

CONSTITUTION OF THE YOUNG DEMOCRATS OF WASHINGTON

Adopted in Convention Assembled, April 15 2007

Preamble

We, the Young Democrats of Washington, in order to stimulate in young people an active interest in governmental affairs and promote their involvement in the political process, to promote the acquisition of political power by young people, and to foster and perpetuate the ideals and principles of the highest degrees of justice and social welfare, do associate ourselves together and establish this Constitution.

Article I - Name

Section 1. This organization shall be called the Young Democrats of Washington (YDWA).

Article II - Membership

Section 1. Regular membership in the Young Democrats of Washington shall be limited to persons who declare themselves to be Democrats, and who have not yet turned thirty-six years old. No criteria other than age or party preference shall be an acceptable reason for exclusion from regular membership.

Section 2. Alumni membership in the Young Democrats of Washington shall be available to persons who declare themselves to be Democrats, but have passed their thirty-sixth birthday or who choose to be affiliated with the alumni branch, although age thirty-five or under. No criterion other than party preference shall be an acceptable reason for exclusion from alumni membership.

A. Alumni members will have voice but no vote in official proceedings.

B. All alumni members in good standing will receive notification of organization meetings, events, and activities in the same manner as regular members. Alumni members will also receive notification of alumni organization events.

Section 3. Dues & Provisions

A. Regular voting members are required to declare they are a Democrat, and must provide an address and birth date. Members are encouraged to provide a telephone number and e-mail address (if available).

B. Local Organizations have the right to request organizational dues at any level they wish, but must provide for waiver of dues in the case of financial hardship.

C. No criterion other than party preference shall be an acceptable reason for exclusion from regular membership.

Article III – Officers

Section 1. Officers – Defined

A. The officers of this organization defined in Section 2 of this Article shall be elected every year at the state convention by the general assembly and shall serve until the adjournment of the next state convention, unless otherwise indicated in this Section.

B. The National Committeeman, National Committeewoman, and Washington State Democratic Central Committee Representative shall be elected at the state conventions by general assembly immediately following regular Congressional elections and shall serve until the adjournment of the state convention immediately following the next regular Congressional elections. Should a vacancy occur in any of these positions during a non-Congressional election year at the State Convention, the position shall be filled by election by the general assembly.

C. The appointed officers of this organization defined in Section 4 of this Article shall be nominated and confirmed by the General Board, and shall serve until the adjournment of the next state convention, or until a successor is confirmed by the General Board, whichever occurs first.

D. Diversity Affairs, Women’s Affairs, Queer Affairs, Labor Affairs, and Religious Affairs Directors shall be elected by their respective caucuses every year at the State Convention starting in 2007.

Section 2. Elected Officers

A. President: Shall be the chief administrative officer of the Young Democrats of Washington, shall direct the implementation of policies adopted and authorized by the organization, shall chair the General Board, the Executive Board, and the External Relations Committee, shall represent the state organization in public, and report on his or her activities at each General Board meeting.

B. Executive Vice President: Shall assist the President in the performance of the President's duties, shall serve as Vice-Chair of the General Board and the Executive Board, shall chair the Endorsement Committee, and shall oversee the internal operations of the organization under the direction of the President.

C. Vice President of Membership: Shall be responsible for the support of existing chapters and expansion of new chapters, shall develop and promote membership policies for the state organization, and shall be the co-chair the Membership Committee.

D. Vice President of Outreach: Shall be responsible for coordination of outreach and engagement efforts within constituency groups and communities that have minimal engagement with YDWA, and shall be the co-chair of the Membership Committee.

E. Vice President of Political & Legislative Affairs: Shall direct the organization's involvement in political campaigns, shall direct legislative action and lobbying efforts on behalf of the organization, and shall chair the Political & Legislative Affairs Committee.

F. Vice President of Communication: Shall be responsible for maintaining all of the organization's communications mechanisms, both print and electronic, shall develop and implement strategies for increasing the visibility of the organization, shall serve as the Secretary of the General Board, Executive Board and the organization, shall maintain all organizational files and records in a safe and orderly manner, and shall chair the Communications Committee.

G. Vice President of Development: Shall be responsible for the raising of funds through personal, phone, electronic, and print solicitation, shall propose new revenue enhancement projects, shall coordinate fund-raising events, shall develop long-term fundraising goals and strategies to meet the financial needs of the organization, and shall be a member of the External Relations Committee.

