



# **Constitution of the Kansas Young Democrats**

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## **CONSTITUTION OF THE KANSAS YOUNG DEMOCRATS**

This Constitution was adopted at the Annual State Convention in 1988.  
Amendments were adopted in 1989, 1990, 1997, 1999, 2001, 2002, and 2008.

### **PREAMBLE**

In order to create an organization dedicated to the principals of the Democratic Party, capable of aiding in the election of Democrats to office, we, the membership of the Kansas Young Democrats, do ordain and establish this constitution.

### **ARTICLE I**

#### **Name and National Affiliation**

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the "KANSAS YOUNG DEMOCRATS."

Section 2. This organization shall affiliate with and become part of the Young Democrats of America and the Kansas Democratic State Committee.

### **ARTICLE II**

#### **Policy**

Section 1. The policy of this organization shall be determined by the general state convention of the organization, and by the State Committee.

Section 2. This organization shall seek in all of its operations the advice and cooperation of the Kansas Democratic State Committee; and shall be influenced and guided by the policies of the national and state Democratic parties.

Section 3. This organization shall aggressively and actively support on a statewide basis, and by proper means, the nominees of the state and national Democratic parties; shall endeavor to maintain contact with Young Democrats throughout the country; and shall continuously promote the growth and influence of the Democratic Party.

Section 4. This state organization shall not endorse or support the candidacy of any person for public office, or incumbents, prior to their nomination by the state or national primary, in races between or among members of the Democratic Party.

## ARTICLE III

### Chartered Units

Section 1. This organization shall be composed of duly organized and chartered local chapters, be they county, collegiate or high school:

- a) County Young Democratic Chapters may be organized in the several counties of the State of Kansas.
- b) Collegiate Young Democratic Chapters may be organized on the campuses of all accredited colleges, universities, and community college campuses in the State of Kansas.
- c) High School Young Democratic Chapters may be organized in the various accredited high schools in the State of Kansas.

Section 2. Not more than one chapter may be chartered in any one county, excepting a collegiate or high school chapter, but each chapter may create subdivisions. No more than one chapter shall be organized on any one college, university, community college campus or high school.

Section 3. For any local Young Democrats chapter to be eligible for charter by this organization, the chapter requesting or being granted a charter must ratify this constitution; have its own chapter constitution; submit its entire active membership list (as defined in Article IV, Section 2a) on forms provided by the state credentials committee with a minimum of ten (10) members, which shall be signed by the president and secretary of the chapter; submit a list of officers; pay all membership dues in accordance with this constitution; certify and submit all information presented in writing with the signature of the Democratic Chair, or Vice Chair in the absence of the chair, of the county in which the chapter is located, to the chair of the state credentials committee. A chapter not chartered at the last state convention may charter in the interim by submitting the required information to the State Committee for approval.

Section 4. The name of each local chapter shall include the words "Young Democrats," or "College Democrats," or "University Democrats," or "High School Democrats".

Section 5. Membership forms for each chapter shall be distributed under the direction of the state Membership Committee to all chapter presidents, other appropriate personnel and to the county chair of the County Democratic Central Committee where no chapter exists for the registration of members on a local basis. The membership form shall contain the following information for all proposed members: full name, mailing address, telephone number (if available), birth date, date the member renewed or initiated membership in this organization and the proposed member's signature (which shall have been obtained no earlier than the chartering deadline of the state convention of the previous year).

Section 6. Each Young Democrat chapter shall pay annual dues of twenty-five (25) cents for each of its active members at the time of chartering. However, no new chapter shall be required to pay dues. A new chapter is defined as one that has not chartered with the state

organization for two years previous. The exempt status of chapters will be determined by the State Executive Committee if in dispute.

Section 7. The charter of any local chapter may be revoked by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the State Committee of this organization for the following causes: non-conformance with ratified state constitution or non-conformance with a ratified local constitution, provided formal notice of the intention to revoke the charter is served on the chapter's officers, constructive and actual, within thirty (30) days before formal action to suspend is taken. This is subject to the other provisions of this constitution.

