



Constitution and Bylaws of the Young Democrats of the Central Midlands

As Accepted on *June 24, 2021*

Amended on *April 5, 2022, March 9, 2023, March 14, 2024, December 11, 2024,*

and June 11, 2025 and February 25, 2026

Columbia, SC

Article 1 -- Name

The official and incorporated name of this organization is and shall be known as the Young Democrats of the Central Midlands or YD of CM.

Article 2 -- Mission Statement, Authority

Section 1. Mission Statement: The Young Democrats of the Central Midlands serve as a representative of both the South Carolina Democratic Party and the Young Democrats of South Carolina. Our mission is to empower and inspire young citizens through political awareness, increasing voter turnout among young people, and helping to elect officials who share our values in order to ensure that the future we inherit is one of greater equality, justice, and freedom for all.

Section 2. Authority: The Young Democrats of Central Midlands is the governing state body of affiliated county, caucus, advocacy, young voter and college/university democratic organizations in Richland, Lexington, Orangeburg, and Fairfield counties. Its power is derived from the Young Democrats of South Carolina.

Article 3--Affiliation

The Young Democrats of the Central Midlands (YD of CM) is the official region representative for the Young Democrats of South Carolina and the youth outreach representative for the South Carolina Democratic Party (SCDP) in Richland, Lexington, Orangeburg and Fairfield counties.

Article 4--Membership

Individuals under the age of forty (40) are eligible to join the Young Democrats of the



Central Midlands. The three levels of membership are as follows:

Member

A member is defined as any individual who seeks to be involved in the business of the chapter, is under the age of forty (40), and whose residency is within the counties affiliated with the Central Midlands chapter. Members that do not satisfy the requirements to be an active member, below, but are eligible to be voting members are expected to make a non-refundable \$50 donation in lieu of dues. Members will receive a T-shirt and retain voting powers. Members can attain Active Member status by following the requirements below.

Active Member

An active member is defined as any individual who seeks to be involved in the business of the chapter, is under the age of forty (40), and whose residency is within the counties affiliated with the Central Midlands chapter. Active members are also expected to attend at least two (2) YDofCM events in a six month period, or to donate at least \$15 to the chapter in the twelve months following a YDSC Convention in lieu of dues. A Member that buys a \$15 T-shirt will receive a free membership for one calendar year.

Young At Heart Member

Any Democrat in a county in Central Midlands' jurisdiction, having passed the age of forty (40), are invited to support the work of the chapter by making a \$50 donation to the chapter. These honorary members will receive a T-shirt but are not eligible to vote in the business of the chapter or that of the Young Democrats of South Carolina.

Membership in this organization is open to all meeting the above criteria, irrespective of race, creed, color, gender, class, age, nation of origin, nationality, disability, marital status, religion, veteran status, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation. All members, regardless of level, will be treated with dignity and respect, and will be granted full involvement in the chapter. Only active members will be eligible to run for executive positions within the chapter, YDSC, and YDA.

Article 5--Officers, Qualifications, Term Lengths

Section 1. Officers and Board: The Board of this organization shall consist of four officer positions:



Chair, who serves as the highest officer in the group and serves as a representative to YDSC.

Vice Chair(s) (2 if elected), who serves as the immediate subordinate to the Chair and serves as such in the Chair's absence. The First Vice Chair shall be an ex-officio member of the Policy and Campaigns committees, and the Second Vice Chair shall be an ex-officio member of the Communications and Membership committees.

Treasurer, who is responsible for conservation of chapter funds, including working with the chair to determine expenditures.

Secretary, who is responsible for ensuring meetings are effectively organized and minutes and that effective records are maintained.

Section 2. Qualifications: In order to run for and hold office in the Central Midlands region, an individual must qualify to be an active member (see definition above).

Section 3. Term Lengths: Elected officers shall hold office for two years, and until their successors are elected, with elections to be held at the Chapter's regular meeting in March of a year coinciding with a YDA Convention. Officers can only be re-elected to their position twice and thus can only serve 6 years in one role.