H. Vice President of Finance: Shall maintain records of all receipts and disbursements of funds of the organization in accordance with all local, state, and federal laws and regulations, shall report all financial activity at each General Board meeting, shall maintain the organization's membership database, including paid YDWA membership, and shall coordinate record-keeping efforts with the Vice President of Membership, shall keep all organizational financial records in balance, shall file all Public Disclosure Commission reports as needed, shall serve as chief compliance officer for the organization, and shall be a member of the External Relations Committee.

I. National Committeewoman and National Committeeman: Shall, in coordination with the President, encourage and direct participation of members in regional and national activities, shall attend all National Committee Meetings or designate a proxy when attendance is not possible, shall represent the interests and further the goals and priorities of the organization on the National Committee, shall deliver a concise report of their activities to the General Board, and shall be a member of the External Relations Committee.

J. Washington State Democratic Central Committee Representative: Shall, in coordination with the President, encourage and direct participation of members in local and statewide senior Democratic Party activities, shall attend all meetings of the Washington State Democratic Central Committee or designate a proxy when attendance is not possible, and shall represent the interests and further the goals and priorities of the organization on the State Committee, shall be the designated liaison to the State Party Chair, staff, and the elected members of the Washington State Democratic Central Committee, shall report upon the activities of the WSDCC to the General Board, and shall be a member of the External Relations Committee.

K. College Chapter Organizer: Shall serve as leaders and coordinator for college chapters throughout the state, shall recruit leaders for, assist in the formation of, and actively foster the development of county chapters, shall be the liaison to the College Democrats of America, shall report to the Vice President of membership, and shall be a member of the Membership Committee.

L. County Chapter Organizer: Shall serve as leaders and coordinator for county chapters throughout the state, shall recruit leaders for, assist in the formation of, and actively foster the development of county chapters, shall report to the Vice President of Membership, and shall be a member of the Membership Committee.

N. High School Chapter Organizer: Shall serve as leaders and coordinator for high school chapters throughout the state, shall recruit leaders for, assist in the formation of, and actively foster the development of county chapters, shall report to the Vice President of Membership, and shall be a member of the Membership Committee.

O. Federal Political and Legislative Director: Shall be responsible for all activity related to the organization's political involvement in federal campaigns including campaign targeting and state-wide campaign invasions, shall be responsible for the organization's federal legislative involvement and action on the federal level including issue awareness and legislative advocacy, shall serve as the liaison to all federal campaigns, federal elected officials and their respective offices, shall report to the Vice President of Political & Legislative Affairs, and shall be a member of the Political & Legislative Affairs Committee.

Q. State Political and Legislative Director: Shall be responsible for all activity related to the organization's political involvement in state-wide and state legislative campaigns including campaign targeting and state-wide campaign invasions, shall be responsible for the organization's state legislative involvement and action on the state level including issue awareness and legislative advocacy, shall serve as the liaison to all state-wide and state legislative campaigns, state-wide elected officials, legislators, and their respective offices, shall report to the Vice President of Political & Legislative Affairs, and shall be a member of the Political & Legislative Affairs Committee.

S. Technology Director: Shall be responsible for maintenance of YDWA's website, domain name(s) and electronic mailing lists, shall develop content in association with the Vice President of Communication and Public Relations Director for publication on the website, and the electronic newsletter, shall assist other officers in implementing technological solutions for the organization, shall report to the Vice President of Communication, and shall be a member of the Communications Committee.

U. Public Relations Director: Shall be responsible for creation and distribution of press releases to local, state-wide, and national media, shall develop a strategic plan for earning media attention, shall train equivalent chapter officers on media relations, shall develop content in association with the Technology Director and the Vice President of Communication for publication on the website and the electronic newsletter, shall report to the Vice President of Communication, and shall be a member of the Communications Committee.

Section 3. Caucus Leaders

A. Diversity Affairs Director: Shall recruit and encourage minorities (including, but not limited to, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, and people with disabilities) to join and assume leadership positions in the organization, shall educate other members about issues of concern to diverse groups, shall be a member of the Membership Committee, and shall chair the Diversity Caucus.