## ARTICLE IV

### Individual Membership

Section 1. Membership throughout this constitution is defined as an individual in good standing with a chartered local chapter of the Kansas Young Democrats.

Section 2. There shall be three (3) classes of membership: Active, Associate, and Honorary:

- a) Any legal resident of Kansas, or any nonresident attending school or working in the State of Kansas, between the ages of thirteen (13) and thirty-five (35) inclusive, shall be eligible for active membership in this organization provided that person is not registered or affiliated with any political party other than the Democratic Party.
- b) Any chartered Young Democrat chapter may sell associate memberships to those persons over age thirty-five (35). Associate members shall not be allowed to vote, hold office, or be a delegate to the state, regional, or national Young Democrat conventions. These members shall not be counted for the purpose of determining delegate votes. An associate membership will be effective from January 1 through December 31 of each year.
- c) Honorary memberships for any set determined amount of time can be bestowed upon any person approved by a majority vote of the state Executive Committee. Any local chapters may submit names for consideration by the state Executive Committee. An honorary membership shall not be paid for.

Section 3. No individual shall be counted as a member of more than one chapter for the purposes of awarding votes for membership in Article XI, Section 3b of this Constitution. If a member is listed on more than one chapter's membership list only the most recent signature shall be considered valid.

Section 4. Any member found guilty of actions contrary to the best interests of the Democratic party or of actions in violation of this constitution, may be liable to suspension of his or her membership by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the governing body of his or her local chapter, or by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the State Committee.

## ARTICLE V

### State Officers

Section 1. All officers of this organization, at all levels, shall be between the ages of thirteen (13) and thirty-four (34) years of age, inclusive, at the time of their election, with the exception of the President, National Committeeman and National Committeewoman who shall be between the ages of thirteen (13) and thirty-three (33) years of age, inclusive, and all officers shall be members in good standing of a chartered local chapter.

Section 2. The elected state officers of this organization shall consist of the President, the First Vice President, the Second Vice President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the National Committeeman, the National Committeewoman, the State Committeeman, and the State Committeewoman.

- a) It shall be the duty of the President to be the chief executive officer of this organization and to supervise the affairs and activities of the organization and to make an annual report to the members. The President may appoint any ad hoc committees and members thereof, subject to executive committee approval. The President shall preside at all meetings of this organization, shall represent this organization on the Kansas Democratic State Executive Committee and on the National Committee of the Young Democrats of America, and shall perform, in addition such duties as stated elsewhere in the constitution and duties customarily performed.
- b) It shall be the duty of the First Vice President to preside at all meetings in the absence of the President. The First Vice President shall serve as chair of the state convention committee and shall also assume charge of special projects as assigned by the President and/or by the Executive Committee.
- c) It shall be the duty of the Second Vice President to preside at all meetings in the absence of the President and the First Vice President. The Second Vice President will also oversee production of the organization's publications, including the newsletter and is responsible for regularly contacting district officers and local chapters to solicit news and to compile a calendar of forthcoming events for the newsletter.
- d) It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep all records of all meetings; to be responsible for correspondence approved by the Executive Committee; to keep and maintain the official membership roster; to keep the official copy of the organization's constitution and to provide copies when requested; and to perform other duties as directed by the Executive Committee.
- e) It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to serve as the chief fiscal officer of the organization and to report at executive and state committee meetings on the condition of the organization's finances. The Treasurer will oversee the collection of dues and shall pay all valid and approved bills. The Treasurer may be bonded in an amount determined by the Executive Committee.
- f) It shall be the duty of the National Committeeman and the National Committeewoman to serve as the official representatives of the organization to the Young Democrats of America. It will be the duty of these representatives to inform the membership of the Kansas Young Democrats of the activities of the Young Democrats of America.

