

# *San Diego County Young Democrats*

## **Preamble**

In order to promote a better world, with equality, opportunity, and freedom within a just and strong society, we dedicate ourselves to organizing the participation of Young Democrats in the County of San Diego. In this mission, we call for full participation of all San Diego County Young Democrats, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, physical handicap, socioeconomic status, or sexual orientation. Understanding the importance of participation in the Democratic Party to the preservation of our values and principles, we, San Diego County Young Democrats, do hereby associate ourselves and adopt this charter as the San Diego County Young Democrats.

## **Mission Statement**

The purpose of the San Diego County Young Democrats is to promote the growth and development of the Democratic Party among those under thirty six (36); work towards developing future leaders in both the Democratic Party and the community as a whole; actively support Democratic candidates, incumbents, including candidates for nonpartisan offices pledged to fulfill the Democratic Platform; increase political awareness through the dissemination of information on Democratic issues throughout the community; and carry out the Democratic Party campaign.

## **Article I: Name and Affiliation**

- 1) Name: The name of this organization shall be the San Diego County Young Democrats, hereafter referred to in this document as the “SDCYD”.
- 2) SDCYD shall operate under the Charter and bylaws of the Young Democrats of America, California Young Democrats, Democratic National Committee, and Roberts’ Rules of Order Newly Revised. If any sections of the charter are found to be in conflict with the aforementioned organizations it shall become null and void and the remainder of the charter is to remain intact. SDCYD shall not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, economic status, gender, creed, ethnic identity, physical disability, philosophical persuasion or sexual orientation.

## **Article II: Membership**

- 1) Members: Membership in SDCYD shall be open to registered democrats under the age of 36 currently residing within the County of San Diego. Membership in SDCYD also requires that members be willing to be known as a Young Democrat, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, physical handicap, socioeconomic status, or sexual orientation and has paid their annual dues as set by the executive board.
- 2) Every person who is eligible to be a member of SDCYD becomes a member in good standing and is an eligible

voting member of SDCYD 58 days after paying their annual dues. Questions of eligibility shall be determined by a majority of the Executive Board.

- 3) Any member whose actions are judged by a three quarters (3/4) majority of the Executive Board to be prejudicial or detrimental to the SDCYD may be expelled from the organization, upon recommendation of the Executive Board, by a 2/3 vote of those members present and voting at a called meeting of the organization. Any motion for removal must be noticed to all members no less than 28 days prior to the vote.
- 4) Individuals who are not registered as Democrats may become associates of SDCYD. Associates are not considered members and are therefore not eligible to vote, hold a position on the Executive Board or officially represent the organization at Democratic Party activities.
- 5) The Executive Board shall set the annual dues. Dues are payable when a member joins SDCYD and annual thereafter based on their anniversary date.
- 6) The Membership Directory shall only be shared with organizations that the SDCYD is chartered with or only with campaigns that have received the endorsement of SDCYD.

### **Article III: The Executive Board**

- 1) All Executive Board members must be members in good standing. Executive Board Positions in SDCYD shall be open to any voting member of the SDCYD.
- 2) The executive board shall be comprised of the elected officers, SDCYD Immediate Past President, and officers of the California Young Democrats (as defined by the CYD) who reside in San Diego County. The Immediate Past President and CYD Officers shall serve as ex-officio, non-voting members of the Executive Board.
- 3) The voting members of Executive Board of SDCYD shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Director of Communications, Director of Community Service, and the Director of Membership. Elected officers shall take office at the subsequent general membership meeting following their election and shall hold office for one year or until their successors are elected.
  - a) Duties of the President. The President shall:
    - i) Be the Chief Executive Officer of SDCYD;
    - ii) Set the agenda for and preside over all meetings of the Executive Board and of the membership;
    - iii) Act as the official representative of SDCYD to other groups and the media;

- iv) Ensure the mandates, policies, and directives of the Executive Board are carried out;
  - v) Appoint chairs of all committees subject to membership approval;
  - vi) Appoint ad hoc committees and appoint chairs of such committees to the membership for approval;
  - vii) Ensure the organization develops and maintains relationships with members on the California Democratic Party, San Diego County Central Democratic Committee, and the appropriate Assembly District Committees, CYD, YDA, as well as the local college and young Democratic clubs;
  - viii) Ensure that general meetings of the organization occur on a consistent basis;
  - ix) Guide the organization to recruit new members, and to involve all members in Democratic Party participation;
  - x) Make decisions for SDCYD on policy when specifically empowered to do so by the Executive Board;
  - xi) Advise the membership of pertinent matters affecting the Democratic Party and the organization;
  - xii) Disburse funds of the organization within limits set by the Executive Board; and act as Treasurer in the absence or inability of the Treasurer.
  - xiii) The President shall be an ex-officio officer of all entities within SDCYD.
- b) Duties of the Vice President. The Vice President shall:
- i) Assist the President in the performance of his or her duties; including brainstorming ideas and evaluating the progress of the Executive Board and organization as a whole;
  - ii) Act as President when the President is unable to perform his or her duties;
  - iii) Assume the office of the President upon the President's death, resignation, removal, or inability to perform duties;
  - iv) Take on projects of his or her choosing, subject to the approval of the Executive Board;
  - v) Perform such duties as the President may assign.
- c) Duties of the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall:
- i) Maintain the financial records of the organization;

