

# San Diego Young Democrats for Equality

## - Bylaws -

### Article I - Name and Purpose

**SECTION 1.** The name of the organization shall be the San Diego Young Democrats for Equality, a chapter of the California Young Democrats in association with the San Diego Democrats for Equality, and hereafter referred to in this document as the “YD4E”.

**SECTION 2.** YD4E shall operate under the Charter and bylaws of the Young Democrats of America, California Young Democrats, Democratic National Committee, and Roberts’ Rules of Order Newly Revised.

If any sections of the charter are found to be in conflict with the aforementioned organizations it shall become null and void and the remainder of the charter is to remain intact. YD4E shall not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, economic status, gender, creed, ethnic identity, physical disability, philosophical persuasion or sexual orientation.

### Article II - Membership

**SECTION 1.** Membership in YD4E shall be open to registered democrats under the age of 36 currently residing within the County of San Diego. Membership in YD4E also requires that members be willing to be known as a Young Democrat, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, physical handicap, socioeconomic status, or sexual orientation and has paid their annual dues as set by the executive board.

**SECTION 2.** Every person who is eligible to be a member of YD4E and who has paid annual dues shall be a member in good standing. Dues may be paid only by personal credit card, personal check, or cash provided by the individual. Corporate, business or organizational checks or payments are not accepted in satisfaction of membership dues.

Membership commences:

- 1) on the postmark date of a membership form with payment sent to YD4E’s mailing address;
- 2) on the date a membership form with payment is completed online on YD4E’s website;
- 3) on the date that a membership form with payment is hand delivered to the Secretary-Treasurer.

**SECTION 3.** Any member whose actions are judged by a majority of the Executive Board to be prejudicial or detrimental to YD4E may be expelled from YD4E, upon recommendation of the Executive Board, by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of those members present and voting at a properly noticed and called meeting of YD4E. Notice that such action is being considered shall be mailed to the member subject to expulsion at least five (5) days prior to the meeting.

**SECTION 4.** Individuals who are not registered as Democrats may become associates of the YD4E. Associates are not considered members and are therefore not eligible to vote, hold a position on the Executive Board or represent YD4E at Democratic Party activities.

**SECTION 5.** The annual dues shall be set by the Executive Board. Dues are payable when a person joins YD4E and annually thereafter.

### Article III - Officers

**SECTION 1.** The elected Officers and Executive Board of YD4E shall be the Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary-Treasurer. Elected Officers shall take office at the first general membership meeting following their election and shall hold office for one (1) year or until their successors are elected.

**SECTION 2.** The duties of the elected Officers shall be as follows:

**A. Chair.** The Chair shall be the Chief Executive Officer of YD4E; set the agenda for and preside over all meetings of the Executive Board and of the membership; act as the official representative of YD4E to other groups and the media; ensure the mandates, policies, and directives of the Executive Board are carried out; appoint chairs of all committees subject to membership approval; appoint ad hoc committees and appoint chairs of such committees to the membership for approval; ensure the organization develops and maintains relationships with members on the California Democratic Party, San Diego County Central Democratic Committee, and the appropriate Assembly District Committees, CYD, YDA, as well as local college and young Democratic clubs; ensure that general meetings of the organization occur on a consistent basis; guide the organization to recruit new members, and to involve all members in Democratic Party participation; make decisions for YD4E on policy when specifically empowered to do so by the Executive Board; advise the membership of pertinent matters affecting the Democratic Party and the organization; disburse funds of the organization within limits set by the Executive Board; and act as Secretary-Treasurer in the absence or inability of

the Secretary-Treasurer; and the Chair shall be an ex-officio officer of all entities within YD4E.

**B. Vice Chair.** The Vice Chair shall assist the Chair in the performance of their duties; including brainstorming ideas and evaluating the progress of the Executive Board and organization as a whole; act as Chair when the Chair is unable to perform their duties; assume the office of the Chair upon the Chair's death, resignation, removal, or inability to perform duties; take on projects of their choosing, subject to the approval of the Executive Board; and perform such duties as the Chair may assign.

**C. Secretary-Treasurer.** The Secretary-Treasurer shall maintain the financial records of the organization; ensure YD4E complies with all financial laws and regulation pertinent to the function of the YD4E; receive and disburse funds of the organization, including the chartering fees of the Young Democrats of America and the California Young Democrats; prepare an annual budget of anticipated revenues and expenses; provide addenda to the budget as required; report the financial status of the organization to the Executive Board on a regular basis; make an annual report to the membership; maintain a record of all meetings of the Executive Board and of the membership; receive and maintain all official non-financial records of the organization, the reports of elected Officers, directors of standing committees and chairs of recognized caucuses; maintain a compendium of standing rules, resolutions and policies adopted by the Executive Board or the membership; make a record of the minutes of the meetings available to the members; maintain accuracy of records as necessary for chartering with the California Young Democrats; and perform such duties as the Chair may assign.