- g) It shall be the duty of the State Committeeman and the State Committeewoman to serve as the official representatives of the organization to the Kansas Democratic State Committee. It will be the duty of these representatives to inform the membership of the Kansas Young Democrats of the activities of the Kansas Democratic State Committee.

Section 3. The President shall be elected to a two-year term, beginning at the adjournment of the general session of the Kansas Young Democrats annual state convention in odd-numbered years, by a majority of votes cast at that convention. The First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall each be elected to a one-year term, beginning at the adjournment of the general session of the Kansas Young Democrats annual state convention, by a majority of votes cast at that convention. The National Committeeman and National Committeewoman shall be elected to a two-year term, beginning at the adjournment of the Young Democrats of America National Convention, by a majority of votes cast at the Kansas Young Democrats annual state convention during odd-numbered years. The State Committeeman and State Committeewoman shall be elected to a two-year term, beginning at the adjournment of the general session of the Kansas Young Democrats annual state convention in even-numbered years, by a majority of votes cast at that convention.

Section 4. The non-elected state officers of this organization shall be the Immediate Past President and any member of the Young Democrats of America Executive Committee from Kansas who is not otherwise a state officer as described in Section 2, or a District Chair as described in Article VI.

- a) It shall be the duty of the Immediate Past President is to preside over the election of officers during the annual state convention and to assume other duties as prescribed by the president or the executive committee. Such position is to be filled automatically with the most immediate past president upon election of a new Kansas Young Democrats President.
- b) It shall be the duty of members of the Kansas Young Democrats who serve on the Executive Committee of the Young Democrats of America, and who are not otherwise a state officer as described in Section 2, or a District Chair as described in Article 6, to inform the organization of national activities and programs and to actively represent the Kansas Young Democrats at the national level.

Section 5. All state officers shall be obligated to attend all meetings of the Executive Committee, State Committee, and the organization's annual state convention. Furthermore, persons assuming the positions of a state officer shall be aware of the personal expenses that go with their responsibilities.

Section 6. A vacancy in a state office shall exist when:

- a) any officer dies during his or her term.
- b) any officer resigns from office.
- c) any officer moves permanently outside of the state or the district that officer represents.
- d) the State Committee, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting, through the process of impeachment, declares the office vacant for the reason that the officer is

negligent or delinquent in his or her duties or has failed to attend two consecutive duly called meetings of the Executive Committee or the State Committee without cause or excuse.

- e) the State Committee, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting, through the process of impeachment, may declare the offices of National Committeeman or National Committeewoman vacant by the reason that either such officer has failed to attend two consecutive National Committee meetings without just cause or excuse and failed to make the necessary arrangements to address an absence from such a meeting.

Section 7. The State Committee shall be the only authority empowered to conduct impeachment proceedings against any of its members. The State Committee shall conduct impeachment proceedings against any committee member upon the occurrence of any of the following:

- a) receipt of a Petition signed by a majority of the local chapter's presidents after a majority vote of their respective chapters, which lists the specific charges and the sections of the KYD Constitution or other governing document that were violated, or
- b) a call for impeachment proceedings by a majority vote of a duly called quorum of the Executive Committee, which lists the specific charges and the sections of the KYD Constitution or other governing document that were violated.

Section 8. The proceedings conducted in the case of impeachment shall be held at the next regular or special State Committee meeting immediately following the Executive or State Committee meeting in which the petition was received or the call for impeachment was made. The proceedings shall be handled according to rules adopted by the executive committee, provided that the following provisions are included:

- a) the person up for impeachment shall be given ten (10) days notice by registered mail of such impending action prior to the proceedings,
- b) the proceedings shall be held at a duly called meeting of the State Committee with a quorum present,
- c) the officer up for impeachment shall be given an opportunity to respond to the charges before the State Committee during the proceedings, and
- d) a two-thirds (2/3) vote of a duly called quorum of the State Committee shall be required to remove a state officer from office.

