

## ***SOUTH CENTRAL YOUNG LIBERALS CONSTITUTION***

### ***Section 1 - Name, Nature, & Objectives***

1.1 The official name of the Organisation shall be the South Central Young Liberals.

1.2 The area of the Organisation shall be the geographic counties of Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Berkshire, Oxfordshire, and Buckinghamshire, hereafter referred to in its entirety as the Region.

1.3 The objectives of the Organisation shall be:

- a. To establish the objectives and ideals set out in the Federal Party Constitution Preamble.
- b. To secure the election of young and student Liberal Democrats to public office.
- c. To co-ordinate, support, and otherwise regulate Branches of youth and student Liberal Democrats within the Region.
- d. To represent the interests of youth and student Liberal Democrats within the Region both within and outside the Federal Party and Young Liberals.

1.4 This Organisation shall:

- a. Act as the Youth and Student wing of the South Central Region Liberal Democrats.
- e. Act as the South Central Young Liberals as described in the English Young Liberals Constitution.

## **Section 2 - Disambiguation**

### 2.1 In this Constitution:

- a. "The Party" means the Liberal Democrats.
- b. "The Regional Party" means the South Central Liberal Democrats.
- c. "Federal YL" means the Federal arm of the Young Liberals, the Specified Associated Organisation (SAO) of the Liberal Democrats.
- d. "English YL" means the English branch of Federal YL.
- e. "Branch" means any youth or student organisation that willingly affiliates itself with The Party and/or Young Liberals within the Region, which includes but is not limited to accredited branches of Young Liberals.

## **Section 3 - Membership**

### 3.1 A Member of the Organisation shall be any person who;

- a. Lives, works, or studies in the Region, and;
- b. Meets the requirements of membership for the Young Liberals, or;
- c. Is a member of a Branch that has requested to join the Organisation, or;
- d. Is a member of:
  - i. Young Liberals and/or;
  - ii. The Party, but only where they meet requirements for Membership of Young Liberals.

### 3.2 Members shall:

- a. Act in good faith with respect to other Members.
- b. Adhere to the rules and regulations established by The Party and Young Liberals.
- c. Not bring the Region into disrepute.
- d. Adhere to the rules set out by this Constitution.

### 3.3 All Members shall be entitled to:

- a. Submit Motions and Constitutional Amendments to General Meetings.
- b. Regular updates on:
  - i. The activities of the Executive, and;
  - ii. Upcoming social or campaign events within the Region.
- c. Stand for election at a General Meeting for a position on the Executive, as well as stand for co-option for a position on the Executive.
- d. Attend, by invitation of the Executive, meetings of the Executive.
  - i. At such meetings, Members may be invited to speak but shall not have a vote.

### 3.4 Matters of membership discipline and revocation or suspension of Membership shall be referred to Federal YL, under Section 12 of the Federal YL Constitution.

## **Section 4 - The Executive**

4.1 The Organisation shall have an Executive Committee, hereafter referred to as the Executive, that shall consist of the following members:

- a. The Chair
  - i. The role, powers, and responsibilities of the Chair shall be:
    1. To convene and chair meetings of the Executive at least 4 times per year.
    2. To chair General Meetings.
    3. To have a casting vote at Executive and General Meetings.
    4. To speak and vote at Executive meetings.
    5. To represent youth and student Liberal Democrats within the Region within and outside the organisation.
  - ii. The election and term length of the Chair shall be, unless otherwise directed or regulated, be determined by the English YL Constitution.
- b. Vice-Chair
  - i. The Vice-Chair shall assume the role, powers, and responsibilities of the Chair as Acting Chair in the event that the Chair is temporarily unavailable or has resigned.
    1. In the event that the Chair can resume their duties after being temporarily unavailable, the Acting Chair shall resume their duties as Vice-Chair.
    2. The Vice-Chair shall be responsible for ensuring that the Constitution is adhered to and that all Constitutional Amendments are recorded.
  - ii. The role, powers, and responsibilities of the Vice-Chair shall be:
    1. To speak and vote at Executive meetings.
    2. To ensure proper preservation and safeguarding of this Constitution.
    3. To take on any additional powers or responsibilities that the Executive deem appropriate.
  - iii. The term length of the Vice-Chair shall be the same as that of the Chair.
  - iv. The Vice-Chair shall be unilaterally appointed by the Chair.
    1. In the event that the Chair is temporarily unavailable, or has resigned, and there is no Vice-Chair the Executive shall simply designate one of its own to act as Acting Vice-Chair until a new Chair can be elected or the current Chair can resume their duties.
- c. Branch Heads/Delegates
  - i. The heads of each Branch shall, *ex officio*, sit on the Executive.
  - ii. Their election and term of office shall be determined by their respective Branches.
  - iii. The role, responsibilities, and powers of the Branch Heads/Delegates shall be:
    1. To speak and vote at Executive meetings.
    2. To represent their Branch within and outside the organisation.
  - iv. Any head of a Branch may in their stead send a Delegate.

