**Young Democrats of Cabarrus County Charter**

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Bylaws of the Young Democrats of Cabarrus County

**ARTICLE I: NAME AND AFFILIATIONS**

**Section 1. NAME.**  The name of this organization shall be the “Young Democrats of Cabarrus County” and alternatively in this document as (YDCC)

**Section 2. AFFILIATIONS.** This organization shall be affiliated with the Young Democrats of North Carolina and shall be influenced and guided by the platforms and policies of the Democratic Party on the local, state, and national levels. This organization is an auxiliary organization recognized by the Cabarrus County Democratic Party.

**ARTICLE II: OBJECT & POLICY**

**Section 1. OBJECT.** The object of the Young Democrats of Cabarrus County (YDCC) shall be to inspire in young people an active interest in governmental affairs, to serve as a mechanism for political expression, and to encourage the role of young people in Party affairs.

**Section 2. POLICY.** This organization and its members shall take an active interest in local, state, and national affairs. This chapter will follow the platform of the Democratic party, obey state laws, the state constitution, and the constitution of the United States

**Section 3. ENDORSEMENTS.** This organization shall support actively and by appropriate means the nominees of the Democratic Party in national, state, and local elections. This organization shall not endorse or support the candidacy of any persons for public office prior to nomination by the Democratic Party. Once a candidate is the nominee, this chapter may endorse them after a vote with 2/3 in favor of the endorsement.

**ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1. ELIGIBILITY.** Membership in the Young Democrats of Cabarrus County shall be open to all registered Democrats, and all Teen Democrats.

**Section 2. CLASSIFICATIONS.**  There shall be four (4) classifications of membership: Active, Associate, and Honorary.

1. **Active**: Any registered Democrat in Cabarrus County under the age of thirty-six (36) shall be eligible for Active Membership. Teen Democrats are also Active Members.
2. **Teen**: Any person from Cabarrus County who has attained the age of thirteen (13) and who has not yet achieved the age of eighteen (18). Who affiliates themselves with the Democratic Party, and the Teen Democrats of Cabarrus County.
3. **Associate**: Any registered Democrat who has attained the age of thirty-seven (37), any person not registered as a Democrat, or any Democrat only temporarily living in Cabarrus County for school shall be eligible for Associate membership. This member is not eligible to vote or hold office in the Young Democrats of Cabarrus County.
4. **Honorary**: Any person who is not an Active member of this organization, who professes and demonstrates allegiance with the principle of the Democratic Party, shall be eligible for Honorary membership. This member is not eligible to vote or hold office in the Young Democrats of Cabarrus County.

**Section 3. DUES.** Dues shall be required of each member in the amount stipulated in the *Dues Act*. These dues will be collected annually and given to the Young Democrats of North Carolina. If the *Dues Act* is not available, the default due amount of ten dollars ($10.00) shall apply.

**Section 4. MEMBERSHIP PERKS.** The YDCC will actively encourage membership in the organization though providing membership perks, including but not limited to an exclusive e-mail newsletter and discounts to YDCC event fees.

**Section 5. RECORDS.** The list of membership in the Young Democrats of Cabarrus County shall be kept and maintained by the Secretary. This list shall be open for inspection and copying by any dues-paying member.

1. **RECORDS OF DUES.** The Secretary and Treasurer shall keep, maintain, and update the list of members who have paid their dues.

**ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS**

**Section 1. DEFINITION.** The elected officers of this organization shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

Section 2. **PRESIDENT**. The duties of the President shall be to uphold and enforce the provision of these Bylaws; to organize and administer the organization; to preside over all meetings; to call special meetings when necessary;to represent the organization at conventions and official functions; and to chair the Executive Board. The President is an ex officio member of the Executive Board of the Cabarrus County Democratic Party.

1. **WITHDRAWING FUNDS.** The President, along with the Treasurer, is one of two members authorized to withdraw funds from the YDCC bank account; all expenditures over $50.00 *must* be approved in advance by the Executive Board by a majority vote.
2. **COMMITTEE SELECT.** The President shall be able to appoint chairpersons of standing and select committees; to create select committees to serve at his/her discretion. All appointments by the President shall be subject to a vote by the Executive Board.
3. **OFFICIAL APPROVAL.** The President’s signature is the official approval for; amendments to this charter; new additions to this charter; events; and any documents presented to him/her. The signature will then be filed and kept with all other record with the Secretary.
4. **OFFICIAL VETO.** The President may veto work that he/she dislikes or deems unready.
5. **YEARLY REPORT.** The President shall compile an accurate yearly report at the end of his term covering notable actions, events, activities, along with a list of committees, officers, committee members. The Yearly Report shall be transferred to the incoming President, made accessible to any member, and shall be archived by the Secretary.