Section 9. When a state office, except the President or National of State Committee officers is vacated for one of the reasons designated in Article V, Section 6, the state President shall appoint a successor who shall fill the un-expired term of the vacant office. However, the position of Immediate Past President and positions of members entitled to a seat due to their office on the Young Democrats of America Executive Committee, shall not be filled. Appointments shall be made with the majority approval of the Executive Committee.

Section 10. When a vacancy occurs in the office of the state President, the First Vice President shall convene a meeting of the State Committee within thirty (30) days after such

vacancy occurs. At which meeting the State Committee shall, by a majority vote, elect a successor from the membership of the Executive Committee.

Section 11. When a vacancy occurs in the position of the National or State Committeeman or Committeewoman, the President shall appoint someone, with the approval of the executive committee, to hold that office until a special election can be held at the next state committee meeting or state convention to elect someone for the remainder of the term.

## ARTICLE VI

### District Officers and District Executive Committees

Section 1. The Young Democratic Chapters located within each Federal Congressional District in the state of Kansas shall comprise a district organization within the geographical boundaries of such district, provided that a county chapter of that district shall be considered a member chapter of the district in which a majority of that county's population lies.

Section 2. Each district shall elect a Chair and a Vice Chair. Other district officers may be elected as prescribed by district rules or bylaws.

- a) It shall be the duty of the District Chair to coordinate and to represent that district on the Executive and State Committee of the Kansas Young Democrats. The Chair shall also coordinate membership drives throughout their district and aid in the organization of new chapters.
- b) It shall be the duty of the District Vice Chair to represent the district on the state committee, and to assist the chair and assume responsibilities for other duties as prescribed by the district executive committee.

Section 3. District officers shall hold office for a term of one year immediately following their election and until their successors are elected and qualified. District officers shall be elected at the general session of the state convention by a majority of the votes cast by the representatives entitled to vote from the chapters located within the district. The number of votes that each chapter shall be entitled to cast in the district election shall be the number certified at the convention, with no one person voting more than three (3) times.

Section 4. The District Executive Committee shall be empowered to set rules and adopt bylaws governing the operations of the district provided that those rules and bylaws are not in conflict with this constitution. The District Executive Committee shall also have the power to set rules for the impeachment of district officers.

Section 5. When a district office, except chair, shall become vacant the district chair shall appoint a successor with the approval of the District Executive Committee, who shall fill the un-expired term of the officer.

Section 6. When a vacancy occurs in the office of district chair, the first vice chair shall convene a meeting of the chartered chapters within that district within thirty (30) days after the vacancy occurs, at which meeting they shall, by a majority vote, elect a successor who shall

serve the un-expired term. Ten (10) days of notice of such meeting shall be given to all chartered chapters. Each chartered chapter shall be entitled to the same number of votes as it had at the last state convention. If the meeting is not called within the prescribed time, it shall be the duty of the state President to call the meeting or to appoint a new chair.

Section 7. The District Executive Committee shall meet within the district at such times and places as called by the District Chair. The District Executive Committee shall consist of the District officers and the President and one (1) Vice President of all chartered chapters in that district, with each member voting no more than one vote.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **Caucuses**

Section 1. The State Committee may adopt a resolution creating certain caucuses to represent special interests in Kansas Young Democrats. The Chairs of each of these caucuses shall serve as voting members of the State Committee and Executive Committee.

Section 2. There may be additional caucuses created at the pleasure of the State Committee. The Chairs of these caucuses shall serve as ex-officio, non-voting members of the State Committee and Executive Committee.

