

YOUNG DEMOCRATS OF WASHINGTON

2018 CONSTITUTION

Approved February 2018

Preamble

We, the Young Democrats of Washington, 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, and to foster and perpetuate the ideals and principles of the highest degrees of justice and social welfare, do associate ourselves together and establish this Constitution.

Article I – Name

1. This organization shall be called the Young Democrats of Washington (YDWA).

Article II – Membership

1. Regular membership in the Young Democrats of Washington shall be limited to persons who declare themselves to be Democrats, and who have not yet turned thirty-six years old. No criteria other than age or party preference shall be an acceptable reason for exclusion from regular membership.
2. Alumni membership in the Young Democrats of Washington shall be available to persons who declare themselves to be Democrats, but have passed their thirty-sixth birthday or who choose to be affiliated with the alumni branch, although age thirty-five or under. No criterion other than party preference shall be an acceptable reason for exclusion from alumni membership.
 - a. Alumni members will have no vote in official proceedings.
 - b. All alumni members in good standing will receive notification of organization meetings, events, and activities in the same manner as regular members. Alumni members will also receive notification of alumni organization events.
3. Dues & Provisions
 - a. Regular voting members are required to declare they are a Democrat, and must provide an address and birth date. Members are encouraged to provide a telephone number and e-mail address (if available).
 - b. Local Organizations have the right to request organizational dues at any level they wish, but must provide for waiver of dues in the case of financial hardship.
 - c. No criterion other than party preference shall be an acceptable reason for exclusion from regular membership.

Article III – Officers

1. Leadership Structure
 - a. The leadership of the Young Democrats of Washington shall consist of the President and five departments, each of which shall be headed by a Vice President. Within each department, the Vice President shall be responsible for overall activities of the department, shall provide for all necessary training for Directors under their supervision, shall take reasonable steps to provide mentorship and growth opportunities for such Directors, and shall take ultimate

responsibility for the success or failure of the department in its constitutional duties.

- b. The Executive Board shall consist of the President, the five Vice Presidents, the National Committee members, the WSDCC Representative, and the President of the College Democrats of Washington.
- c. The General Board shall consist of all the officers listed in this section, as well as the Chairs of all properly-charter chapters and caucuses.
- d. All officers of this organization, except those specified in Section III.1.c.i below, shall be elected every year at the State Convention by the general assembly and shall serve until the adjournment of the next State Convention.
 - i. The National Committee members, and Washington State Democratic Central Committee Representative shall be elected by the general assembly at the State Convention immediately following each regular Congressional election, and shall serve until the adjournment of the State Convention immediately following the next regular Congressional election. Should a vacancy occur in any of these positions at the State Convention during a non-Congressional election year, the position shall be filled by election by the general assembly.

2. Elected Officers

a. President

- i. Shall be the chief administrative officer of the Young Democrats of Washington;
- ii. Shall direct the implementation of policies adopted and authorized by the organization;
- iii. Shall chair the General Board and the Executive Board;
- iv. Shall represent the state organization in public; and
- v. Shall report on their activities at each General Board meeting.

b. Executive Vice President

- i. Shall assist the President in the performance of the President's duties;
- ii. Shall serve as Vice Chair of the General Board and the Executive Board;
- iii. Shall maintain relationships with former Young Democrats and alumni members;
- iv. Shall chair the Constitution Committee or appoint any general board member designee; and
- v. Shall work with the National Committee members and the WSDCC Representative to propose and enact policies to identify, recruit and mentor future leaders of both this organization and the broader Democratic community.

c. Vice President of Operations

- i. Shall work with the President to write an annual budget;
- ii. Shall manage the organization's day to day operations and expenditures;
- iii. Shall maintain all organizational files and records in a safe and orderly manner;
- iv. Shall chair the Rules Committee or appoint any general board member designee
- v. Shall assist the President and any Convention Coordinator(s) designated by the President with the annual State Convention including bimonthly