**Section 3. VICE-PRESIDENT.** The duties of the Vice-President shall be to advise and assist the President in the administration of the organization and to assume the duties of the executive office in the temporary absence of the President. The Vice-President shall also direct the field operations of the YDCC.

**Section 4. SECRETARY.** The duties of the Secretary shall be to maintain the files of the organization; to record the minutes of all meeting; to conduct the official correspondence of the organization; and to take necessary steps to maintain affiliations and charters with the YDNC.

**Section 5. TREASURER.** The duties of the Treasurer shall be to keep an accurate account of all financial transactions; to compile periodic financial status reports; to collect the annual membership dues; to file finance reports with the North Carolina State Board of Elections; and to conduct all other financial affairs of the organization.

**Section 6. QUALIFICATIONS.** Any Active member in good standing shall be eligible to hold elected office in this organization.

1. Good Standing means that a person is a registered, dues paying member.

**ARTICLE V: OFFICER PROCEDURES**

**Section 1. ELECTIONS.** Elections of officers shall be held each year between March 1 through March 31, during a general membership meeting.

1. **NOMINATIONS.** All nominations for officers shall be made from the floor at the April meeting. Self nominations are allowed.
2. **CONTESTED ELECTIONS.** If an election is contested a vote shall take place on paper ballots. All dues-paid, Active members shall have one (1) vote. Whatever candidate receives the most ballots has won. The Secretary shall receive and count the results. The Secretary shall then reveal the results of the election to the body.
3. **RECOUNT.** A member may request a recount. A recount shall be counted by the Executive Board and the results presented by the Presiding officer.
4. **RECORDS.** The Secretary shall record the results.

**Section 2. TRANSITION PERIOD.** After the elections a transition period shall begin and shall last until April 1, or the beginning of the incoming term. This period is for the outgoing officer to brief and help the incoming officer adjust to their duties.

**Section 3. TERMS.** Officers shall begin their terms immediately upon being sworn in and shall hold office until their successors are chosen and installed. The terms and inauguration of the incoming officers shall begin and take place on April 1.

**Section 4. REMOVAL FROM OFFICE.** Officers may be removed from office by vote of the Executive Board. The Executive Board (except for the offending officer) shall vote on removal. Removal from office requires at least 3/4 of the vote of Executive Board members excluding the offending officer. No matter what office it is, a warning, and chance to correct his/her actions must be given.

**Section 5. VACANCY & SUCCESSION.** Vacancy occurs when an officer steps down or is removed from office.

1. **PRESIDENTIAL VACANCY.** Should there be a vacancy in the office of President, the Vice-President shall succeed them for the remainder of their term. If the Vice-President declines to be made President, they shall call an election to fulfill the the remainder of the term. However the Vice-President must assume the duties of President until the swearing in of the new President.
2. **OFFICER VACANCY.** Should there be a vacancy in the offices of Vice-President, Secretary, or Treasurer, the Executive Board shall select a person to fill the role until swearing in of the incoming officer takes place. The selection will be by simple majority vote. Once the vacancy is filled, the incoming officer will serve out the remainder of the term.

**ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS**

**Section 1. MEETINGS.** The regular meetings of the organization shall, at least, be held every month unless otherwise ordered by the President or by the Executive Board. These regular meetings will be known as general membership meetings

**Section 2. QUORUM.** One-fourth of the Active members shall be required for binding action on the business of the organization.

**Section 3. RECORDS.** The Secretary shall record the names of every member and every non-member in attendance. The list shall be maintained and kept by the Secretary and be open to viewing and copying. The Secretary shall record the meeting in accurate notes.

**Section 4. PROCEDURE.** The meetings shall be chaired by the President, or ranking officer. The President shall guide discussion.

**ARTICLE VII: COMMITTEES**

**Section 1. DEFINITION.** The standing committees of this organization shall consist of the following: Community Relations, Programs & Events, and Field Operations. Active members of the YDCC must join at least one standing committee.

**Section 2. COMMUNITY RELATIONS.** The Community Relations Committee shall be responsible for maintaining general publicity on the activities and presence of the Cabarrus County Young Democrats. For advertising to the community and members of upcoming events, and for managing a newsletter. The chairperson of this committee shall be known as the 3rd Vice President.