Section 3. Each caucus shall establish bylaws and rules necessary for operation, not in conflict with this charter, and subject to the approval of the State Committee. The bylaws and rules must contain provisions for definition of membership, definitions of voting privileges, procedures for election of officers, duties of officers and procedures for removal of officers. A copy of the bylaws or amendments must be submitted to the State Office within thirty (30) days of approval and be available to any member of the State Committee upon request.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **State Executive Committee**

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the following officers:

- a) the President with one vote;
- b) the First Vice President with one vote;
- c) the Second Vice President with one vote;
- d) the Secretary with one vote;
- e) the Treasurer with one vote;
- f) the Diversity Advocate with one vote;
- g) the National Committeeman with one vote;
- h) the National Committeewoman with one vote;
- i) the State Committeeman with one vote;
- j) the State Committeewoman with one vote;
- k) the Immediate Past President with one vote;

- 1) Kansas members of the YDA Executive Committee, each with one vote; each of the District Chairs; and each of the Caucus Chairs each with one vote.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall meet at least six (6) times a year at specific dates and places as the President may call. Meetings shall be open to any member of the organization of the Kansas Young Democrats.

Section 3. Forty percent (40%) of the members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum. Voting shall be by a simple majority unless otherwise stated in this Constitution. Majority, be it simple or two-thirds (2/3), shall refer to simple or two-third (2/3) majorities of those Executive Committee members present and voting during a meeting at which a quorum is present.

Section 4. The Executive Committee shall have and exercise, in addition to the powers and authorities expressly conferred upon it by this constitution, all powers and lawful acts not reserved to the membership or to the state convention or to the state committee.

Section 5. The Executive Committee shall have the power to create special, temporary committees composed of its members and/or members of chartered chapters.

Section 6. The Executive Committee may make such rules as are reasonable and necessary to conduct the activities of this organization, in cases where the same are not covered by this Constitution, or by convention or State Committee action.

Section 7. The State Secretary shall publish and send to all Executive Committee members, local chapter presidents, and those interested parties who have requested it, a brief record of proceedings of the Executive Committee, and of any state convention or State Committee meeting within two weeks after such meetings or convention.

Section 8. No person, simultaneously, shall hold more than one position on the State Executive Committee, except that a person holding the position of Immediate Past President may hold another position on the State Executive Committee, however that person shall only vote once and shall only be counted as one member for the purposes of a quorum.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **State Committee**

Section 1. The state committee shall consist of the following members:

- a) all members of the state executive committee each with one vote; and
- b) all district vice chairs who are not already members of the executive committee each with one vote; and
- c) all chairs of standing committees who are not already members of the executive committee each with one vote; and

- d) the president of each chartered chapter, or if the president is already a member of the state committee, the president's designee, each with one vote; and
- e) twenty-five (25) delegates to be divided among the chapters chartered at the previous state convention in proportion to the number of votes each chapter was able to cast at that convention based on the final credentials report including delegates present, each with one vote.

Section 2. The number of delegates that each chapter is entitled to pursuant to Article VIII, Section 1e, shall be determined at the first executive committee meeting following the state convention, using the following formula, and shall be made known in writing to the president of each chartered chapter within one (1) week of that executive committee meeting.

- a) the total number of votes that each chapter was eligible to cast shall be divided by the total number of votes that all chapters were eligible to cast, and that number shall be multiplied by twenty-five (25) and rounded using each conventional rounding to the hundredths place to determine the number of delegates that chapter is entitled to.
- b) should the rounding method prescribed in section 2a not produce exactly twenty-five (25) additional delegates, the chapter with the lowest fraction of a delegate over half shall lose one (1) delegate, or the chapter with the highest fraction of a delegate under half shall gain one (1) delegate in order for exactly twenty-five (25) delegates to be allocated.
- c) should more than one chapter have the exact same fraction of a delegate, as described in section 2b, the executive committee shall determine the method for breaking the tie and awarding exactly twenty-five (25) additional delegates.

Section 3. The delegates as described in Section 1e may be any member in good standing of the chapter for which the delegate is voting. The names of chapter members who will represent a chapter shall be given to the chair of the credentials committee in writing by the chapter president no later than the call to order of the meeting. No person may be a delegate who holds another position on the state committee, regardless of whether that person is voting in their capacity as a state committee member or not.