- calls to update the Executive Board about the status of Convention starting two (2) months prior to Convention; and
- vi. Shall oversee the Operations Department, consisting of the Development Director, Finance Director and Technology Director.
- d. Vice President of Membership Engagement**
- i. Shall be responsible for the support of existing chapters and expansion of new chapters;
 - ii. Shall serve as the liaison to all federal, statewide and legislative campaigns;
 - iii. Shall chair the Endorsements Committee or appoint any general board member designee; and
 - iv. Shall oversee the Membership Engagement Department, consisting of the Campaign Director, Eastern Washington Director, Southern Washington Director, and Western Washington Director, and assisting the College Democrats of Washington.
- e. Vice President of Government Affairs**
- i. Shall direct legislative action and lobbying efforts on behalf of the organization throughout the year, including twice monthly calls to update the executive board about the status of lobby day starting 2 months prior to lobby day;
 - ii. Shall chair the Platforms Committee or appoint any general board member designee
 - iii. Shall liaise with official offices and advocacy groups to track legislation, and shall seek opportunities for YDWA to play a role in crafting legislation; and
 - iv. Shall oversee the Government Affairs Department, which consists of the Caucus Director and Advocacy Director.
- f. Vice President of Communications**
- i. Shall develop and implement strategies for developing the brand of the organization;
 - ii. Shall chair Credentials Committee or appoint any general board member designee
 - iii. Shall work with the President to produce public statements on behalf of the organization;
 - iv. Shall ensure the website, social media tools, and email list are regularly used to advance the goals of the organization; and
 - v. Shall oversee the Communications Department, which consists of the Current Affairs Director and the Digital Media Director.
- g. National Committee Representatives:**
- i. The two (2) YDWA representatives attending the Young Democrats of America National Committee shall represent two different gender identities;
 - ii. Shall, in coordination with the President, encourage and direct participation of members in regional and national activities;
 - iii. Shall attend all National Committee Meetings or designate a proxy when attendance is not possible, and shall deliver a concise report of their activities to the General Board;

- iv. Shall represent the interests and further the goals and priorities of YDWA on the National Committee; and
- v. Shall work with the Executive Vice President to provide mentorship opportunities.

h. Washington State Democratic Central Committee Representative

- i. Shall, in coordination with the President, encourage and direct participation of members in local and statewide senior Democratic Party activities;
- ii. Shall attend all meetings of the Washington State Democratic Central Committee and shall report upon the activities of the WSDCC to the General Board;
- iii. Shall organize YDWA activities at WSDCC meetings, including, but not limited to, tabling, hospitality suites, volunteer activities, forums, panels, and other activities to promote YDWA within the WSDCC;
- iv. Shall represent the interests and further the goals and priorities of the organization on the State Committee;
- v. Shall be the designated liaison to the State Party Chair, staff, and the elected members of the Washington State Democratic Central Committee; and,
- vi. Shall work with the Executive Vice President to provide mentorship opportunities.

i. Development Director

- i. Shall develop an annual fundraising goal for the organization, and shall work with the President and the Vice President of Operations to form a plan to meet that goal;
- ii. Shall be responsible for the raising of funds through personal, phone, electronic, and print solicitation;
- iii. Shall propose new revenue enhancement projects;
- iv. Shall coordinate fundraising events; and
- v. Shall work to build and maintain strong relationships with current and potential donors;
- vi. Shall track donations with a database or similar sustainable method;
- vii. Shall report to the Vice President of Operations.

j. Finance Director

- i. Shall maintain records of all receipts and disbursements of funds of the organization in accordance with all local, state, and federal laws and regulations;
- ii. Shall report all financial activity at each General Board meeting;
- iii. Shall keep all organizational financial records in balance, shall file all Public Disclosure Commission reports as needed, and serve as chief compliance officer for the organization;
- iv. Shall report to the Vice President of Operations.

k. Technology Director

- i. Shall be responsible for maintenance of YDWA's website, domain name(s) and electronic mailing lists;
- ii. Shall assist other officers in implementing technological solutions for the organization;

- iii. Shall provide technological solutions to the Vice President of Operations for the purposes of record-keeping; and
- iv. Shall report to the Vice President of Operations.

I. Campaign Director

- i. Shall organize campaign activities on behalf of endorsed candidates;
- ii. Shall chair the Campaign Committee, consisting of one representative of each charter chapter, which shall select priority candidates;
- iii. Shall organize one YDWA Day of Action for each priority candidate; and
- iv. Shall report to the Vice President of Membership Engagement.

m. Eastern Washington Director

- i. Shall serve as leader and coordinator for chapters east of the Cascade Mountains;
- ii. Shall recruit leaders for, assist in the formation of, and actively foster the development of chapters in Eastern Washington;
- iii. Shall be the primary source of mentorship and training for chapter leaders in Eastern Washington;
- iv. Shall arrange quarterly meetings to be attended by the membership of their constituent chapters and interested caucuses;
- v. Shall attend as many meetings of their constituent chapters as possible;
- vi. Shall keep an accurate electronic list of members of chapters in Eastern Washington, which shall include contact information;
- vii. Shall assist the Campaign Director with Days of Action in Eastern Washington; and
- viii. Shall report to the Vice President of Membership Engagement.

