open to any Democrat of 41 years of age or older as an “associate member.” However, unlike general members, associate members shall have no voting rights within the organization.

Section 3. The membership forms of the organization shall require the following information: name, address, date of birth and a dated signature.

Section 4. There shall be no mandatory dues for general membership in the organization.

Section 5. No member shall be eligible to vote at any meeting unless he or she has attended at least one prior meeting within the last six months.

Article III. Meetings

Section 1. Business meetings shall be held monthly.

Section 2. Special meetings may be held when necessary and shall be called by the President with the approval of a simple majority of the Board of Directors. Special meetings may also be called by a two-thirds majority vote of the general membership.

Section 3. When assembled, the organization shall make all policies for the organization at large. Said policies must be in conformance with this Constitution.

Article IV. The Executive Committee

Section 1. The Executive Committee of the organization shall be comprised of the following officers: the elected President, the elected Vice President, the elected Secretary, and the appointed Treasurer.

Section 2. All elected officers shall be elected at a regular business meeting in the month of February. Elected officers shall serve terms commencing at the close of the regular business meeting at which they are elected, and continuing until the close of the regular business meeting in the February of the subsequent year. Nominations for the elected offices shall be taken at the regular business meeting in the month of January, and notice of the upcoming election must be provided to the general membership no later than the regular business meeting directly preceding the January meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor at the meeting at which the election is held.

Section 3. All elected officers shall be elected by a simple majority vote of members present, with run-off elections held in cases where no candidate receives such a majority on the first ballot. The Treasurer shall be appointed by the President and approved by a simple majority vote of the elected members of the Executive Committee. The appointment of the Treasurer shall be the first official act of business of the Executive Committee. The term of the Treasurer's appointment is the same as the President's term in office that appointed him. The President may revoke the Treasurer's appointment at any time.

Section 4. Any officer may be removed from office by a two-thirds majority vote of members present and voting at any regular business meeting, provided that notice of this proposed action has been given at the previous regular business meeting.

Section 5. Upon a vacancy in the office of President, the succession to the office of the President shall pass to lower officers in the order of seniority established in Section 8 of this Article.

Section 6. Upon a vacancy in the office of Vice President, the President shall appoint, with the approval of the Board of Directors, a member in good standing of the organization to the position of Vice President. The appointed Vice President shall hold the position until the next general election.

Section 7. Upon a vacancy in the office of the Secretary, the appointment procedure shall be the same as that identified in Section 6 of this Article.

Section 8. The duties of the officers of the organization, listed here in order of seniority, shall be as follows:

Part A. The President shall preside at all meetings of the organization and the Board of Directors. With the approval of a simple majority of the Board of Directors, the President may name at large members to the Board of Directors and chairs to committees created by the Board of Directors. The President shall call special meetings of the organization and the Board of Directors. The President shall be authorized to write checks from the

organization bank account with the approval of the Board of Directors as detailed in Article VI.

Part B. The Vice President shall be charged with maintaining the administrative infrastructure of the organization, including duties related to the management of regular business and Board of Director meetings. The Vice President shall also fulfill all the duties of the President in his or her absence. The Vice President shall be authorized to write checks from the organization bank account in the absence of the President and the Treasurer. The Vice President shall report to the President.

Part C. The Secretary shall keep all official records for the organization. The Secretary shall be present regularly at Board of Directors and regular business meetings. In the absence of the Secretary, the President may appoint a temporary Secretary. The Secretary shall report to the Vice President.

Part D. The Treasurer shall keep records of the funds owned by the organization. Each month the Treasurer shall present the Board of Directors a report of the transactions and balances of the accounts of the organization. All funds shall be kept in a financial institution(s) approved by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall serve as the Campaign Treasurer of the registered Political Action Committee and submit all statutory records to the Texas Ethics Commission. The Treasurer shall also be the main person authorized to sign checks from the club's bank accounts. The Treasurer shall be responsible for overseeing purchasing for the organization and keeping outstanding invoices paid in full. The Treasurer shall report to the President.

Section 9. In the absence of a quorum of the Board of Directors at a regular business meeting or a meeting of the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee may act in its place.

Section 10. An elected officer of the organization may be removed from office by a two-thirds majority vote in favor of such removal by the Board of Directors. In the event of such a removal, the Board of Directors may appoint by majority vote a member in good standing to assume the office of the removed officer.

Article V. The Board of Directors

Section 1. The Board of Directors of the organization shall be comprised of the Executive Committee, the chairs of organization committees and at large members appointed by the President.

Section 2. Appointments to the Board of Directors must be approved by a simple majority vote of a quorum of the sitting members of the Board of Directors or, prior to the formation of a Board of Directors, by a simple majority vote of the Executive Committee.

Section 3. The Board of Directors shall by simple majority vote schedule the time, date and location for regular business meetings and meetings of the Board of Directors.

Section 4. Prior to submission for consideration by the general membership of the organization, all resolutions, position statements, rules for the organization and amendments to this document must first be approved by a simple majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 5. The Board of Directors shall monitor and approve funds disbursed from the organization's account.

Section 6. At large members of the Board of Directors may be assigned specific duties and titles within the organization by the President with the approval of a simple majority vote of the Board of Directors. In their capacity as holders of assigned positions, such members of the Board of Directors shall report to the President.

Section 7. The Board of Directors shall have the power to create standing and temporary committees for the organization. Membership in all organization committees shall be open to any member of the organization.

Section 8. The term of office for members appointed to the Board of Directors shall be from the time of approval of their appointment until the end of the term to which the President making said appointment has been elected.

Section 9. The Board of Directors shall have the power to create, by simple majority vote, rules governing the function and organization of the Board of Directors, insofar as such rules do not conflict with the Articles of this Constitution.

Article VI. Parliamentarian

In the event of Constitutional debate during officer elections, or at the request of the President, a member of the Dallas County Democratic Party designated by the Board of Directors shall serve as Parliamentarian and chief arbiter. The Parliamentarian may not be an officer of the organization, nor shall he or she be eligible to be elected to office within the organization for one year subsequent to service as Parliamentarian.

Article VII. Ratification & Amendment.

Section 1. This Constitution shall become effective when adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of members present and voting at a regular business meeting. The officers created herein shall be elected according the schedule for elections established in Section 2 of Article IV.

Section 2. Amendments to this Constitution, having been approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, may be introduced at any regular business meeting of the organization and shall be voted on at the next regular business meeting. Amendments must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the members present at said meeting.

Section 3. The adopted Constitution and subsequent Amendments shall be kept by the sitting President and Secretary of the organization and shall be made publicly available.