- ii) Shall ensure the SDCYD complies with all financial laws and regulation pertinent to the function of the SDCYD;
  - iii) Receive and disburse funds of the organization, including the chartering fees of the Young Democrats of America and the California Young Democrats;
  - iv) Prepare an annual budget of anticipated revenues and expenses;
  - v) Provide addenda to the budget as required;
  - vi) Report the financial status of the organization to the Executive Board on a regular basis;
  - vii) Make an annual report to the membership;
  - viii) Perform such duties as the President may assign.
- d) Duties of the Secretary. The Secretary shall:
- i) Maintain a record of all meetings of the Executive Board and of the membership;
  - ii) Receive and maintain all official non-financial records of the organization, the reports of elected officers, directors of standing committees and chairs of recognized caucuses;
  - iii) Maintain a compendium of standing rules, resolutions and policies adopted by the Executive Board or the membership;
  - iv) Make a record of the minutes of the meetings available to the members;
  - v) Maintain accuracy of records as necessary for chartering with the California Young Democrats;
  - vi) Perform such duties as the President may assign.
- e) Duties of the Director of Membership. The Director of Membership shall:
- i) Maintain directory of official membership in good standing and associate members
  - ii) Handle membership correspondence, including membership renewal billings, and such correspondence as the President or Executive Board may direct;
  - iii) Verify intent or registration status of all new members within twenty-eight (28) days of receipt of membership dues;

- iv) Perform such duties as the President may assign.
- f) Duties of the Director of Communications. The Director of Communications shall:
  - i) Coordinate all public communications and publicity activities;
  - ii) Notify media of all events of SDCYD in an attempt to ensure media coverage;
  - iii) Perform such duties as the President may assign
- g) Duties of the Director of Community Services
  - i) Coordinate and implement community service/volunteer events and activities
  - ii) Develop and maintain relationships with community service providers and volunteer organizations
  - iii) Perform such duties as the President may assign
- h) Duties of the Immediate Past President. The Immediate Past President shall:
  - i) Assist in an advisory role to the current President;
  - ii) Perform such duties as the President may assign.

## **Article IV. Removal and Vacancy**

### 1) Removal

- a) Cause for removal of Executive Board Officers. Cause for removal shall be defined as malfeasance or nonfeasance of duties assigned by the Executive Board or delineated within this document, or as ineligibility for Executive Board membership pursuant to Article 2. Cause for removal shall also include grounds found by two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Executive Board and then 2/3 majority of the entire dues paying membership to constitute good and sufficient cause (or) a signed petition of a majority (50% plus one) of the entire dues paying membership and a motion carried by two-thirds (2/3) of members in attendance at the next general meeting occurring no less than twenty-eight (28) days following the presentation of the petition.
- b) Process for removal of Executive Board Officers. To begin the process for removal of an officer, another dues paying member of SDCYD must charge the officer with the reasons for his or her removal publicly at either a meeting of the Executive Board or general meeting. The officer in question must be offered an opportunity to defend him or herself at that meeting.

2) Declaration of vacancy.

- a) The standing president has authority to appoint an interim officer until special elections can be held at the next general meeting, held no less than 28 days since the announcement of the vacancy.

## **Article V. Elections**

1) Elections shall occur annually.

2) Officers of the organization shall be elected at the regularly scheduled membership meeting in the month of April each year and assume office at the subsequent general membership meeting following their election, unless otherwise scheduled.

3) Declaration of Candidacy shall occur at a general body meeting at least 28 days prior to the election.

4) Eligibility to run for a position and vote. Candidates must be voting members of the SDCYD, a registered Democrat residing within the County of San Diego, and must not reach the age of 36 during their term in office.

5) The officers shall be elected individually in the order of President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary, Director of Membership, and Director of Communication and Director of Community Service.

- a) An unsuccessful candidate for an officer position may declare themselves a candidate for another office subsequent to their defeat and be elected for any remaining officer position provided they meet all requirements as stipulated by this charter.

1) In accordance with the **Young Democrats of America's Open Meeting Policy**, the election of officers shall **NOT** be by secret ballot; however, if there is only one nominee for an office, and provided there is no objection, the candidate can be elected by acclamation.

2) Proxy voting shall not be allowed for elections.

3) To be elected a nominee must receive a majority of the votes cast for that office. If no nominee receives a majority on the first voting, a runoff shall be held between the two nominees and the nominee receiving the greatest number of votes shall assume the office.

4) Procedure.