Section 4. At no time shall any member vote more than one vote on the state committee. Should a member hold more than one position that entitles that member to vote on the state committee, they shall give up the extra vote or votes.

Section 5. The State Committee shall be the only body, other than the state convention when it is specifically empowered, that shall be empowered to pass resolutions, adopt constitutional amendments, conduct impeachment proceedings, expel members and officers, and set the date and location of the annual state convention. The State Committee shall also be able to exercise any powers not specifically reserved to the state convention, state executive committee or reserved to the membership.

Section 6. The State Committee will meet three (3) times per year, in conjunction with the two (2) meetings of the Kansas Democratic State Committee and at one (1) other time as called by the state president.

Section 7. Forty percent (40%) of the total membership of the state committee present shall constitute a quorum.

## ARTICLE X

### Standing Committees

Section 1. The following shall be standing committees of the Kansas Young Democrats:

- a) Membership Committee, whose chair and vice chair shall be appointed by the State President and whose members shall be appointed by the District Chairs, one from each Congressional District, with the approval of the executive committee. The committee shall develop an annual written plan for presentation to the executive committee designed to help chartered chapters increase and keep active members by providing resources and assistance when possible, and for expanding the membership of the Kansas Young Democrats.
- b) Convention Committee, whose chair shall be the First Vice President and whose members shall be appointed by the District Chairs, one from each Congressional District, with the approval of the executive committee. The committee shall be in charge of recommending to the State Committee the location of the annual state convention and shall consult the host committee on the operation of the convention.
- c) Constitution and Rules Committee, whose chair and vice chair shall be appointed by the State President and whose members shall be appointed by the State President, with one from each Congressional District, with the approval of the executive committee. The committee shall review and report on all proposed amendments to this constitution, shall set the rules governing the election of officers at the state convention, providing those rules are not contrary or in derogation to this constitution, and shall decide on any question presented to it by the chair regarding the rules, parliamentary procedure, balloting, or other questions excluding credentials challenged.
- d) Platform and Policy Committee, whose chair and vice chair shall be appointed by the State President and whose members shall be appointed by the chapter presidents, one from each chapter, with the approval of the executive committee. The committee shall present to the state convention for approval a platform for the Kansas Young Democrats which shall not exceed 5,000 words, and shall at all times through resolutions, promote to the Executive and State Committee and the various chapters issues and policies for the Kansas Young Democrats.
- e) Credentials Committee, whose chair shall be appointed by the State President and whose members shall be appointed by the District Chairs, with one from each Congressional District, with the approval of the executive committee. The committee shall have jurisdiction over the credentialing and chartering of chapters and delegates at the state convention, and any State Committee meetings.
- f) Campaign and Elections Committee, whose chair and vice chair shall be appointed by the State President and whose members shall be appointed by the chapter presidents, one from each chapter, with the approval of the executive committee. The committee shall submit to the State Committee for approval in even numbered years a campaign plan for

the organization, maintain a dialogue between the people of this state and the Democratic Party, and shall conduct an intensive voter registration campaign on an annual basis.

Section 2. The State President shall be an ex-officio, non-voting member of each committee created under this article.

Section 3. Unless otherwise provided for in the constitution and bylaws of the Young Democrats of America and/or this constitution, the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the parliamentary procedure of all committees created under this article.

Section 4. Each committee shall meet at the discretion of the chair or at times mandated by the Executive Committee provided that notice is given to all members of the committee at least seven (7) days prior to such meeting.

Section 5. The membership of all committees shall be first presented to the executive committee for approval no later than the executive committee's second meeting following adjournment of the general session of the annual state convention.

Section 6. Committee vacancies shall be filled in the same manner in which the position was originally chosen, and the nominee to fill the vacancy shall be presented to the executive committee no later than the second meeting of the committee following the vacancy. Should a nominee not be presented to the executive committee by the second meeting following the vacancy, the president shall have the power to nominate a person to fill the vacancy.