n. Southern Washington Director

- i. Shall serve as leader and coordinator for chapters South of King County and West of Benton County;
- ii. Shall recruit leaders for, assist in the formation of, and actively foster the development of chapters in Southern Washington;
- iii. Shall arrange quarterly meetings to be attended by the membership of their constituent chapters and interested caucuses;
- iv. Shall attend as many meetings of their constituent chapters as possible;
- v. Shall be the primary source of mentorship and training for chapter leaders in Southern Washington;
- vi. Shall keep an accurate electronic list of members of chapters in Eastern Washington, which shall include contact information;
- vii. Shall assist the Campaign Director with Days of Action in Southern Washington; and
- viii. Shall report to the Vice President of Membership Engagement.

o. Western Washington Director

- i. Shall serve as leader and coordinator for chapters west of the Cascade Mountains;
- ii. Shall recruit and train leaders for, assist in the formation of, and actively foster the development of chapters in Western Washington;
- iii. Shall be primary source of mentorship and training for chapter leaders in Western Washington;
- iv. Shall arrange quarterly meetings to be attended by the membership of their constituent chapters and interested caucuses;

- v. Shall attend as many meetings of their constituent chapters as possible;
 - vi. Shall keep an accurate electronic list of members of chapters in Western Washington, which shall include contact information;
 - vii. Shall assist the Campaign Director with Days of Action in Western Washington; and
 - viii. Shall report to the Vice President of Membership Engagement.
- p. Advocacy Director**
- i. Shall serve as leader and coordinator for YDWA caucuses;
 - ii. Shall recruit and train leaders for, assist in the formation of, and actively foster the development of caucuses;
 - iii. Shall work with caucus leaders to develop and carry-out projects based on each caucus's topic of concern; and
 - iv. Shall report to the Vice President of Government Affairs.
- q. Policy Director**
- i. Shall organize an annual Lobby Day during legislative session including bimonthly phone calls two months prior to Lobby Day to keep the Executive Board abreast of progress;
 - ii. Shall organize additional lobbying and issue education events as appropriate; and
 - iii. Shall report to the Vice President of Government Affairs.
- r. Current Affairs Director**
- i. Shall track news stories and current events to ensure communications reflect the topics of the day;
 - ii. Shall work with caucus leaders to identify important pre-scheduled events, such as holidays, and plan appropriate messaging; and
 - iii. Shall report to the Vice President of Communications.
- s. Digital Media Director**
- i. Shall maintain the organization's digital media profile, including its Twitter feed and Facebook page;
 - ii. Shall seek out opportunities to produce videos, graphics, and other media materials;
 - iii. Shall organize YDWA's participation in media campaigns that engage young Democrats from across the state; and
 - iv. Shall report to the Vice President of Communications.
3. All officers shall perform any additional duties assigned by the President; their supervising Vice President, if applicable; the Executive Board; or the General Board.
 4. A vacancy in the office of the President shall be filled by a vote of the General Board members at the meeting immediately following the announcement of the vacancy. In the interim, the Executive Vice President shall serve as President.
 5. Vacancies in all other offices shall be filled by nomination by the President and the confirmation by the General Board.
 6. At no time shall any office be held by more than one person.
 7. If any office is not filled at the State Convention, the position shall be treated as vacant and filled pursuant to Section 5.

Article IV – Chapters

1. The Young Democrats of Washington shall be composed of local chapters with commonalities as defined in Article II. Article II will not restrict membership procedures

- of individual clubs in the event of institutional requirements. Local organizations shall be the primary organizational structure in the Young Democrats of Washington.
2. Local chapters may apply for a charter with the General Board in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws. Local chapter charters will expire at the State Convention immediately following regular Congressional elections. A representative from the chartering chapter must be present at the State Convention and provide sufficient documentation as per the requirements of the Vice President of Membership Engagement. Chapters who cannot be present at the convention but wish to maintain their charter may submit a request in writing to the Vice President of Membership Engagement prior to the convention. Charting will occur at the convention following congressional elections.
 3. Vacancies in the position of the presiding officer of a local chapter shall be filled by election of the membership of said organization in a timely fashion. Another officer of the chapter may serve as an interim presiding officer in representing the chapter on the state board as per the procedures of the chapter.
 4. The presiding officers of any chartered chapter are subject to the removal provisions in Article VI regarding their positions on the General Board.
 5. All chartered chapters in good standing on University or Community College campuses are also members of the College Democrats of Washington.