1. It is a matter for each respective Branch to decide who and how each Delegate should be appointed or elected, and how a Delegate might be recalled.
- d. University/College Student Union Officers
- i. Any University or Sixth Form Sabbatical or Student Union elected officers that meet the membership requirements shall, *ex officio*, sit on the Executive.
  - ii. The role, responsibilities, and powers of the University/College Student Union Officers shall be:
    1. To speak and vote at Executive meetings.
    2. To represent their College/University within the Region.
  - iii. Their election and term of office shall be determined by the respective rules of the Sixth Form, University, or Students Union they were elected to.
    1. The Sixth Form, University, or Students Union in question must be within the Region.
- e. Ordinary Member
- i. 1 Ordinary Member per geographical county within the Region shall be elected at the General Meeting.
  - ii. Their term of office shall be the same as that of the Chair.
  - iii. The role, responsibilities, and powers of the County Representatives shall be:
    1. To speak and vote at Executive meetings.
    2. To represent youth and student Liberal Democrats within their respective Regions.
    3. In the event that there are vacancies with regard to these Representatives, the Executive may simply co-opt replacements by simple majority until the next General Meeting.
    4. In the event that there is a Branch that covers the entirety of the relevant geographic county, that Branch shall have no authority over the election of that Representative. However, the Branch shall have the authority to co-opt said Representative, insofar as this co-option abides by the rules of this Constitution.
    5. Only Members that live, work, or study within the geographical county that they wish to represent shall be allowed to stand for election or co-option to the Executive.
- f. Minority & Party Representatives
- i. These Representatives shall have the same term of office as the Chair, and shall be elected at a General Meeting.
  - ii. These Representatives shall be entitled to speak and vote at Executive meetings.
  - iii. The title of the Representative roles shall be as follows:
    1. Under 18s Representative
      - a. This role shall represent Members under the age of 18 in the Region.
      - b. Only people who are under the age of 18 shall be allowed to stand for election or co-option to this role.
    2. Racial Diversity Representative

- a. This role shall represent Members from a minority ethnic background in the Region.
  - b. Only people from a Black or minority ethnic background shall be allowed to stand for election or co-option to this role.
3. Women's Representative
  - a. This role shall represent female Members in the Region.
  - b. Only women shall be allowed to stand for election or co-option to this role.
4. LGBT+ Representative
  - a. This role shall represent Members that identify as being the LGBT+ Community in the Region.
5. South Central Executive Representative
  - a. This role shall represent the Organisation and the Executive on the Executive of the South Central Liberal Democrats.

4.2 Job shares may be permitted for Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Organisation, as regulated by Section 6.6.a-c of the Federal YL Constitution.

## **Section 5 - Executive Responsibilities**

5.1 The Executive shall adopt regulations, appended and considered integral to this Constitution, with regard to:

- a. General Meeting Standing Orders
- b. Executive Regulations
- c. Financial Regulations
- d. Any other matters deemed necessary by the Executive.

5.2 It is incumbent upon Executive members to give apologies or notify the Executive that they are unable to attend an Executive meeting.

- a. Any Executive member that fails to give apologies or notify the Executive that they are unable to attend, subsequently fails to attend, and does so more than twice in a row in a single term of office, shall be considered to have resigned.
  - i. The Chair shall have the power to grant clemency in one or more examples of absence by a particular Executive member, in the event of pressing personal circumstances, including work and/or study commitments.

5.3 The Executive may establish by majority vote a Subcommittee of the Executive.

- a. The size, scope, and composition of any Subcommittee shall be determined by a governing document that may not be altered by the Subcommittee without the consent of the Executive.
  - i. The governing document shall determine the limit and purpose of a Subcommittee, and Subcommittees may not exceed them.
- b. The Subcommittee shall report back to the Executive at every meeting of the Executive.
- c. Unless otherwise stated by the relevant governing document, the term of any Subcommittee shall end when the term of the Chair of the Organisation expires.
- d. A summary of every Subcommittee, including their term length, purpose, and composition shall be appended to this Constitution.
- e. The Executive may alter or repeal the governing document by majority vote.