Section 7. All members of the committee, including the chair and/or vice chair, shall have only one vote.

Section 8. Proxy votes shall be permitted in the standing committees covered by this article provided that the member of the committee giving the proxy provides written notification to the chair of the committee. The person being given the proxy must be a member in good standing of a chartered local chapter of the Kansas Young Democrats and must be from the same unit of jurisdiction, be it a chapter or a district depending on how the committee members were chosen, as the member giving the proxy. The Chair and Vice Chair shall not have proxies.

Section 9. Forty percent (40%) of the members of a standing committee shall constitute a quorum. Voting shall be by a simple majority unless otherwise stated in this Constitution.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **Annual State Convention**

Section 1. This organization shall hold a general State Convention for the purpose of electing officers, amending the Constitution, formulating policy, and other appropriate matters within the months of February, March, and/or April of each year, the date of which is to be

determined by the State Committee at the first meeting thereof with the location of said convention to be determined by the State Committee at a later date.

Section 2. Credentials for the state convention will be done as follows:

- a) Each local chapter shall submit all monies, affidavits and other necessary forms as required by the Credentials Committee in accordance with Article III, Section 3 of this Constitution, to the Credentials Committee in session, or the Chair of the Committee by such time as required by the Credentials Committee to avoid vote penalties. The deadline, which shall be no later than two weeks before the opening of the state convention, nor earlier than six weeks before the opening of the state convention, shall be made known to the President of each local chapter, along with a packet including forms necessary for chartering, at least thirty (30) days prior to the deadline.
- b) The Credentials Committee will meet, review, and award applicable votes to chapters for all submitted credentials. The time of such meeting will be publicized to all local chapter presidents and the presidents of chapters seeking to charter with the state organization. Chapters not having proper credentials may not participate in the convention in any form except as an observer. Any remarks, complaints or rejections shall be submitted by any chapter officer to the Executive Committee, which shall determine if such action was arbitrary. Such Executive Committee decisions will be reported to the committee as a whole at the state convention.
- c) Within two days following the meeting of the Credentials Committee, the chair shall notify, in writing, the president of each chapter submitting materials, the number of votes they are eligible to have, and shall inform them of any problems in their packet.
- d) Any organization or member having an overdue account shall be excluded from any activities until said account is paid in full.

Section 3. Votes awarded to chapters at the state convention will be based on three areas: chartering, membership, and participation and will be done as follows:

- a) Chartering votes are awarded as follows:
  - I. two (2) votes for each of the two (2) previous state conventions in which the chapter was chartered;
  - II. one (1) vote for having adopted this constitution and having adopted and presented to the credentials committee a copy of the chapter's constitution (required to charter, Article III, Section 3);
- b) Memberships votes are awarded as follows:
  - I. three (3) votes for having a membership of ten (10) or more (required to charter, Article III, Section 3), with signatures from the chapter president and secretary of the membership;
  - II. one (1) additional vote for each additional ten (10) members or a major portion thereof above the original ten (10);
  - III. one (1) to three (3) votes for increases in recruitment above the membership that was chartered at the previous state convention. For a 1-10% increase, one (1) vote; for an 11-20% increase, two (2) votes; for a 20% or above increase,

three (3) votes. Chapters not chartered at the previous state convention shall be entitled to three (3) votes.