B. Women's Affairs Director: Shall recruit and encourage women to join and assume leadership positions in the organization, shall educate other members about issues of concern to women, shall be a member of the Membership Committee, and shall chair the Women's Caucus.

C. Queer Affairs Director: Shall recruit and encourage lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and the transgendered to join and assume leadership positions in the organization, shall educate other members about issues of concern to the Queer community, shall be a member of the Membership Committee, and shall chair the Queer Caucus.

D. Labor Affairs Director: Shall recruit and encourage members of labor associations to join and assume leadership positions in the organization, shall educate other members about issues of concern to the labor community, shall be a member of the Membership Committee, and shall chair the Labor Caucus.

E. Religious Affairs Director: Shall recruit and encourage those of all religious views to join and assume leadership positions in the organization, shall educate other members about religious issues, shall be a member of the Membership Committee, and shall chair the Religious Affairs Caucus.

F. Environmental Affairs Director: Shall recruit and encourage members to be educated and active on issues affecting the environment, shall recruit and encourage members of environmental organizations to join and assume leadership positions in the organization, shall be a member of the Membership Committee, and shall chair the Environmental Affairs Caucus.

Section 4. Other non-voting officers may be appointed by General Board members with confirmation of a majority of the General Board.

Section 5. All officers shall perform any additional duties assigned by the President, their supervising Vice President if applicable, and by the General Board.

Section 6. A vacancy in the office of the President shall be filled by a vote of the General Board members at the meeting immediately following the announcement of the vacancy. In the interim, the Executive Vice President shall serve as President.

Section 7. Vacancies in all other offices shall be filled by nomination and confirmation by the General Board.

Section 8. At no time shall any office be held by more than one person.

Section 9. If any office is not filled at the state convention, the position shall be treated as vacant and filled pursuant to Section 6.

Article IV - Chapters

Section 1. The Young Democrats of Washington shall be composed of local chapters with commonalities as defined in Article II. Article II will not restrict membership procedures of individual clubs in the event of institutional requirements. Local organizations shall be the primary organizational structure in the Young Democrats of Washington.

Section 2. Local chapters may apply for a charter with the General Board in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws. Local chapter charters will expire at the state convention each year. A representative from the chartering chapter must be present at the state convention and provide sufficient documentation as per the requirements of the Membership Committee. Chapters who cannot be present at the convention but wish to maintain their charter may submit a request in writing to the Vice President of Membership prior to the convention.

Section 3. Vacancies in the position of the presiding officer of a local chapter shall be filled by election of the membership of said organization in a timely fashion. Another officer of the chapter may serve as an interim presiding officer in representing the chapter on the state board as per the procedures of the chapter.

Section 4. The presiding officers of any chartered chapter are subject to the removal provisions in Article VI.

Article V - Organizational Structure

Section 1. General Board – Powers & Duties

A. The principal power and decision-making authority of the organization between state conventions shall be vested in a General Board of the Young Democrats of Washington.

B. The General Board shall set organizational policy as needed, especially in the following areas:

- (1) oversee and approve all activities of the organization;
- (2) approve expenditures of the organization, both specific, and discretionary;
- (3) approve recommendations for endorsement made by the Endorsement Committee;
- (4) approve chartering request by local organizations;
- (5) remove officers for just cause.

C. In all cases, the General Board shall act in accordance with the decisions and resolutions of the State Convention.

Section 2. General Board – Voting Membership

A. The voting membership of the General Board shall consist of:

(1) all officers defined in Article III;

(2) the presiding officers or duly-appointed representatives of any properly-chartered local organizations;

(3) all Young Democrats of America Pacific Region officers who reside full-time within the State of Washington, provided that persons eligible to vote pursuant to this clause may not proxy their vote; and

(4) all members of the Young Democrats of America Executive Committee who reside full-time within the State of Washington, provided that persons eligible to vote pursuant to this clause may not proxy their vote.

B. No member of the General Board shall be entitled to cast more than one vote by virtue of multiple offices or positions that are eligible for a vote. Those officers who hold a position on the General Board and serve as a chapter representative may vote twice to represent both constituencies.