Article V - Organizational Structure

1. General Board – Powers & Duties
 - a. The principal power and decision-making authority of the organization between State Conventions shall be vested in a General Board of the Young Democrats of Washington.
 - b. The General Board shall set organizational policy as needed, especially in the following areas:
 - i. Oversee and approve all activities of the organization
 - ii. Approve expenditures of the organization, both specific, and discretionary
 - iii. Approve recommendations for endorsement made by the Endorsement Committee
 - iv. Approve chartering request by local organizations
 - v. Remove officers for just cause.
 - c. In all cases, the General Board shall act in accordance with the decisions and resolutions of the State Convention.
2. General Board – Voting Membership
 - a. The voting membership of the General Board shall consist of:
 - i. All officers defined in Article III
 - ii. The presiding officers or duly-appointed representatives of any properly chartered local organizations
 - iii. The presiding officers or duly-appointed representatives of any properly chartered caucus
 - iv. All Young Democrats of America Pacific Region officers who reside full-time within the State of Washington, provided that persons eligible to vote pursuant to this clause may not proxy their vote

- v. All members of the Young Democrats of America Executive Committee who reside full-time within the State of Washington, provided that persons eligible to vote pursuant to this clause may not proxy their vote
 - vi. Any additional individuals nominated by the President subject to the confirmed of the General Board.
 - b. No member of the General Board shall be entitled to cast more than one vote by virtue of multiple offices or positions that are eligible for a vote. Those officers who hold a position on the General Board and serve as a chapter representative may vote twice to represent both constituencies.
 - c. Proxy votes may be used at meetings of the General Board under the following conditions:
 - i. If the proxy member has a vote pursuant to Section V.2.a.i, the proxy may only be carried by another state officer, and only if the proxy member is not present
 - ii. If the proxy member has a vote pursuant to Section V.2.a.ii, the proxy may only be carried by a member of the same local organization
 - iii. General Board members may cast only one proxy vote in addition to their own vote
 - iv. General Board members casting a proxy vote on behalf of an absent member must have a written and signed statement from the absent member granting permission for them to vote on the absent member's behalf, or the absent member may directly notify the presiding officer.
 - v. All proxy votes are subject to the approval of the General Board; and
 - vi. The Vice Chair of a properly chartered local organization may vote at General Board Meetings in the absence of their chair without holding a proxy from the absent member.
- 3. General Board – Meetings & Other Provisions**
- a. The General Board shall meet at the call of the President at least once every quarter. These meetings shall, whenever possible, coincide in time and place with the meetings of the Washington State Democratic Central Committee.
 - b. Failure to convene a General Board meeting at least once every one hundred and twenty (120) days shall be considered an official act of resignation on the part of the President.
 - i. Upon such de facto resignation, the Executive Vice President, either National Committee Representative, or any combination of three Executive Board members shall immediately put out a call to a General Board meeting, convening within the next fourteen days.
 - c. At least fourteen days' notice of a General Board meeting shall be sent to each member and shall include the date, time, and specific location of the meeting, except in cases of emergency as defined by the president and two additional executive board members where 24 hour notice is required.
 - d. A quorum of the General Board shall consist of either 50% of the officers defined in Article III, or one-third (1/3) of the total membership of the General Board.
 - i. Any meeting at which a quorum is not present shall be deemed a meeting of the committee of the whole.
 - ii. Decisions made by a committee of the whole meeting shall be non-binding and shall not be implemented until approved at the next official

Executive Board meeting at which a quorum is present. Decisions made by a committee of the whole must be included in the notice of the next Executive Board meeting.

- e. Official meetings of the General Board shall not be held on the premises of businesses not open to minors.
- f. The President is encouraged to distribute meeting calls to all members of the organization via e-mail, list-serves, and websites.
- g. All meetings of the General Board, Standing Committees, and Caucuses shall be open to any member of the organization in good standing, provided that each body may develop a process for entering into executive session. Any member attending such a meeting shall be entitled to speak only if yielded to by a member of the body or if recognized by the chair.
- h. If any officer fails to attend or send a proxy to two (2) consecutive General Board or Committee meetings without being excused, such action shall make the office be considered vacant and a new officer will be appointed according to Article III.
- i. Participation in General Board Meetings Via Teleconferencing
 - i. General Board members may participate in said meeting via teleconference technology
 - ii. Teleconferencing members shall count towards quorum and retain any and all voting rights.