- c) Participation votes are awarded as follows:
- I. two (2) votes per meeting attended for having all chapter delegates a chapter is entitled to, as described in Article VIII, Section 1e, attend a State Committee meeting, or, if a chartered chapter is not entitled to additional delegates, two (2) votes per meeting attended for having their chapter president or other member, as described in Article VIII, Section 1d, attend a State Committee meeting;
  - II. one (1) vote for having held officer elections since the last state convention with an officer list submitted, with verification from the county chair or vice chair (required to charter, Article III, Section 3);
  - III. one (1) vote for participation in a district or county party grassroots activity, voter registration or advance voter drive, with written verification from a party official or grassroots organizer;
  - IV. one (1) vote for participation in at least two Democratic or issue campaigns, with written verification by the candidates or campaign coordinators;
  - V. one (1) vote for participation in a local community service activity, with written verification from the community service representative;
  - VI. one (1) vote for having fundraising activities, including a major fundraiser or a sustaining club, with written verification including submission of deposit slips;
  - VII. one (1) vote each, for up to two articles submitted to the official Kansas Young Democrats newsletter, with submitted copies of articles.

Section 4. The total number of votes a chapter is entitled to shall be penalized by fifteen percent (15%) for each week, or a fraction thereof, late for chartering materials submitted after the deadline in Article X, Section 2a.

Section 5. Delegates to the state convention from chartered chapters shall be subject to the following rules:

- a) no delegate may vote more than three (3) votes;
- b) no person may be a delegate from more than one chapter;
- c) any member of a local chapter may attend a convention as a delegate, the total vote of a chapter shall be divided equally among the members in attendance;
- d) all voting delegates must be credentialed at the convention.

Section 6. The order of business and rules for the general session of the state convention shall be adopted by the Executive Committee prior to the general session.

Section 7. All dues and chartering fees must be paid by money order, cash, check, certified check, or cashier's check except when circumstances deem it necessary as determined by the Credentials Committee or the Executive Committee.

Section 8. Should the state convention fail to be called at the proper time, any member of the Executive Committee may call the convention with the approval of a majority of the Executive Committee.

## ARTICLE XII

### Rules and Procedure

Section 1. Notice of any regular or special meeting of the Executive Committee of this organization shall be sent at least ten (10) days prior to such meeting to all members of the Executive Committee.

Section 2. Notice of any regular or special meeting of the State committee shall be sent at least twenty (20) days prior to such meeting to all members of the Executive Committee and each Chapter President and Vice President.

Section 3. Notice of any state convention shall be given in writing at least thirty (30) days prior to such convention to all members of the Executive Committee and each Chapter President and Vice President.

Section 4. Unless otherwise provided for in the constitution and bylaws of the Young Democrats of America and/or this constitution, the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the parliamentary procedure of all district and state meetings and conventions of the Kansas Young Democrats.

Section 5. This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates to the state convention or the members of the state committee. Amendments must be referred to and approved by the Constitution and Rules committee before being presented to the state convention or state committee. The Chair must then cause to be mailed to all State Committee members, chapter presidents and vice presidents, a copy of the proposed changes no later than 7 days prior to the opening of the general session of the state convention or State Committee meeting. Amendments shall take effect immediately upon adjournment of the convention or state committee meeting, unless specifically provided for.

Section 6. No proxies shall be allowed at any state or district meeting or convention of the Kansas Young Democrats, except that any district vice chairperson may vote in the absence of the chairperson at a State Executive Committee meeting.

Section 7. The annual budget of the Kansas Young Democrats shall be proposed by the President at the first meeting of the state committee following the election of officers for their amendment and adoption. The fiscal year shall run from October 1st through September 30th of each year.

Section 8. The executive committee may approve payment of all bills provided they are within the budget passed by the state committee. The state committee must approve bills that are in excess of the budgeted amounts.

Section 9. The President, First Vice President and Treasurer shall be signatures on the organization's checking account with at least two signatures required to make expenses as approved by the executive committee.

**CERTIFICATION OF CONSTITUTION**

The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Official Constitution of the Kansas Young Democrats as amended at the State Convention of the Kansas Young Democrats held in Topeka, Kansas, on March 2, 2008.

Jamie Epstein  
President  
Kansas Young Democrats

Doug Schaible  
Constitution and Rules Committee Chair  
Kansas Young Democrats