

YOUNG DEMOCRATS OF COOK COUNTY – CONSTITUTION

Effective 27th day of January 2023

PREAMBLE

We, the Young Democrats of Cook County, do hereby coordinate and affiliate ourselves and establish this constitution to foster, promote and develop responsible and efficient local government and to encourage young people in every community in Cook County to actively participate in civic political activities and give support to candidates for public office who have been approved by the Cook County Democratic Party.

ARTICLE ONE: ESTABLISHMENT OF ORGANIZATION

Section 1: The official name of this Organization shall be called the Young Democrats of Cook County. Young Democrats of Cook County shall do business as Cook County Young Democrats (CCYD).

Section 2: The duration of the Organization shall be perpetual.

Section 3: The use of they, them, Committeeperson and other neutral terms is meant to be inclusive of all people regardless of gender identity. The use of they/them is used in both the singular or plural to ensure inclusivity of all persons.

ARTICLE TWO: PURPOSE

Section 1: The primary purpose of the Organization shall be to effectuate the Principles of the Preamble.

Section 2: It shall be the policy of this Organization in all of its endeavors to contribute to the growth and development of the Democratic Party and its leadership, to increase party responsibility, to maintain and promote harmony within the Party and to encourage youth participation in Senior Party Affairs.

ARTICLE THREE: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Any person ages fourteen (14) and who has not yet reached the age of thirty-six (36) except otherwise provided in the by-laws herein may be eligible for membership if he subscribes to the principles and ideals of the Democratic Party.

Section 2: Affiliation of ward and township organizations shall be by charter granted by the Central Committee of the CCYD. A uniform charter fee, not to exceed \$200, shall be payable before the first session of every convention. Additional charters after the convention may be issued to organizations submitting charter fees and meeting other

requirements herein stated, and such charters are to be in effect until the next convention.

Section 3: A ward or township representative to the Young Democrats Central Committee shall be considered a duly elected and certified representative upon presentation to the Chairperson of a letter, on official stationery, from the duly elected Cook County Democratic Committeeperson stating that they are the representative from that ward or township, and such certification shall remain in effect until the next CCYD Convention unless withdrawn by the respective Committeeperson or the Committeeperson resignation or removal from the Cook County Democratic Party.

Section 4: Any person between the ages of fourteen and thirty--five who is interested in membership with the CCYD but is not a member of any Regular Democratic Ward or Township Organization can accept membership with the CCYD for a uniform fee that shall be in effect for one year from the date of submission. An individual can start their new charter granted within two (2) months before an Annual Convention. The charter shall be effective for the remaining two (2) months and throughout the next Annual Convention year until the following Annual Convention. CCYD shall not require any organization to pay a charter fee twice within a 14--month period. The terms of said membership shall be detailed in Article 6 Section 3 (referred to herein as "non-chartered member"). Only members of the CCYD who are also dual members of a Regular Democratic Ward or Township Organization that is chartered through CCYD are eligible to chair committees, vote and/or be elected to the Executive Board.

ARTICLE FOUR: ORGANIZATION

Section 1: Any public support and/or endorsements shall be consistent and in condition with the public support and/or endorsements of the Cook County Democratic Party.

Section 2: All questions of policy and/or political positions approved by the CCYD as hereinafter provided, shall be submitted to the Chair of the Democratic Party of Cook County or such other person or persons as the Chair may appoint from time to time.

Section 3: The Young Democrats Central Committee shall consist of the duly certified representatives as provided by the Membership Rules, under Article 3, Section 3. The elected officers of the Young Democrats of Illinois and elected officers of the Young Democrats of America who reside in Cook County may not have voting power unless they are the representative from a chartered organization. The Executive Board of the CCYD are also members of the Central Committee, as well as one representative from each chartered organization.

Section 4: No member of the Central Committee shall cast more than one weighted vote in the Central Committee. All votes will be taken on a weighted vote basis with each ward/township casting the same weighted vote they would in the Cook County Central Committee, based on the number of ballots cast in that ward/township's last Democratic Primary.

Section 5: The duties of the Central Committee shall be to elect the officers of the CCYD, to initiate, approve or disapprove programs or policies, and to oversee the administration of these programs and/or policies through its elected officials.

Section 6: All administrative affairs and responsibilities shall be directed by the Chair of CCYD.

Section 7: The Executive Board shall consist of all elected officers of the CCYD, as provided in Article 6, Section 1. All members of the Executive Board shall attend every scheduled meeting and general membership meeting unless just cause for absence can be demonstrated to the other board members. If just cause cannot be demonstrated, grounds for removing the member in question pursuant to Article 6, Section 4 exist. No member shall cast more than one vote.

Section 8: The general membership body shall have the right to meet and discuss issues, hold seminars, have speakers, and to hold general functions with the approval of the Executive Board and the Central Committee.