4. Executive Board

- a. The Executive Board shall exist as a committee of the General Board, and shall consist of the elected officers defined in Section II.2.a through Section II.2.h, as well as any additional individuals nominated by the President subject to the confirmation of the Executive Board.
- b. The Executive Board shall meet once every over month at the call of the President, and shall act as the principal administrative body charged with carrying out the decisions of the General Board.
- c. The Executive Board shall be vested with the following powers as well as any additional powers that are granted to it by the General Board:
 - i. The expenditure of funds in accordance with an annual budget that has been prepared by the President and the Vice President of Operations, and approved by the General Board
 - ii. Provisional approval of the charters of new or existing local organizations, subject to the final approval of the General Board
 - iii. Coordination and supervision of the activities of all state officers.
 - iv. All decisions and actions of the Executive Board are subject to the review of the General Board, and may be vetoed by a majority of the General Board.

5. Caucuses

- a. The caucuses of YDWA shall be organized around a specific issue of concern to YDWA membership. Caucuses shall track legislative and political matters relating to their area of concern, organize activities related to these matters, and advise the President and the General Board on all matters relating to their issue.
- b. Caucuses shall be chartered on an annual basis by the State Convention or the General Board; once chartered a caucus remains active until the next State

Convention, or until the caucus's charter is revoked by the General Board under Section V.5.e below.

- i. A caucus chartering application must be presented to the Vice President of Government Affairs and the Advocacy Director, and must include the following materials: the names and contact information of no fewer than five active members; the name and contact information of a Chair and Vice Chair, who has been elected by the listed officers; bylaws, and a budget for the upcoming year.
 - ii. All caucus chartering applications will be reviewed by the Department of Government Affairs and are subject to approval by the General Board with a simple majority vote.
 - iii. Caucus chairs will become members of the General Board after completing the chartering process.
 - iv. Caucuses that successfully charter, organize one caucus project, and post four blogs posts shall receive a one hour meeting block during business hours at the next State Convention.
 - v. Caucuses that are chartered by the time of State Convention have one month to submit a new budget for the upcoming fiscal year in order to maintain their status are a chartered caucus.
 - c. The chairs of all properly-chartered caucuses shall report to the Advocacy Director. The Advocacy Director shall provide support to caucus chairs.
 - d. Each caucus shall perform at least one caucus project relevant to the caucus's issue area, which shall be approved by the Vice President of Government Affairs. The President and the Vice President of Operations shall determine an appropriate amount of funding for caucus projects, which shall be divided evenly among all caucuses that are chartered at the time the budget is approved. The President and the Vice President of Operations shall make reasonable efforts to provide equal funds to caucuses that charter after the budget is approved, but shall not be required to provide funds if they are not available.
 - e. If, in the opinion of the General Board, a caucus is not making reasonable steps to complete a caucus project and fulfill the other duties defined in Section V.5.a, the General Board may revoke a caucus's charter by majority vote. A charter cannot be revoked within three months of being granted. The President and the Vice President of Legislative Affairs shall take reasonable steps to contact the caucus chair and vice chair prior to any meeting in which a caucus's charter is revoked. A caucus whose charter is revoked may apply to re-charter after the next State Convention.

6. Affiliate Organizations

- a. College Democrats of Washington (CDWA)
 - i. The College Democrats of Washington shall be recognized as an official affiliate organization of the Young Democrats of Washington.
 - ii. During State Convention,, the College Democrats of Washington shall be given a programming slot and an adequately sized room to conduct a meeting.
 - iii. This programming slot cannot be less than one (1) hour and must not conflict with caucuses or major panels at that State Convention.

- iv. In cases where the YDWA Constitution with the CDWA constitution, the YDWA Constitution shall control.
- v. CDWA shall make a good faith effort to contribute to funding their program slot at the State Convention.