C. Proxy votes may be used at meetings of the General Board under the following conditions:

(1) If the proxied member has a vote pursuant to Section 2(A)(1), the proxy may only be carried by another state officer, and only if the proxied member is not present;

(2) If the proxied member has a vote pursuant to Section 2(A)(2), the proxy may only be carried by a member of the same local organization;

(3) General Board members may cast only one proxy vote in addition to his or her own vote;

(4) General Board members casting a proxy vote on behalf of an absent member must have a written and signed statement from the absent member granting permission for them to vote on the absent member's behalf.

(5) All proxy votes are subject to the approval of the General Board; and

(6) The Vice Chair of a properly chartered local organization may vote at General Board Meetings in the absence of their chair without holding a proxy from the absent member.

Section 3. General Board – Meetings & Other Provisions

A. The General Board shall meet at the call of the President at least once every quarter. These meetings shall, whenever possible, coincide in time and place with the meetings of the Washington State Democratic Central Committee.

B. Failure to convene a General Board meeting at least once every one hundred and twenty (120) days shall be considered an official act of resignation on the part of the President.

(1). Upon such de facto resignation, the Executive Vice President, either National Committee Representative, or any combination of three officers shall immediately put out a call to a General Board meeting, convening within the next fourteen days.

C. At least fourteen days' notice of a General Board meeting shall be sent to each member and shall include the date, time, and specific location of the meeting.

D. A quorum of the General Board shall consist of either 50% of the officers defined in Article III, or one-third (1/3) of the total membership of the General Board.

(1). Any meeting at which a quorum is not present shall be deemed a meeting of the committee of the whole.

(2). Decisions made by a committee of the whole meeting shall be non-binding and shall not be implemented until approved at the next official Executive Board meeting at which a quorum is present. Decisions made by a committee of the whole must be included in the notice of the next Executive Board meeting.

E. Official meetings of the General Board shall not be held on the premises of businesses not open to minors.

F. The President is encouraged to distribute meeting calls to all members of the organization via e-mail, list-serves, and web sites.

G. All meetings of the General Board, President's Council, Standing Committees, and Caucuses shall be open to any member of the organization in good standing, provided that each body may develop a process for entering into executive session. Any member attending such a meeting shall be entitled to speak if yielded to by a member of the body or if recognized by the chair.

Section 4. Presidents Council

A. The Presidents Council shall be a forum for chapter presidents to share information, exchange ideas, and network.

B. The Council shall be chaired by the state President and shall consist of the presiding officer from each properly chartered local organization.

C. The Council shall not be vested with any decision-making power beyond that which may be delegated to it from time to time by the General Board.

D. The Council shall meet quarterly in conjunction with meetings of the General Board.

E. The Council shall elect from its membership one representative to the Executive Committee.

Section 5. Caucuses

A. Caucuses shall meet at the call of their chair at least once every quarter.

B. Caucuses shall concentrate on topics of pertinence for the caucus members at the discretion of the chair.

C. All chapters shall receive at least fourteen (14) days notice of caucus meetings.

D. Every chapter has one caucus vote and quorum for caucus meetings shall be five (5) members.

E. Without a quorum in the caucus meeting at the State Convention, the directors shall be elected by the general assembly.

Section 6. If any officer fails to attend or send a proxy to two (2) consecutive General Board or Committee meetings without being excused, such action shall be considered an official act of resignation.

Section 7. Participation in General Board Meetings Via Teleconferencing

A. General Board members may participate in said meeting via teleconference technology.

B. Teleconferencing members shall count towards quorum and retain any and all voting rights.

C. It is the responsibility of the meeting chair to ensure that proper arrangements have been made to allow for teleconferencing, however, the General Board shall not be held liable for technical difficulties beyond their control.

D. Policy regarding payment of teleconferencing expenses shall be determined by the General Board.

Article VI - Removal of Officers

Section 1. Grounds for Removal

The grounds for removal of an officer shall be misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance in the performance of his or her duties.