Section 9

ARTICLE FIVE: CALLING OF MEETINGS

Section 1: The Executive Board shall meet at the call of the Chair. The Secretary shall provide the agenda for this meeting.

Section 2: The Central Committee and the general body shall meet at the call of the Chair. The Chair, with the advice of the Executive Board, may call a special meeting as needed for the purposes of carrying out the business related to the organization. Notification shall be given to the general body at least thirty days in advance of the scheduled date of said meeting.

ARTICLE SIX: OFFICERS

Section 1: Any person ages eighteen (18) and who has not yet reached the age of thirty-six (36) unless otherwise provided in the bylaws herein may be eligible for an Executive Board position.

Section 2: Any member of the CCYD in good standing, shall be eligible to hold office, provided there is a candidacy for such office, has written consent manifested in a letter of sponsorship of the Committeeperson from a duly chartered Ward or Township. However, no member shall be a candidate for any office in the CCYD if such member has attained the age of thirty-six (36) on or before the day of the annual convention is called to order.

Section 3: In order to be in good standing, a member of the CCYD must meet all three of the following criteria: (1) be a member of a ward or township Democratic Organization in Cook County ran by a Committeeperson officially recognized by the Cook County Democratic Party; with (2) such organization being in good standing with the CCYD and (3) be a member that has not been subject to any form of sanction, suspension or disciplinary censure.

Section 4: No officer shall be elected for more than two (2) successive terms to the same office. For this purpose, the portion of a vacated term filled by special election, as provided for in Section 4 of this Article, shall not constitute a term of office unless the portion of the unexpired term so filled exceeds one half the full term.

Section 5: Non--chartered members of CCYD, as determined in Article Three, Section 4, shall not be eligible to hold office in CCYD. Non--chartered members shall be eligible for appointment as chair of a standing committee as a general member.

Section 6: A vacancy in any office may be created by the resignation of the officer holding such office or his removal by 2/3 vote of the Central Committee present and voting at a special meeting called solely for their purpose.

ARTICLE SEVEN: ORGANIZATION OF EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1: The officers of the CCYD shall be elected by a majority vote of the Young Democrats Central Committee in Convention assembled between the period of June 1st and August 31st of each year and shall hold office for at least two (2) years, or until their successor is duly elected, and shall consist of the following:

- Chairperson
- Vice Chairperson
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Sergeant-At-Arms
- North City Vice Chair and South City Vice Chair

- North Suburban Vice Chair, West Suburban Vice Chair, and South Suburban Vice Chair

Section 2: The Chairperson shall direct the affairs of the organization as its administrative officer and shall be ex--officio Chairperson of all committees. The Chairperson shall have the power to appoint agents as he may deem necessary or proper in carrying out the duties of his office and the work of the organization, with the advice and consent of the Executive Board. The Chairperson, together with the Treasurer, shall be responsible for compliance with all campaign disclosure laws.

Section 3: The Chairperson or, in their absence, the Vice Chairperson shall convene and chair all meetings of the Executive Board. In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson shall preside over all general membership meetings.

Section 4: The City Vice Chairpersons shall be responsible for the coordination and activities of the fifty (50) City Wards, as to the chartering procedures and establishment of local Young Democrat chapters.

Section 5: The Suburban Vice Chairpeople shall be responsible for the coordination and activities of the 30 County Townships, as to the chartering procedures and establishment of local Young Democrat chapters.

Section 6: The Treasurer, shall receive and disburse all funds of the CCYD. The Treasurer shall submit a financial report within 60 days of taking office and present it to the Executive Board for review. The Treasurer shall keep records of disbursements, and at the request of the Chairperson or Executive Board, they shall submit bank accounts for auditing. The Treasurer will maintain open a suitable bank account in a bank in good standing in the County of Cook and shall deposit all funds coming into their possession and under his control which belong to the organization. The Treasurer, together with the Chairperson , shall be responsible for compliance with all campaign disclosure laws. The Treasurer shall be required at all Executive Board meetings and general membership meetings to make a report of the financial condition of the CCYD to the respective members.

Section 7: The Secretary shall keep records of all meetings of the organization, submit a written record to the Chairperson within five (5) days of the last meeting, and keep a roll of its attendance of officers and wards and townships representatives, read minutes and keep an official ledger. The Secretary shall be the custodian of the mailing list, and shall be responsible for notifying the membership of all meetings. Such notification shall be at least seven (7) days in advance of the meeting announced therein, except for special meetings called to consider the removal of an officer or the filling of a vacancy which shall be given at least 20 days in advance of the meeting announced therein. The Secretary shall prepare the agenda for the general membership meeting and submit it to the

Chairperson and the Executive Board at least within five (5) days of the scheduled meeting.

Section 8: The Sergeant--at--Arms shall keep order in all meetings and be responsible for making arrangements for in-person or virtual meetings and facilities at the direction of the Chairperson.

Section 9: Officers may appoint aides or assistants with the consent of the Chairperson. Such appointments shall be promulgated to the general membership meeting.