- a) Speech length. 2 minutes maximum

- b) Question and Answer. 5 minutes maximum

- c) Vote counting and declaration of the winner will occur directly after that election. The current Secretary and Treasurer shall count votes. In the event that neither the Secretary nor Treasurer can fulfill their duty, the member(s) in good standing the longest shall substitute until a Secretary and Treasurer can be elected.
- 5) In the event a position is not filled in the annual election of officers a vacancy shall be declared by the incoming President and shall appoint a successor with a 2/3 majority consent of the incoming Executive Board. Appointed executives take office at the meeting following their appointment.
- 6) To be eligible to vote in any election, members must have been in good standing for at least 60 days prior to the election.
- 7) Declaration of candidacy for special elections to fill vacancies can occur during the meetings at which the election is held.

## **Article VI. Meetings**

- 1) Provided a meeting has been properly noticed, a quorum shall be 1/10 plus 1, of SDCYD membership or 10 people, whichever is less.
- 2) Meeting shall be scheduled on a consistent reoccurring basis and at a consistent location. The meeting times and location shall be made available to the public, the San Diego County Central Committee, the California Young Democrats, the California Democratic Party, the Young Democrats of America, the Democratic National Committee and other appropriate organizations.
- 3) Notice shall be given to members of all meetings in a timely fashion.
- 4) Meetings may be closed to non-members at the request of any member and the approval of two-thirds of the members present and voting.
- 5) Agendas
  - a) Information Item: All items on the agenda requiring action from the organization must be listed as an Information Item for at least one regularly scheduled meeting, prior to the body taking action. After an item has been listed on the Agenda, as an Information Item for at least one regularly scheduled meeting, it may be moved to a Business Item for the next regularly scheduled meeting.
  - b) Business Item: All items on the agenda that require action from the membership must have been listed as an Information Item for at least one regularly scheduled meeting before action can be take on the item.

## **Article VII. Endorsements & Resolutions**

### 1) Endorsements

- a) Endorsement of non-Democrats for purposes of elections is a violation of this charter, and could result in charter revocation.
- b) Endorsements of candidates for public office and positions on ballot propositions may be determined at any properly noticed meeting, provided that a quorum is present and that the notice of the meeting included notification of the races or ballot measures which are to be considered for endorsement or rating. To be eligible to vote for endorsement of a candidate or ballot proposition, a person must be a voting member in good standing. Proxy voting and absentee voting is not permitted. (Note: candidates and their staff members, who are otherwise eligible to vote, are also eligible to vote on all endorsements).
- c) The Executive Board may recommend the selection of races and propositions to be endorsed by the SDCYD.
- d) An affirmative vote of at least 60% of the organizations members present and eligible to vote shall be required to endorse a candidate, rate a candidate, or take a position on a ballot proposition. (Note: The vote required is measured by all those eligible members “present,” not just those “present and voting”.) The option of “No Endorsement” shall be included on the endorsement ballot for each race or ballot measure.
- e) Candidate surveys may be prepared and approved by the Executive Board and shall be reviewed periodically (at least every two years) to ensure that current issues are adequately reflected. Candidates for judicial office may be evaluated on a specifically tailored and limited survey and/or attendance at the appropriate meeting. The Director of Communications shall assess the completed survey.
- f) If no candidate receives the required 60% for endorsement, subsequent votes shall be taken deleting the candidate receiving the least number of votes and those receiving no votes on the previous vote.
- g) If after the completion of voting, no candidate has received the 60% vote required for an endorsement, the chair may entertain motions to rate one or more of the candidates. If a candidate is endorsed, the remaining candidates shall not be rated.
- h) The club may choose any of the following options for rating candidates:
  - i) “Acceptable”—Circumstances justifying this rating include, but are not limited to:
  - j) The candidate does not qualify for an endorsement, however the club feels the person is supportable.
  - k) The candidate has a good record and/or good position statements; however the club disagrees with the candidate on one or more significant issues.
  - l) There is more than one good candidate, and the club prefers to rate them each as acceptable rather than

endorse a single candidate.

- m) “Unacceptable”—Circumstances justifying this rating include, but are not limited to:
- n) The candidate has a poor position or record on one or more critical issues.
- o) “No Position”—Circumstances justifying this rating include, but are not limited to the following:
- p) Not enough information is known about the candidate.
- q) The candidate appears to be between the ratings of “Acceptable” and “Unacceptable,”
- r) It would not be politically expedient to take a position.
- s) The club may rate any ballot proposition as “Support,” “Oppose,” or “No Position.”
- t) In the event that the club entertains a motion to rate a candidate or ballot proposition, and 60% one of those voting cannot agree on the assignment of any of the rating options listed above, then that candidate or proposition shall be assigned the rating of “No Consensus.”
- u) No candidates, including candidates who are also club members, may be present for discussion or the vote on the office for which that candidate is contending. Candidates who are members in good standing will be allowed to cast their vote before being excused from the meeting.

## **Article X. Amendments**

- 1) Procedure, The Charter can be amended by a 2/3 plus one vote, approval by the dues-paying membership in attendance at a general body meeting.
- 2) All proposed amendments must be read as an information item for a period of one month before moving onto a Business Item where action can be taken.
- 3) Temporary suspension of the charter may be made by a 2/3 plus one vote, approval by the dues-paying membership in attendance at a general body meeting.