Article VI - Removal of Officers

1. Grounds for Removal
 - a. The grounds for removal of an officer shall be misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance in the performance of their duties. "Nonfeasance" shall include consistent failure to participate in the proceedings of the General Board.
2. The process for removal of an officer, either elected or appointed except in such a case as specified in Section IV.3.a, shall be as follows:
 - a. A motion for removal must be made at a regular or special meeting of the Executive board. Charges demanding removal shall be referred to the General Board to ascertain, by majority vote, the validity of the charges and whether or not the charges are proper grounds for removal.
 - b. If the executive board cannot determine by majority vote that the charges are valid and are proper grounds for removal, the charges shall be dropped and stricken from the record.
 - c. Once the executive board has determined the charges before the body to be valid and proper grounds for removal, a detailed statement of the charges shall be mailed to each member of the General Board at least fifteen (15) days prior to the next General Board meeting, which shall be held no more than sixty (60) days following the day charges were first brought before the Board.
 - d. The officer subject to removal must be given the opportunity to respond at or before the meeting at which removal is considered.
 - e. Only General Board members in office before charges were brought before the General Board shall be eligible to vote on the motion for removal. A sixty percent (60%) affirmative vote of the General Board those present and eligible to vote shall be required for removal of an officer.
3. Consistent failure to participate in the proceedings of the General Board will be deemed without a formal motion for removal at a regular or special meeting of the General Board.
 - a. Between 12-24 hours after the vote to confirm an appointment has been called, the sponsor of the vote shall make a reasonable attempt to contact the officers who have not yet voted to notify them of their responsibility to do so.
 - b. The Vice President of Membership shall make a reasonable attempt to reach out to any officer who fails to participate in two (2) consecutive votes of the General Board within 48 hours of their posting to notify them of such failure and ask them to vote on the subsequent proceeding.
 - c. The President shall notify the Executive Board about any officer who fails to participate in three (3) consecutive votes and sponsor a vote on the appropriateness of removing that officer.
 - d. If the Executive Board cannot determine by a 2/3 rds vote the necessity of their removal, the vote will be tabled until either the next Executive Board meeting if the officer continues to fail to vote, or indefinitely should the officer begin to vote per their duties.

- e. If the Executive Board finds it necessary to remove the officer, they will do so and begin the appointment procedure to find a replacement for the position.
- f. In this appointment vote, the Executive Board will notify the General Board of their decision and the General Board shall have the option to approve the new officer or reject the appointment in favor of the last. This will be a 2/3rds vote.
- g. Should the officer in violation of this policy be a Chair, their presence on the General Board shall not be considered when calculating quorum until they begin to vote again.

Article VII - Standing Committees

1. Endorsement Committee

- a. The Endorsement Committee shall exist as a standing committee of the General Board and shall conduct candidate interviews, prepare and review candidate questionnaires, research candidates, and perform any other tasks necessary to evaluate Democratic candidates for public office.
- b. Requirements to be considered for endorsement are as follows: Congressional candidates must return a questionnaire. An in-person or Skype interview is strongly encouraged. Incumbent legislative candidates must express interest in receiving an endorsement to the Endorsement Committee Chair. Non-incumbent legislative candidates must return a questionnaire.
- c. The first meeting of the Endorsement Committee during each calendar year shall occur at the State Convention.
- d. In all local primaries, a recommendation for the Endorsements Committee shall require a 2/3 majority vote of members present in the committee. A local chapter will be given the opportunity to present its official endorsement recommendation, if one exists, to the Endorsement Committee.
- e. The Endorsements Committee shall prepare a preliminary report of their activities, including endorsement recommendations, and shall present the report to the entire body of the State Convention for review at the State Convention. The report shall include a written summary of why the candidate was recommended based upon all candidate materials submitted, a candidate interview if one has occurred, and any discussions of the Endorsement Committee. Members of the Endorsement Committee in opposition to the recommendations of the Endorsement Committee may write a minority report, to be submitted at least twelve (12) hours prior to the Call to Order for the next session of either the State Convention or General Board to the Endorsement Committee Chair. The Endorsements Committee may recommend endorsements for any election held entirely in the State of Washington. The Endorsements Committee may not recommend the endorsement of any candidate who does not affiliate as a Democrat. Exceptions shall be made for judicial races and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction.
- f. The process for voting on candidate endorsements shall be as follows:
 - i. The recommendations of the Endorsement Committee shall be voted on as a slate. Slates shall be delivered to the General Body of the State Convention at the business meeting of State Convention.
 - ii. Any candidate can be removed from the slate at the request of ten (10) credentialed members of the General Body at State Convention.
 - iii. The remaining slate will be voted on by the General Body.

- iv. Every credentialed member of the General Body at State Convention in attendance will have one (1) vote.
- v. A simple majority of credentialed members of the General Body at State Convention present and voting is needed to approve any endorsement.
- vi. Each candidate removed from the slate will be considered individually.