**Section 3. PROGRAMS & EVENTS.**  The Programs Committee shall be responsible for the planning and organizing of meetings and events. The chairperson of this committee shall be known as 2nd Vice President.

**Section 4. FIELD OPERATIONS.** The Field Operations Committee shall be responsible for preparing and executing fieldwork, including but not limited to canvassing, call time, Get Out The Vote activities, and the creation of literature and scripts. The Vice-President serves as the ex officio chairperson of this committee.

**Section 5. EXECUTIVE BOARD.** The Executive Board shall serve as an advisory and planning committee for the organization. Voting members shall include the four (4) elected officers and the chairpersons of the standing committees. The President shall chair the board.

1. **OVERRIDING A VETO.** The Executive Board may overrule a Presidential veto by a simple majority vote.
2. **CREATING A COMMITTEE.** The Executive Board shall vote on temporary/select committee proposed by the President. A vote achieving a simple majority creates a committee.
3. **CONFIRMING COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP.** The President may appoint a member to be chairperson of a committee. The Executive Board shall, in the case of a standing committee, vote to confirm requiring 3/4 of the total number of members presently on the Executive Board; and 2/3 the total number of members on the Executive Board for a select committee.

**Section 6. CREATING A TEMPORARY/SELECT COMMITTEE.** The President, with majority of the Executive Board, may create temporary or select committees. The purpose of each committee shall be outlined by the President.

**Section 7. COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP.** Each committee must be led by a chairperson that is a member of that committee. There are two ways to determine the chairperson: “Closed Floor” and “Open Floor”. The President may choose, between these two options, how each individual committee’s leadership is chosen.

1. **CLOSED FLOOR.** The President shall, with 3/4 of the vote for a standing committee and 2/3 the vote for a select committee, choose the Chairpersons. Each Chairperson must go through a vote. If the Executive Board fails to confirm the member, another may be chosen.
2. **OPEN FLOOR.** The President shall declare a committee to have an open floor. This means that the committee members shall vote on a chairperson from among themselves. The member with the majority of votes becomes the chairperson. If no chair is elected or there is a tie, this is called a “Stalemate”. The Executive Board shall cast their votes in addition to the votes already cast by the committee.

**Section 8. TERM OF CHAIRPERSON.** The Chairperson’s term shall be indefinite unless he/she steps down, or is replaced by the President.

1. **CHAIRPERSON VACANCY.** Should there be a vacancy in the offices of Chairperson, the committee shall choose a member to chair until the President chooses a replacement (Section 7). If the President makes a chairperson step down, the Executive Board may nullify the action with a 2/3 vote on chairpersons chosen by ‘Open Floor’, and a 3/4 vote on chairpersons chosen by ‘Closed Floor’.

**Section 9. PROCEDURE.** The chairperson of the committee shall guide discussion and hold/record the final vote on an issue, act, or any other ordinance. The chairperson shall submit the final work to the President for approval or veto.

**ARTICLE VIII: RECORDS**

**Section 1. OFFICER RECORDS.** It shall be the duty of each outgoing officer and committee chairperson to turn over records and documentation of the preceding years to their successors within ninety (90) days.

**Section 2. FINANCIAL RECORDS.** The outgoing Treasurer shall transfer all financial records, information and other monies to the incoming Treasurer within ten (10) days.

**ARTICLE IX: GOVERNMENT**

**Section 1. AMENDMENTS.** These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of a general membership meeting when notice of the amendment is given at the previous general membership meeting. When no previous notice is given, any amendment may be affected by a three-quarters vote of a general membership meeting.

**Section 2. PROCEDURE.** Officers of the YDCC shall be called by their titles unless said otherwise. All must respect the will of the vote.

**Section 3. CHAIN OF SUCCESSION.** In the event of mass resignations among YDCC leadership, a chain of succession shall be created. The leadership of the chapter, and duties of the President fall to the persons/offices in this order. Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Programs & Events Committee Chairperson, and the Community Relations Chairman.

**Section 4. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY.** The proceedings of this organization shall be governed by the following authorities in the following order of precedence. The Bylaws of the Cabarrus County Young Democrats; the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised; and executive discretion.

**Adopted:**

**Signatures:**

**President** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Vice-President** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Secretary** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Treasurer** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**County Chair**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_