

# The Constitution of the Dallas County Young Democrats

*Adopted on January 9, 2007.*

*Article IV, Sections 2, 6 and 7 amended on April 8, 2008.*

## **Article I. The Organization.**

**Section 1.** The name of the organization shall be the Dallas County Young Democrats.

**Section 2.** This organization shall be affiliated with the Texas Young Democrats.

**Section 3.** The purpose of this organization shall be to mobilize and energize young professionals who are interested in progressive candidates and issues within the Democratic Party and to promote progressive, liberal agendas within the State of Texas and Dallas County.

## **Article II. Membership.**

**Section 1.** Membership in this organization shall be open to any resident of Dallas County, Texas, who is a Democrat of 14 years of age or older, but who has not yet attained the age of 41 years. Any eligible Democrat may become a member of this organization by completing a membership form. All such members shall have full voting rights within the organization, and shall be members of the Texas Young Democrats.

**Section 2.** Membership is also open to any Democrat of 41 years of age or older as an "associate member." However, associate members shall have no voting rights within the organization.

**Section 3.** A Democrat, for purposes of membership, is any person who subscribes to the following pledge: "I believe in the principles of the Texas Democratic Party." A resignation in writing shall release any member from this pledge.

**Section 4.** The membership forms of the organization shall require the following information: name, address, date of birth and a dated signature certifying the pledge from Section 3 of this Article.

**Section 5.** There shall be no mandatory dues for membership in the organization.

### **Article III. Meetings.**

**Section 1.** Business meetings shall be held on the second Tuesday of every month. Meetings may only be canceled by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors. Such approval shall consist of a two-thirds majority vote. Members must be notified of a canceled regular business meeting at the earliest possible date.

**Section 2.** Special meetings may be held when necessary and shall be called by the President with the approval of a simple majority of the Board of Directors. Special meetings may also be called by a two-thirds majority vote of the general membership.

**Section 3.** All members of the organization shall be notified at least two days in advance of any regular business meeting.

**Section 4.** The organization, when assembled, shall make all policies for the organization at large, subject to conformance with this Constitution.

**Section 5.** No business shall be transacted at any regular business meeting unless a quorum of at least 15 members or a two-thirds majority of the Board of Directors is present.

**Section 6.** No member shall be eligible to vote at any meeting unless he or she has attended at least one prior meeting.

### **Article IV. The Executive Committee.**

**Section 1.** The Executive Committee of the organization shall be comprised of the elected officers of the organization: the President, the Vice President, the Director of Political Affairs, the Director of Community Outreach, the Director of Finance, the Treasurer and the Secretary.

**Section 2.** All officers shall be elected at a regular business meeting in the month of February. Elected officers shall serve terms commencing at the close of the regular business meeting at which they are elected, and continuing until the close of the regular business meeting in the February of the subsequent year. Nominations for the elected offices shall be taken at the regular business meeting in the month of January, and notice of the upcoming election must be provided to the general membership no later than the

regular business meeting directly preceding the January meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor at the meeting at which the election is held.<sup>1</sup>

**Section 3.** All officers shall be elected by a simple majority vote of members present, with run-off elections held in cases where no candidate receives such a majority on the first ballot.

**Section 4.** Any officer may be removed from office by a two-thirds majority vote of members present and voting at any regular business meeting, providing that notice of this proposed action has been given at the previous regular business meeting.

**Section 5.** Upon a vacancy in the office of President, the succession to the office of the President shall pass to lower officers in the order of seniority established in Section 8 of this Article.

**Section 6.** Upon a vacancy in the office of Vice President, the President shall appoint, with the approval of the Board of Directors, a member in good standing of the organization to the position of Interim Vice President. Nominations to permanently replace the Vice President shall be taken at the next regular business meeting, and an election shall be held at the subsequent regular business meeting. The term in office of a member elected under the provisions of this Section shall commence immediately, and shall expire at the close of the regular business meeting at which the term of the Vice President the newly-elected officer is succeeding would have expired.<sup>2</sup>

**Section 7.** Upon a vacancy in any other elected office of the organization, nominations for an election to fill such vacancy shall be taken at the first regular business meeting after the vacancy has occurred. An election to fill the vacancy shall be held at the regular business meeting subsequent to the meeting at which nominations are taken. The term in office of a member elected under the provisions of this Section shall commence immediately, and

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<sup>1</sup> Original Text: **Section 2.** All officers shall be elected at a regular business meeting in the month of February. Elected officers shall serve terms of one year commencing on March 1. Nominations for the elected offices shall be taken at the regular business meeting in the month of January, and notice of the upcoming election must be provided to the general membership no later than the regular business meeting directly preceding the January meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor at the meeting at which the election is held.

<sup>2</sup> Original Text: **Section 6.** Upon a vacancy in the office of Vice President, the President shall appoint, with the approval of the Board of Directors, a member in good standing of the organization to the position of Interim Vice President. Nominations to permanently replace the Vice President shall be taken at the next regular business meeting, and an election shall be held at the subsequent regular business meeting.

shall expire at the close of the regular business meeting at which the term of the officer the newly-elected officer is succeeding would have expired.<sup>3</sup>

**Section 8.** The duties of the officers of the organization, listed here in order of seniority, shall be as follows:

**Part A.** The President shall preside at all meetings of the organization and the Board of Directors. With the approval of a simple majority of the Board of Directors, the President may name at large members to the Board of Directors and chairs to committees created by the Board of Directors. The President shall call special meetings of the organization and the Board of Directors. The President shall be authorized to write checks from the organization bank account with the approval of the Board of Directors as detailed in Article VI.