Section 10: In the event that an officer partakes in a political campaign as a campaign manager or as a candidate for political office for more than six months, then such officer shall take a leave of absence as an officer and appoint a replacement who is a member of the CCYD, unless otherwise via a vote of confidence from the Executive Board.

Section 11: During an individual's leave of absence, at the request of the individual, the Executive Board can call another vote of confidence to determine the status of the officer.

Section 12: If an officer who partakes in a political campaign as a campaign manager or as a candidate for political office for less than six months as such absence has an adverse impact on the duties of the officer then the Executive Board, after a duly noticed meeting, by a majority vote, shall vote for a replacement from the general membership of CCYD.

ARTICLE EIGHT: COMMITTEES

Section 1: The standing committees of the CCYD shall consist of Membership, Publicity, Marketing, and Fundraising.

Section 2: The Chairperson of the CCYD shall appoint the standing committee chairperson and the standing committee members with the advice and consent of the Executive Board. The Chairperson shall also have the power to appoint all other committee chairpeople and the committee members as it deems necessary for the work of the organization with the advice and consent of the Executive Board.

Section 3: The Chairperson can appoint additional committee members or remove existing members with the advice and consent of the Executive Board.

Section 4: Removal proceedings may not be brought against the same officer more than once for the same alleged cause, and an officer who has been removed shall not be eligible for any other office in the CCYD temporarily or permanently.

Section 5: All members of the CCYD Central Committee shall be notified of any special

meeting concerning the removal of an officer or the filling of an office vacancy and the purpose of such meeting at least 20 days in advance.

ARTICLE NINE: FINANCE

Section 1: No later than 60 days following the CCYD convention the Chairperson shall submit to the Executive Board and the Central Committee in joint session a budget for the current fiscal year.

Section 2: Money collected to meet budget requirements and/or money held in bank accounts for budgetary requirements cannot be transferred or used for the purposes other than described in the budget approved by the Executive Board and the Central Committee without 2/3 approval of the Executive Board.

Section 3: No checks shall be issued without the consent of the Chairperson and acknowledgement by the Executive Board.

Section 4: No debt, bill, or political contribution shall be entered into without prior authorization by the Executive Board.

Section 5: The Treasurer shall submit to the Central Committee a Treasurer's report for at least thirty (30) days but not more than sixty (60) days before the annual convention.

Section 6: Money collected or distributed on behalf of the CCYD shall be recorded and maintained pursuant to Article 7, Section 6. Only wards and townships may hold separate bank accounts.

Section 7: The Chairperson is authorized to make expenditures necessary for the normal operations of the CCYD not to exceed \$50.00 per expenditure or \$100.00 per month without specific authorization of the Executive Board.

Section 8: Any expenditure over budget for any planned event, approved by the Executive Board, under \$50.00 may be reimbursed at the discretion of the Treasurer. No expenditure of over \$50.00 may be made or authorized by any officer or agent of the CCYD without prior authorization of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE TEN: AMENDMENTS

Section 1: Proposed amendments to this constitution may be submitted by a member in good standing by filing a copy electronically with the Secretary, not more than 60 or less than 30 days prior to the Central Committee meeting.

Section 2: Within 30 days of submission of the required papers to the Secretary, a meeting shall be called by the Chairperson for the purpose of having the proposed amendments presented for a vote. Notice of such a meeting shall be in writing, or by electronic correspondence, and shall contain or have thereto the contents of the amendments.

Section 3: A 2/3 vote of all those voting on any amendment shall be required for its adoption.

Section 4: Amendments to the Constitution By -Laws, resolutions, and/or motions passed by the Central Committee shall be numbered and retained in an official ledger for inspection by the general membership.

ARTICLE ELEVEN: BYLAWS

Section 1: The By-Laws of the Organization shall be promulgated from time to time by the Central Committee. Written notice of proposed changes to the bylaws shall be given to all members of the Central Committee before the meeting at which such changes are considered.

Section 2: In any caucus of the CCYD, each chartered ward or township shall be entitled to one (1) weighted vote. All votes will be taken on a weighted vote basis with each ward/township casting the same weighted vote they would in the Cook County Central Committee, based on the number of ballots cast in that ward/township's last Democratic Primary.

Section 3: At any State or National Convention of the Young Democrats, each chartered ward or township organization may decide by a majority vote of its members registered as delegates to such convention how the vote to which it is entitled in any caucus of the CCYD shall cast.

Section 4: All caucuses of the CCYD at any State or National Convention of the Young Democrats shall be convened at the call of the CCYD Chairperson or upon request of 1/5 of all registered delegates from Cook County delegation.

Section 5: The Chairperson of the CCYD can be overruled by a 2/3 vote of the Central Committee present and voting.

Section 6: Any rules covered in this Constitution or in these bylaws shall be governed by the Robert's Rules of Order newly revised edition.