Section 2. The process for removal of an officer, either elected or appointed, shall be as follows:

- A. A motion for removal must be made at a regular or special meeting of the General Board. Charges demanding removal shall be referred to the General Board to ascertain, by majority vote, the validity of the charges and whether or not the charges are proper grounds for removal.
- B. If the General Board cannot determine by majority vote that the charges are valid and are proper grounds for removal, the charges shall be dropped and stricken from the record.
- C. Once the General Board has determined the charges before the body to be valid and proper grounds for removal, a detailed statement of the charges shall be mailed to each member of the General Board at least fifteen (15) days prior to the next General Board meeting, which shall be held no more than sixty (60) days following the day charges were first brought before the Board.
- D. Both the state officer subject to removal charges, and the parties calling for removal must be present at the General Board meeting at which removal is considered. The officer subject to removal must be given the opportunity to respond at or before the meeting at which removal is considered.
- E. Only General Board members in office before charges were brought before the General Board shall be eligible to vote on the motion for removal. A sixty percent (60%) affirmative vote of those present and eligible to vote shall be required for removal of an officer.

Article VII - Standing Committees

Section 1. Endorsement Committee

- A. The Endorsement Committee shall exist as a standing committee of the General Board and shall conduct interviews, prepare and review questionnaires, research candidates, and perform any other tasks necessary to evaluate Democratic candidates for public office.
- B. In an uncontested primary, a recommendation from the Endorsement Committee to endorse shall require a simple majority of the members of the committee present.
- C. In a contested primary, a recommendation from the Endorsement Committee to endorse shall require a 2/3rds majority of the members of the committee present.
- D. The first meeting of the Endorsement Committee during each calendar year shall occur at the state convention.
 - (1) The committee shall prepare a preliminary report of their activities, including recommendations for endorsement, and shall present the report for review at the state convention.
 - (2) The preliminary report may only include recommendations for endorsement of those individuals who have actively sought the endorsement of our organization. This policy may be waived in extreme circumstances at the discretion of the Endorsement Committee chair.

(3) The General Board shall review the preliminary report as soon as possible after submission and shall consider the recommendations for endorsement contained within that report.

E. The Endorsement Committee shall be empowered to meet at the call of the Chair after the State Convention to consider additional endorsements.

(1) A final report, including all recommendations relating to endorsements by the organization, shall be prepared and submitted to the General Board for review no later than two weeks after the filing deadline each year.

(2) Following the submission of the final report, the Endorsement Committee shall adjourn until the following calendar year.

F. Any recommendation by the Endorsement Committee shall be approved by the General Board upon a simple majority vote. No endorsement shall be issued on behalf of the organization except upon approval by the General Board.

G. The General Board shall be empowered to withdraw any endorsement issued upon a 3/4ths majority vote by the General Board.

H. Upon the issuance of an endorsement by the General Board, a letter shall be sent to the candidate endorsed which shall be signed by the President and the Executive Vice President to certify our endorsement.

I. The Endorsement Committee shall be chaired by the Executive Vice President, who shall appoint a Vice Chair and a Secretary.

J. Voting members of the Endorsement Committee shall be limited to the Chair, the Vice Chair, the Secretary, and a representative from each properly chartered local organizations.

K. Quorum shall constitute six or more voting members.

Section 2. Executive Board

A. The Executive Board shall exist as a committee of the General Board, and shall consist of the elected officers defined in Section 2(A) through Section 2(J), as well as one representative from the President's Council.

B. The Executive Board shall meet once every month at the call of the President, and shall act as the principal administrative body charged with carrying out the decisions of the General Board.

C. The Executive Board shall be vested with the following powers as well as any additional powers that are granted to it by the General Board:

(1) the expenditure of funds in accordance with an annual budget that has been approved by the General Board; and

(2) provisional approval of the charters of new or existing local organizations, subject to the final approval of the General Board; and

(3) coordination and supervision of the activities of all state officers.

D. All decisions and actions of the Executive Board are subject to the review of the General Board, and may be vetoed by a majority of the General Board.

Section 3. Additional Committees

A. The Membership Committee shall exist as a standing committee of the General Board, and shall consist of the Vice President of Membership and the Vice President of Outreach, who shall co-chair the Committee, as well as those officers defined in Article III who are designed as members of the Committee.

B. The Political & Legislative Affairs Committee shall exist as a standing committee of the General Board, and shall consist of the Vice President of Political & Legislative Affairs, who shall chair the Committee, as well as those officers defined in Article III who are designed as members of the Committee.

C. The Communications Committee shall exist as a standing committee of the General Board, and shall consist of the Vice President of Communication, who shall chair the Committee, as well as those officers defined in Article III who are designed as members of the Committee.

