

Manifesto in Brief: Matt Craven for Vice-Chair

The position of Vice-Chair has long suffered from being misunderstood. In the past it has sometimes been viewed as either a sort of 'Chair-in-waiting' or as a job without much of a defined role, similar to an NPO. Neither of these is what the position was created for. Were I to be elected, I would seek to execute the role of Vice-Chair in the manner it is defined in the Young Liberals constitution, which is similar to that of a local party secretary.

However, I also acknowledge that the role of the Vice-Chair has evolved informally beyond the parameters defined in the constitution and executive regulations. I have no intention of abandoning these elements of the role, but instead will work to bring the regulations into line with them.

Transparency and Efficiency:

It is the responsibility of the Vice-Chair to help ensure the smooth running of the Young Liberals just as it is the role of a secretary to do the same for their local party. My key focus if elected will be working to make the day-to-day operations of YL more efficient and our internal workings more transparent for members.

- Formalise the Vice-Chair Role with an update of the executive regulations that brings them in line with the currently unofficial group admin responsibilities.

- Make Minutes More Accessible by ensuring that meeting minutes are circulated, approved, and published promptly on both the website and the Young Liberals Forum.
- Implement an Executive Calendar to help remedy the issue of poor co-ordination between executive members and make collaborative working easier.
- Improve Co-Options by proposing that all future co-options include an interview with the executive for the final short-listed candidates to allow for questions to be asked about candidates' manifesto proposals.

Young Liberals Groups:

- Streamline Our Groups by moving to shut down inactive groups such as 'Young Liberals Elected Leaders' and 'Young Liberals Membership Hub'. Though these groups were often created with good intentions and with the goal of making it simpler for members to find useful resources, many of them are now unused or rarely used. Regional, diversity, and other groups outside the purview of the Federal Executive would be unaffected by this change.
- Improve Moderation with six month terms for the moderation team that give moderators the option of stepping back halfway through an executive term. This will make the commitment of signing up to be a moderator less daunting prospect and will hopefully encourage a more diverse range of applicants to be moderators and reduce burnout of the moderation team.
- Increase Engagement by launching a consultation of members to ask why they do or do not use the Forum and asking what would make them use it more.

- Formalise the YL Discord to ensure that moderation is accountable. The YL Discord was founded ahead of our online conference this summer and remains in use, moderated by members of our executive. However, it has no formal status. If it is to continue as an official YL channel of communication its situation must be clarified.

My Lib Dem CV:

- Member since 2015
- Youth Officer, Colchester Liberal Democrats (2017)
- Chair, University of Essex Liberal Democrats (2017-19)
- Secretary, Colchester Liberal Democrats (2018)
- Co-chair, East of England Young Liberals (2019)
- National Field Organiser, Liberal Democrats (2019 General Election)

Thank you for taking the time to read my manifesto.

Please consider giving me your first preference vote for Young Liberals Vice-Chair!

Matt Craven