## ***Section 6 - Resignations & Vacancies in the Executive***

6.1 All Executive members shall be allowed to resign.

- a. Any head of a Branch that resigns as the head of their branch shall automatically be deemed to have resigned from the Executive.
  - i. However, any head of a Branch that resigns from the Executive yet retains that Branch role shall not lose that role.
  - ii. In the event of any head of Branch resigning, it is a matter for the Branch as to who shall replace them.

6.2 Unless otherwise stated, any Executive member that does not fulfil the Membership requirements in Section 3.1 shall be deemed to have resigned from the Executive.

- a. The Executive, however, may vote by simple majority to allow an Executive Member to continue in office as long as they adhere to Section 3.1.d.

6.3 In the event of any vacancy occurring in the roles from Section 4.1.f-g, the Executive shall co-opt by simple majority their replacement as soon as is feasible.

- a. However, the Executive may vote not to co-opt for (a) particular position(s) for a specified period of time that shall not exceed the end of the term of the Chair.

6.4 The system for co-option shall run under Section 2 of the Federal YL Election and Co-Option Regulations.

### ***Section 7 - Executive Elections***

7.1 Elections to the Executive shall take place using the Single Transferable Vote (STV) at an (S)GM.

- a. Unless otherwise specified by English YL, English YL shall be responsible for the election of the Chair.



## **Section 8 - General Meetings**

8.1 The General Meeting (GM) shall be considered the sovereign body of the Organisation, and shall have the power to determine the direction of the Organisation, subject to the rules and regulations of the English YL, Federal YL, and the Federal Party.

- a. A GM must take place between August and December each year, which shall be considered the Annual General Meeting of the Organisation.

8.2 GMs shall be held at least once every year.

- a. Further GMs may be held more than once per year for any reason by the Executive.
- b. Unless otherwise determined by the Executive, GMs shall be held online.

8.3 A Special General Meeting (SGM) may be called by a petition signed by at least 5% of Members, with the business of the SGM being specified in the petition. The Executive may allocate any additional business to the SGM, insofar as it does not obstruct the business specified in the petition.

8.4 (S)GMs shall be governed by the General Meeting Standing Orders as appended to this Constitution.

8.5 The timetable of (S)GMs shall be determined by the Executive, notwithstanding the existence of a relevant Subcommittee.

8.6 The business of (S)GMs must contain the opportunity to:

- a. Submit Votes of No Confidence (VONC) against any Executive member.
  - i. Any Executive member that is the recipient of a successful VONC shall be considered to have resigned.
  - ii. The Chair shall, unless otherwise ruled or regulated by English YL, only be subject to a VONC at the GM of English YL.
- b. Host elections to the Executive.
- c. Submit reports to scrutiny from the Chair and Vice-Chair, including any reports from any other Executive members that volunteer one.
- d. Hear and vote on relevant Motions.
- e. Submit amendments that alter, in part or in whole, this Constitution.

### ***Section 9 - Constitutional Amendments, Motions, and Policymaking***

9.1 Motions and Constitutional Amendments may be submitted at a(n) (S)GM by:

- a. The Executive
- b. Any individual Member

9.2 Any Constitutional Amendments must be submitted to the Executive at least five (5) days prior to the commencement of a(n) (S)GM.

9.3 A Constitutional Amendment shall only be passed by the two-thirds vote of the Members present and voting at a(n) (S)GM.

- a. An Constitutional Amendment that is successfully passed shall have and take effect from the end of the (S)GM at which the Amendment was made.
- b. Any provision or section of this Constitution, including documents appended to it, shall be considered null and void if it conflicts with the Constitutions of the Federal YL, English YL, or the Party.

9.4 Any Motions put forward at (S)GMs must be submitted to the Executive at least five (5) days prior to the commencement of a(n) (S)GM.

9.5 A Motion shall be passed by a majority of the Members present and voting at a(n) (S)GM.

9.6 This Organisation shall delegate all policymaking to English YL, and shall reject all Motions at a(n) (S)GM that seek to establish or enforce new or existing policy.

9.7 All Constitutional Amendments and Motions, unless they are considered null and void, shall be documented and easily accessible externally to this Constitution.

- a. The date of adoption of this Constitution, as well as the date of previous Constitutional Amendments being applied, must be included in this Constitution.

### ***Section 10 - Miscellaneous***

10.1 Any Constitution or governing document not previously repealed governing the South Central Young Liberals is hereby superseded by this Constitution.

10.2 The Chair shall in the first instance rule on matters of interpretation within this Constitution, where brought by a Member of the Organisation, and followed up where applicable by the Chair of English YL.

- a. Any and all such interpretations made by the Chair and/or the Chair of English YL shall be codified into a single document, appended, and considered integral to this Constitution.