D. The External Relations Committee shall exist as a standing committee of the General Board, and shall consist of the President, who shall chair the Committee, as well as those officers defined in Article III who are designed as members of the Committee.

E. The standing committees defined in this section shall meet once per month at the call of their chair.

Section 4. In all Standing Committees in which the President is otherwise not a member, the President shall be a member ex-officio without vote.

Article VIII - State Convention

Section 1. The State Convention of the Young Democrats shall be held between February 10 and April 15 of each year and shall have the highest authority over all organizational activities, subject to the provisions of this constitution.

Section 2. In the interests of ensuring that each geographical region of the state shall have the opportunity to host a convention, the site of the convention shall rotate between the four geographical regions in the following order: Southwestern, Eastern, Northwestern, and Central.

A. The site for a convention held in a Presidential election year shall be open to bidding from any geographical region.

B. In the event of exigent circumstances, the General Board may, by a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote, suspend the geographical site rotation defined above and select a site. The Board may not exercise this suspension more than twice consecutively.

C. In the event that a site is selected pursuant to subsections A-B in a geographical region outside of the normal site rotation order, the rotation shall immediately resume the following year without regard for the exception.

D. No region shall host the convention more than twice consecutively.

Section 3. The bidding process for hosting the state convention shall be open immediately following each state convention in accordance with the provisions of Section 2.

Section 4. The General Board shall determine the next convention site and Host Committee Chair by October of each year.

Section 5. The official call for the state convention shall be transmitted to all members of the Young Democrats in good standing and to all Washington State Democratic Central Committee County and Legislative District Chairs no later than sixty (60) days prior to the date of the Convention.

Section 6. A General Board meeting shall be held not less than thirty (30) days prior to the date of the State Convention to consider the following items:

A. The President shall appoint, subject to confirmation by the Executive Board, chairs for the following convention standing committees: Constitution, Rules, Credentials, and Platform. Committee chairs shall appoint a Vice Chair and a Secretary, who shall be entitled to vote on that committee.

B. The General Board shall elect a temporary convention chair until such time as the convention committee selects a permanent chair.

Section 7. Proxy votes shall not be allowed at the State Convention. Delegates must be present to vote.

Section 8. A simple majority of votes cast shall be required to elect a candidate for office. If no candidate receives a majority, the candidate receiving the least percentage of votes shall be dropped from the ballot, and another vote shall be taken. Balloting shall continue in this manner until a candidate receives a majority.

Section 9. Delegation Voting

A. All recognized delegates must meet YDWA Membership Requirements as defined in Article II of the YDWA Constitution.

B. All chapters attending the State Convention shall receive an automatic allotment of ten (10) votes.

C. All delegates shall receive an extra five one-thousandths (0.005) vote per mile multiplier using driving distance from the school or county seat to the site of the State Convention.

D. Each delegate can receive a maximum of four (4) votes.

Section 10. Regions

1. Eastern Washington shall include the following counties: of Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, and Whitman;
2. Central Washington shall include the following counties: Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, Okanogan, and Yakima;
3. Southwest Washington, which includes the following counties: Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Skamania, Thurston, and Wahkiakum.
4. Northwest Washington shall include the following counties: Island, King, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom;

Article IX - Amendment Procedure

Section 1. Amendments to this constitution shall be adopted only by a three-fourths (3/4) affirmative vote of the delegates at a State Convention.

Section 2. By-Laws governing this organization, not in conflict with this constitution, may be adopted by a simple majority vote of State Convention delegates or the General Board.

Section 3. Amendments to this constitution shall become effective immediately after adjournment of the state convention.

Article X - Policy

Section 1. It shall be the policy of this organization to endeavor to uphold all ideals set forth in this constitution and by the Democratic Party.

Section 2. This organization may charter and become a part of the Young Democrats of America and endeavor to carry on the work of that organization in the state of Washington.

A. Voting members of the National Committee of the Young Democrats of America shall be the President, National Committeewoman and National Committeeman.

B. In the event one of Washington's three voting members of the National Committee of the Young Democrats of America is entitled to receive a vote as the result of holding another office in the national organization, the President shall be entitled to appoint, with General Board

confirmation, a permanent designee to the National Committee to ensure the state of Washington receives its maximum possible vote.

Section 3. This organization seeks a cooperative relationship with the Washington State Democratic Central Committee and shall be guided by the actions of the Democratic Party assembled in state or national convention.