The process will be as follows:

1. The Endorsement Committee Chair will deliver a full report explaining the recommendation.
 2. If a minority report is written, the writer of the report will deliver the minority report.
 3. Speakers for and against endorsement shall alternate speaking. Each speaker will be limited to two minutes. There will be no more than three (3) speakers for and three (3) speakers against any candidate or slate.
 4. After all speeches, a vote of credentialed members of the General Body at State Convention will be taken. A simple majority of members present and voting will be needed for endorsement.
- g. Motions can be made to endorse candidates not recommended by the Endorsement Committee at the request of ten (10) credentialed members of the General Body at State Convention for a race that does not have an endorsed candidate. The process outlined in Section VII.1.vi shall apply to remove a candidate from a slate. The General Board shall review the preliminary report as soon as possible after submission and shall consider the recommendations for endorsement contained within that report. The Endorsement Committee shall be empowered to meet at the call of the Chair of the Endorsement Committee after the State Convention to consider additional endorsements.
 - h. Following State Convention, any recommendation by the Endorsement Committee shall be approved by the General Board. A simple majority vote of the General Board shall be sufficient to endorse a candidate after the State Convention. No endorsement after the State Convention shall be issued on behalf of the organization except based upon the approval of the General Board.
 - i. A final report, including all recommendations relating to endorsements by the organization, shall be prepared and submitted to the General Board for review no later than two (2) weeks after the filing deadline each year.
 - j. Following the submission of the final report, the Endorsement Committee shall adjourn until the following calendar year.
 - k. Any recommendation by the Endorsement Committee shall be approved by the General Board upon a simple majority vote. No endorsement shall be issued on behalf of the organization except upon approval by the General Board.
 - l. The General Board shall be empowered to withdraw any endorsement issued upon a 3/4ths majority vote by the General Board.
 - m. Upon the issuance of an endorsement voted on at the State Convention or by General Board as permitted in this Article VII.1 official notice shall be sent by the President or their designee.

- n. The Endorsement Committee shall be chaired by the Vice President of Membership Engagement or designee from the General Board, who shall appoint a Vice Chair and a Secretary.
 - o. Voting members of the Endorsement Committee shall be limited to the Chair, the Vice Chair, the Secretary, and a representative from each properly chartered chapter.
 - p. Quorum shall constitute six (6) or more voting members of the Endorsement Committee.
2. Constitution Committee
- a. The Constitution Committee shall exist as a standing committee of the General Board and shall conduct a thorough review of the YDWA Constitution and By-Laws, and prepare any proposed changes to be submitted to the general assembly of the State Convention. The committee should consider any proposals to remove unnecessary sections, add new sections relating to areas not currently addressed, improve clarity, and strengthen our organizational structure.
 - b. The last meeting of the Constitution Committee during each calendar year shall occur at the State Convention.
 - c. The committee shall prepare a preliminary report of their activities, including recommendations for changes, and shall present the report for consideration at the State Convention.
 - d. The Constitution Committee shall be empowered to meet at the call of the Chair before the State Convention to consider preliminary amendments.
 - e. The Constitution Committee shall be chaired by the Executive Vice President, or designee from the general board, who shall appoint a Vice Chair and a Secretary.
 - f. Voting members of the Constitution Committee shall be limited to the Chair, the Vice Chair, the Secretary, and a representative from each properly chartered local organization.
 - g. Quorum shall constitute four or more voting members.
3. In all Standing Committees in which the President is otherwise not a member, the President shall be a member ex-officio without vote.
4. In all Standing Committees, the Chair shall appoint committee officers from the membership of the committee who shall be voting members of the committee in addition to any members present from the chapter that the officer is affiliated with. Each committee officer shall be from a different chapter.

Article VIII - State Convention

1. The State Convention of the Young Democrats shall be held between February 1 and April 30 of each year, and shall have the highest authority over all organizational activities, subject to the provisions of this constitution.
2. In the interests of ensuring that each geographical region of the state shall have the opportunity to host a State Convention, the state shall be divided up in 7 different geographical regions. The regions are:
 - i. Tri-County: King, Snohomish, Pierce;
 - ii. Northwest: Island, Skagit, San Juan, Whatcom;
 - iii. Southwest: Pacific, Wahkiakum, Lewis, Cowlitz, Skamania, Clark;
 - iv. Peninsula: Thurston, Kitsap, Mason, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Clallam;