Section 4. Removal of Officers: Members of the Executive Board can be removed from office under the following provisions:

1. Any member of the Executive Board or Council may make a written request to the Executive Board for a hearing to remove an officer. The written request must be made to the Executive Board of the Young Democrats of Central Midlands. The Secretary must first contact the accused officer and give the accused one week to respond. The Secretary will notify the Executive Board of the complaint and the response to see if a hearing is needed. If the Secretary is the accused, notification will be provided to the Chair.
2. Executive Board and Council may, after giving notice of intent to remove to an offending officer, remove an appointed or elected officer for cause. Causes for removal shall include:
 - a. Failure to comply with the duties outlined in the Constitution of the Young Democrats of Central Midlands.
 - b. Acting in a manner unbecoming of an officer of the Young Democrats of Central Midlands.



- c. Failure to attend and/or participate in an excessive amount of activities or meetings held by the Young Democrats of Central Midlands.
3. A hearing shall be held by the Executive Board within two weeks of notifying the offending party to determine whether or not to remove the officer. The accused officer may represent themselves at the hearing.
4. A $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of those present of the Executive Board shall be necessary to remove any officer from office.

Article 6--Elections

Section 1. Election of officers shall be held every two (2) years at the Chapter's March general meeting in years coinciding with the election of the YDA President.

Section 2. Vacancies shall be filled through appointment by the Chair. In the event the chair resigns, the chair can choose one of the vice chair(s) to serve as acting chair until voted in as chair in the next election.

Section 3. All nominations must be supported by a motion and voting shall take place by a voice vote. If more than one candidate is nominated for the office of Chair, Vice Chair(s), Secretary, or Treasurer, then the candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for such office shall be elected.

Article 7--Meetings, Quorum

Section 1. Meetings: The YD of CM board shall convene monthly.

Section 2. Quorum: At any meeting of the YD of CM board, a majority of elected officers then in office constitute a quorum for the transaction of business and the act of a majority of officers present at any meeting at which there is a quorum shall be the act of YD of CM.

Article 8--Committee Chair Selection, Committee Membership, Committees

Section 1. Chair Selection: Committee chairs shall be appointed by the chair.

Section 2. Membership and Committee Size: Membership is given to a trusted Democrat who has otherwise met the requirements to be an Active member. Membership on committees is open to any existing member of YD of CM. Two members and sponsorship by an officer are required to qualify a committee as active.



Section 3. Outreach & Public Relations Committee: The Outreach & Public Relations Committee shall consist of no less than the Vice Chair(s) and the committee co-chairs and will investigate means by which to promote YD of CM, grow the chapter's membership, and provide recommendations to the board. The committee will plan chapter events with a focus on community engagement, member recruitment, and membership retention. The committee shall generate all external communications including but not limited to social media posts, website, and graphics, and promotional materials.

Section 4. Finance Committee: The Finance Committee shall consist of the Chair and the Treasurer along with other members and shall investigate ways and means of financing YDofCM. The Finance Committee will share the duty of fundraising for the chapter with the Board. It will propose a budget for expenditures for the coming year and present that budget to the chapter for consideration at the beginning of each fiscal year.

Section 5. Action Committee: The Action Committee shall handle issue and legislative advocacy with the state and local governments, as well as candidate recruitment and promotion of Young Democrats who may become candidates, notwithstanding the state non-endorsement clause. The Action Committee will also organize volunteer efforts & opportunities with candidates for the members of YDofCM.

Section 6. Policy Committee: The Policy Committee will help YDofCM members investigate and define the values that they believe properly represent the organization as it grows and develops over time. This committee will accomplish this through the development & allocation of educational opportunities and resources.

Article 9--Finances

Section 1. Finances will be allocated based on a voice vote by the finance committee.

Section 2. Proper record keeping and appropriate filing will be completed by the treasurer.

Section 3. Banking Signatures: The Chair and Treasurer will serve as the signatories for the organization's bank account and be the signatures on all organization checks. The Vice Chair(s) will be listed on organization accounts and may sign checks in the absence of either the Chair and/or Treasurer and written permission must be obtained



from the Chair before this act is completed.

Article 10--Constitutional Amendments

Section 1. Procedures: This Constitution may be amended by any active member of YD of CM at any meeting. All Constitutional Amendments will be approved if passed by a $\frac{2}{3}$ voice vote of all present members.

Article 11--Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics

The Young Democrats of the Central Midlands will adopt the Young Democrats of South Carolina's Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics as passed by the State Convention in 2019, until superceded by the Convention or the YDSC Executive Council. These shall be the codes that govern behavior within the organization.