Article XI - Parliamentary Authority

Section 1. The rules contained in the current edition of Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and do not conflict with the Constitution and By-Laws of this organization, the Charter of the Young Democrats of America, and any special rules of order that this organization may adopt.

BY-LAWS OF THE
YOUNG DEMOCRATS OF WASHINGTON

Article I - Recognition of Clubs and Organizations

Section 1. Chapters may apply to the General Board to be chartered by the Young Democrats of Washington (YDWA), provided that said chapters are in compliance with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Young Democrats of Washington.

Section 2. Charter applications must include the following:

A. The names, mailing addresses, birthdates, and telephone numbers where available, of at least five (5) voting members of the Young Democrats of Washington, as defined by Article II of the Constitution, who are also eligible to be members of said district organization or club.

B. A district organization or club constitution governing their activities, not in conflict with the Constitution or By-Laws of the Young Democrats of Washington, which provides for a specifically defined geographic territory or common basis for membership such as students attending a specific school, the establishment of officers and regular meetings of the district organization or club.

C. Proof that a properly held election and/or organizational meeting was held, as specified by Article IV, Section 2 of the YDWA Constitution. This proof may include a combination of the following: Original sign-in sheet from said meeting, minutes from said meeting, original recorder's notes from said meeting, original written ballots from said meeting, copies of notices and dates of posting/mailing, etc.

Section 3. The General Board may approve the charter application at any regular or special meeting, provided said charter application is in compliance with the Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 4. The General Board may revoke the charter of any district organization or club which fails to uphold the requirements specified in the Constitution or By-Laws of the Young Democrats of Washington. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the General Board shall be required to revoke the charter of a district organization or club.

(Note: Amended at the YDWA State Conventions April 1 , 1996 & January 27, 1991.
Original Article Adopted by YDWA Executive Board, November, 1987.)

Article II - List Management

Section 1. Computerized lists of YDWA members and supporters are valuable and private. They are intended for the private use of the Young Democrats of Washington, and may not be used for

unauthorized purposes.

Section 2. YDWA lists may be given to recognized Democratic candidates, regardless of whether they were specifically endorsed by the YDWA; to the Democratic Party and Democratic Party affiliate organizations, to committees for causes generally, but not necessarily specifically, supported by Democrats, or to vendors of campaign or political merchandise which would be of interest to YDWA members, but may not be given or sold to vendors of general merchandise (i.e. aluminum siding, carpet cleaning, filet mignon by mail, fruitcake-of -the-month, etc.)

Section 3. It is the responsibility of each club chair to submit an updated copy of their membership list to the Membership Director each quarter, so that the state database may be kept as current as possible. Club chairs may submit updated lists more frequently, if they wish.

Section 4. A "negative option" box will be provided on all YDWA membership forms so that members may choose to have their name left off political vendors' lists. All YDWA members will be reported on lists given to the Democratic Party or to recognized candidates.

Section 5. Members running for election to YDWA office may purchase gummed mailing labels of YDWA members to use for campaign purposes. Labels will be sold by zip code or alphabetical order for \$.05 each. Purchased labels may not be reproduced except for YDWA or local Democratic Party business.

Section 6. Exceptions to the By-Laws regarding YDWA list management require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the General Board.

(Note: Article II adopted by YDWA Executive Board December 3, 1988)

Article III – State Convention

Section 1. The action committee for the state convention shall be called the Host Committee.

A. The members of the Host Committee are determined by the winning bid for the convention as decided by the Executive Board in October of each year in accordance with Article VIII of the YDWA Constitution. Additionally, each congressional district shall appoint a member to the host committee to assist with the convention, including but not limited to recruitment and publicity for the convention in their district.

B. The original convention bid shall include a general budget, which includes an analysis of the best facilities for the convention, appropriate registration fees, discounts for early registration, mail-in registration requirements and reasonable hardship waiver cut-off dates and/or times. This budget is reviewed and approved by the General Board at the time the bid is selected. Minor revisions during the planning process are the responsibility of the Host Committee. Nothing in this section may be construed as preventing the Credentials Committee from awarding additional credentials and/or granting additional hardship waivers to any delegate on-site at the convention.

C. It is the responsibility of the Host Committee to ensure that appropriate measures are taken to make the convention financially solvent.