- v. Central: Okanogan, Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Grant, Yakima, Klickitat;
 - vi. Southeast: Benton, Franklin, Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield, Asotin, Adams, Whitman;
 - vii. Greater Spokane: Spokane, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Stevens, Ferry.
 - b. Chapters within the same region may submit State Convention bids.
 - c. No region shall host two (2) consecutive State Conventions.
 - d. No chapter shall host a State Convention more than once every three (3) years.
 - e. The recency of a county host shall be strongly considered in the bidding process.
 - f. County chapters can only bid in their territory, college chapters can make a bid within a reasonable distance to their campus.
 - i. If two (2) or more members from different chapters choose to work together to submit a single State Convention bid, such bid may propose a hosting location within an area that does not have a county chapter or nearby college chapter; any chapter subsequently formed in the hosting location will not be affected by paragraph 4 of this Section. This shall take effect after the 2019 Convention.
- 3. The bidding process for hosting the State Convention shall be open immediately following each State Convention in accordance with the provisions of Section 2.
 - a. The Young Democrats of Washington will make a good faith effort to host State Conventions at union-run businesses. "Good faith effort" as used in this paragraph shall include contacting local regional labor councils for direct assistance.
- 4. The General Board shall determine the next convention site and Host Committee Chair by October of each year.
- 5. The official call for the State Convention shall be transmitted to all members of the Young Democrats in good standing and to all Washington State Democratic Central Committee County and Legislative District Chairs no later than sixty (60) days prior to the date of the Convention.
- 6. A General Board meeting shall be held not less than fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the State Convention to consider the following items:
 - a. The President shall appoint, subject to confirmation by the Executive Board, chairs for the following convention standing committees: Constitution, Rules, Credentials, and Platform.
 - b. Committee chairs shall appoint a Vice Chair and a Secretary, who shall be entitled to vote on that committee.
 - c. In the absence of the President the General Board shall elect a temporary convention chair until such time as the convention committee selects a permanent chair.
- 7. Proxy votes shall not be allowed at the State Convention. Delegates must be present to vote.
- 8. A simple majority of votes cast shall be required to elect a candidate for office. If no candidate receives a majority, the candidate receiving the least percentage of votes shall be dropped from the ballot, and another vote shall be taken. Balloting shall continue in this manner until a candidate receives a majority.
- 9. Delegation Voting
 - a. All recognized delegates must meet YDWA Membership Requirements as defined in Article II of the YDWA Constitution

- b. All chapters attending the State Convention shall receive an automatic allotment of ten (10) votes
 - c. All delegates shall receive an extra five one-thousandths (0.005) vote per mile multiplier using driving distance from the school or county seat to the site of the State Convention
 - d. Each delegate can receive a maximum of four (4) votes.
- 10. The general board shall establish and implement a policy to address financial hardships of individuals intending to attend the State Convention at least thirty (30) days prior to convention.
- 11. The General Board shall adopt policies and procedures to ensure candidates for YDWA Executive Board limit campaign expenditures
 - a. Campaign expenditures shall include any material that is used explicitly for the purpose of lobbying, advertising, or persuading YDWA convention delegates to vote for or against any candidate in a YDWA Executive Board position. This includes, but is not limited to: signs, stickers, hotel suites, food, and/or beverages. Hotel suite expenditures shall be assessed by the cost of the suite, minus the sum total of the negotiated hotel rate for each night of convention.
 - b. Each candidate shall self-report to the Membership Committee campaign expenditures including those identified in paragraph 12(a) and other expenditures designated by the General Board, at least the day before the General Meeting at the YDWA convention. Expenditure reports shall be open to voting delegates prior to the general meeting of the convention.
- 12. This section shall be construed to limit the influence of monetary and in-kind contributions in all YDWA Executive Board officer elections, however it may not be construed to limit the ability of officers to conduct official business on behalf of YDWA or YDA.

Article IX - Amendment Procedure

- 1. Amendments to this constitution shall be adopted only by a three-fourths (3/4) affirmative vote of the delegates at a State Convention.
- 2. By-Laws governing this organization, not in conflict with this constitution, may be adopted by a simple majority vote of State Convention delegates or the General Board.
- 3. Amendments to this constitution shall become effective immediately after adjournment of the State Convention.

Article X – Policy

- 1. It shall be the policy of this organization to endeavor to uphold all ideals set forth in this constitution and by the Democratic Party.
- 2. This organization may charter and become a part of the Young Democrats of America and endeavor to carry on the work of that organization in the state of Washington.
 - a. Voting members of the National Committee of the Young Democrats of America shall be the President, and the two National Committee members.
 - b. In the event one of Washington's three voting members of the National Committee of the Young Democrats of America is entitled to receive a vote as the result of holding another office in the national organization, the President shall be entitled to appoint, with General Board confirmation, a permanent designee to the National Committee to ensure the state of Washington receives its maximum possible vote.

3. This organization seeks a cooperative relationship with the Washington State Democratic Central Committee and shall be guided by the actions of the Democratic Democratic Party assembled in state or national convention.

Article XI – Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and do not conflict with the Constitution and By-Laws of this organization, the Charter of the Young Democrats of America, and any special rules of order that this organization may adopt.