## Article IV - Removal and Vacancy

**SECTION 1.** The removal of Officers shall be as follows:

**A. Cause for Removal of Executive Board Officers.** Cause for removal shall be defined as malfeasance or nonfeasance of duties assigned by the Executive Board or delineated within this document, or as ineligibility for Executive Board membership pursuant to Article 2.

Cause for removal shall also include grounds found by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) majority of the Executive Board and then a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) majority of the entire dues paying membership to constitute good and sufficient cause (or) a signed petition of a majority (50% plus one) of the entire dues paying membership and a motion carried by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of members in attendance at the next general meeting occurring no less than twenty-eight (28) days following the presentation of the petition.

**B. Process for Removal of Executive Board Officers.** To begin the process for removal of an Officer, another dues paying member of YD4E must charge the Officer with the reasons for their removal publicly at either a meeting of the Executive Board or general meeting. The Officer in question must be offered an opportunity to defend themselves at that meeting.

**SECTION 2.** The declaration of vacancy shall be as follows:

**A. Interim Appointments.** The Executive Board has authority to appoint an Interim Officer until a duly noticed special election can be held at the next general meeting, held no less than 28 days since the announcement of the vacancy.

## Article V - Elections

**SECTION 1.** Officers of YD4E shall be elected at a membership meeting to be scheduled during the month of February each year and assume office at the first general membership meeting following their election.

**SECTION 2.** Officers may be nominated in one of two ways, by the Nominating Committee or from the floor immediately prior to the voting for each office. The Nominating Committee shall report to the meeting that precedes the election meeting. Members shall be given at least one week's notice of both meetings.

**SECTION 3.** In developing its slate of nominees, the Nominating Committee shall make its best effort toward the attainment of a goal of having gender equity in all of the elected positions.

**SECTION 4.** The Officers shall be elected individually in the order of Chair , Vice Chair , and Secretary-Treasurer. The election of Officers shall be by secret ballot; however, if there is only one nominee for an office, and provided that no objection is raised, the candidate can be elected by acclamation without a ballot. To be elected, a nominee must receive a majority of the votes cast for that office. If no nominee receives a majority on the first ballot, a runoff shall be held between the two nominees receiving the greatest number of votes. In case of a tie, the candidates who tied will be included on the runoff ballot. If there is only one nominee for an office, the ballot shall include a choice of no election for that office which shall be included in tabulating the votes cast.

**SECTION 5.** Nominees for election as Chair must have been dues-paid members for at least 90 days prior to taking office and must have been dues-paid members for at least twelve months out of the two years preceding the election. Nominees for other offices must have been dues-paid members for at least 90 days prior to taking office.

**SECTION 6.** In the event a position is not filled in the annual election of Officers, or there is a vacancy because of resignation or removal, with the exception of Chair, a special election shall be held to fill the position according to the procedures for nominating and electing Officers in the annual election. An Officer elected in a special election shall take office immediately. When there is a vacancy in the office of Chair, the position shall be filled by the Vice Chair and a special election shall be held to elect a new Vice Chair.

**SECTION 7.** Only the following are eligible to vote in the election of YD4E Officers in February:  
(1) Those persons who were current members as of November 1, provided they are also current on the date of the election (members may become current by payment of dues at the election meeting), and

(2) those whose membership expired between August 1 and October 31 and renewed within 90 days of their expiration date.

For the election of YD4E Officers only, absentee ballots shall be accepted from members who are eligible to vote but unable to attend the meeting at which the election is held. Policies and procedures for absentee balloting shall be prescribed by the Executive Board. For the election of YD4E Officers, absentee ballots shall count toward a quorum.

## Article VI - Meetings

**SECTION 1.** Meetings of the membership shall be held at least four times each year, including a meeting during February for the purpose of electing YD4E Officers.

**SECTION 2.** A quorum for meetings shall be 30% of the members in good standing at the time of the meeting. Proxies shall not be valid at membership meetings. For the election of YD4E Officers only, absentee ballots shall be accepted from members who are eligible to vote but are unable to attend the meeting at which the election is held. Policies and procedures for absentee balloting shall be prescribed by the Executive Board. For the election of YD4E Officers, absentee ballots count toward a quorum.

**SECTION 3.** Notice shall be given to members of all meetings in a timely fashion. Newsletters or written notices shall be mailed at least seven days prior to the meeting. Notices may be sent electronically at least 5 days prior to a meeting; however, any member without an electronic address on file shall be mailed a written notice at least seven days prior to any meeting.

**SECTION 4.** Meetings may be closed to non-members at the request of any member and the approval of two-thirds of the members present and voting.

## Article VII - Rules of Procedure

**SECTION 1.** The current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall be the parliamentary authority for YD4E on all questions not covered by these bylaws.

**SECTION 2.** Questions of interpretation of these bylaws may be appealed to the Executive Board whose decision shall be final.

**SECTION 3.** Membership records shall be confidential and the use of YD4E mailing lists shall require a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) affirmative vote of the Executive Board.

## Article VIII - Amendments

**SECTION 1.** These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote at a properly noticed membership meeting at which a quorum is present, provided that a summary of the proposed amendment is included in the meeting notice.