D. The further responsibilities of the Host Committee shall be: secure the chosen facilities for the event, notify the hotel that the event is a convention and as such, may have pockets of noise and conversation into the night so that our rooms are appropriately blocked away from the "regular" guests, schedule the activities for both days of the convention, obtain keynote speakers and workshop facilitators, working with the Communications Director, will coordinate publicity and press releases for the convention and will be responsible for the bulk mailing of the Convention Call to YDWA members and prospects. Will prepare and coordinate all official signage and documentation blanks for the convention, including but not limited to: directional and welcome signs, schedules and local attraction guide sheets, convention ballots, delegate badges or ID, guest badges, programs and convention folders.

E. The Host Committee shall provide a progress report at each Executive Board meeting from October through April of each year, and shall provide a wrap-up report at the next Executive Board meeting following the convention. The final report shall specifically include convention income and expenditures.

Section 2. The standing committees for the state convention shall be: Constitution, Credentials, Platform and Rules. Each committee shall consist of the following voting members: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and one representative from each of the properly chartered local organizations.

Section 3. Standing Committee Responsibilities:

A. Constitution: Conduct a thorough review of the YDWA Constitution and By-Laws, and prepare any proposed changes to be submitted to the general assembly of the state convention. The committee should consider any proposals to remove unnecessary sections, add new sections relating to areas not currently addressed, improve clarity, and strengthen our organizational structure.

B. Credentials: Determine the method by which the chapters are allocated votes at the state convention, determine the number of votes allowed to each chapter in accordance with the YDWA Constitution, and prepare a report to be submitted to the general assembly of the state convention. The committee should consider how delegates are to be registered on-site and what records must be kept.

C. Platform: Develop a comprehensive document describing the position of the majority of Young Democrats on a wide variety of issues, and prepare a platform to be submitted to the general assembly of the state convention. The committee should review the previous platform and consider any issues of importance to young people.

D. Rules: Establish rules for the operation and conduct of the state convention general assembly, and prepare a report to be submitted to the general assembly. The committee should consider how standing committee reports will be considered, and what our election process will be.

Section 4. The standing committees shall provide the YDWA General Board with a draft of their report at the last Executive Board meeting before the convention, although no formal action will be taken.

Section 5. The standing committees, shall provide the YDWA General Board with a final copy of their report at the state convention no later than 9:00 am Sunday.

Section 6. The YDWA General Board shall review the reports, and may attach a recommendation to the report(s), but shall not alter or amend standing committee reports.

Section 7. The Executive Board shall forward the standing committee reports, and any recommendations attached to them, to the general assembly of the state convention no later than 10:00 am Sunday.

Section 8. The general assembly may opt to take action on standing committee reports, or any Executive Board recommendations, or both. All action taken by the general assembly is final.

(Article III adopted by the YDWA Executive Board December 3, 1988.
Amended at the YDWA State Conventions, May 1, 1994 & April 1, 1996)

Article IV – Environmental Responsibility

Section 1. It shall be the policy of this organization to endeavor to preserve our environment and prevent damage to the ecosystem.

A. Recognizing that young people are the stewards of the future, YDWA shall not contribute to nor abide waste of natural resources or contamination of the same where preventable through reasonable means such as recycling.

B. YDWA shall use 100% recycled papers and paper products whenever available for official correspondence and records.

C. YDWA shall not use disposable products at functions whenever other options are possible.

D. YDWA shall, in the course of day-to-day operations, attempt to educate its members and the general public about environmental issues, solutions, and compromises as much as possible.

(Note: Article VI adopted at the YDWA State Convention on April 6, 1997.)

Article V – Fiscal Policy

Section 1: It shall be the policy of this organization to endeavor to conduct business in a financially responsible fashion.

A. Recognizing that overdue accounts receivable and bad debt is the source of failure of many businesses, and that when an employer dissolves, that the common worker suffers, YDWA shall not contract for credit nor incur bills on goods or services which the organization cannot reasonably and fairly expect to pay within the specified contract terms.

B. In addition to monitoring a reasonable budget and positive cash flow, YDWA shall actively seek avenues of operational cost savings which will not impact the success of YDWA events, nor conflict with the ideals of YDWA.

(Note: Article V adopted at the YDWA State Convention, May 1, 1994)