**Part B.** The Vice President shall be charged with maintaining the administrative infrastructure of the organization, including duties related to the management of regular business and Board of Director meetings. The Vice President shall also fulfill all the duties of the President in his or her absence. The Vice President shall be authorized to write checks from the organization bank account in the absence of the President and the Treasurer. The Vice President shall report to the President.

**Part C.** The Director of Political Affairs shall be charged with the coordination of all political activities undertaken by the group, including but not limited to providing volunteers to Democratic Party events and campaigns, establishing relationships between the organization and Democratic candidates for public office and maintaining contact between the organization and Democratic elected officials and the Dallas County Democratic Party. The Director of Political Affairs shall report to the President.

**Part D.** The Director of Community Outreach shall coordinate the organization's interaction with allied non-profit organizations, direct the organization's outreach to various constituencies and minority groups, and coordinate events. The Director of Community Service shall report to the President.

**Part E.** The Director of Finance shall work with the President to establish fund raising programs for the organization. The Director of Finance shall sit on the board of the organization's Political Action Committee, and shall provide input on the

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<sup>3</sup> Original Text: **Section 7.** Upon a vacancy in any other elected office of the organization, nominations for an election to fill such vacancy shall be taken at the first regular business meeting after the vacancy has occurred. An election to fill the vacancy shall be held at the regular business meeting subsequent to the meeting at which nominations are taken.

disbursement of funds to Democratic organizations and campaigns. The Director of Finance shall report to the President.

**Part F.** The Treasurer shall keep records of the funds owned by the organization and coordinate with the Director of Finance to increase funding for the organization. The Treasurer shall also be the main person authorized to sign checks from the club bank account. The Treasurer shall be responsible for purchasing for the organization and keeping outstanding invoices paid in full. The Treasurer shall report to the Vice President.

**Part G.** The Secretary shall keep all official records for the organization. The Secretary must be present at all regular business meetings, all meetings of the Board of Directors and any special meetings in which business of the organization may be conducted. In the absence of the Secretary, the President may appoint a Temporary Secretary. The Secretary shall report to the Vice President.

**Section 9.** In the absence of a quorum of the Board of Directors at a regular business meeting or a meeting of the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee may act in its place.

**Section 10.** Special elected offices of temporary duration may be created by the organization to fulfill a particular purpose through a simple majority vote of members present at a regular business meeting. Such officers shall be members of the Executive Committee, but shall not be included in the line of succession to the Presidency.

**Section 11.** An elected officer of the organization may be removed from office by a two-thirds majority vote in favor of such removal by the Board of Directors. In the event of such a removal, the Board of Directors may appoint by majority vote a member in good standing to assume the office of the removed officer. Such appointment must be approved by a majority vote of members present at the next regular business meeting. If said appointment is not approved, then the normal mechanism for filling a vacancy in an elected office shall be followed.

## **Article V. The Board of Directors.**

**Section 1.** The Board of Directors of the organization shall be comprised of the Executive Committee, the chairs of organization committees and at large members appointed by the President.

**Section 2.** Appointments to the Board of Directors must be approved by a simple majority vote of a quorum of the sitting members of the Board of Directors or, prior to the formation of a Board of Directors, by a simple majority vote of the Executive Committee.

**Section 3.** The Board of Directors shall by simple majority vote schedule the time, date and location for regular business meetings and meetings of the Board of Directors.

**Section 4.** Prior to submission for consideration by the general membership of the organization, all resolutions, position statements, rules for the organization and amendments to this document must first be approved by a simple majority vote of the Board of Directors.

**Section 5.** The Board of Directors shall monitor and approve funds disbursed from the organization's account.

**Section 6.** At large members of the Board of Directors may be assigned specific duties and titles within the organization by the President with the approval of a simple majority vote of the Board of Directors. In their capacity as holders of assigned positions, such members of the Board of Directors shall report to the President.

**Section 7.** The Board of Directors shall have the power to create standing and temporary committees for the organization. Membership in all organization committees shall be open to any member of the organization.

**Section 8.** The Board of Directors may establish a procedure by which members of the Board may be removed from the Board or from any office within the organization to which said member has been assigned by the President.

**Section 9.** The term of office for members appointed to the Board of Directors shall be from the time of approval of their appointment until the end of the term to which the President making said appointment has been elected.

**Section 10.** The Board of Directors shall have the power to create, by simple majority vote, rules governing the function and organization of the Board of Directors, insofar as such rules do not conflict with the Articles of this Constitution.

## **Article VI. Parliamentarian.**

In the event of Constitutional debate during officer elections, or at the request of the President, a member selected by the Dallas County Democratic Party Chair shall serve as Parliamentarian and chief arbiter. The Parliamentarian may not be an officer of the organization, nor shall he or she be eligible to be elected to office within the organization for one year subsequent to service as Parliamentarian.

## **Article VII. Ratification & Amendment.**

**Section 1.** This Constitution shall become effective when adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of members present and voting at a regular business meeting. The officers created herein shall be elected according the schedule for elections established in Section 2 of Article IV.

**Section 2.** Amendments to this Constitution, having been approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, may be introduced at any regular business meeting of the organization and shall be voted on at the next regular business meeting. Amendments must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the members present at said meeting.

**Section 3.** The Constitution and subsequent Amendments shall be kept by the sitting President of the organization.