

Bylaws of the Louisville Young Democrats

Preamble

This organization shall be known as the Louisville Young Democrats, hereinafter referred to as LYD. LYD shall be chartered as a County Chapter with the Kentucky Young Democrats. The function and purpose of LYD shall be to empower young people to take political action, run for office, elect and support Democratic Party candidates, and bring new ideas and energy to the Democratic Party.

Article I: Membership and Qualifications

Section I: Membership Differentiation

LYD Members shall include the following: (a) Full Members, (b) Partial Members, (c) Non-Voting Members, (d) Honorary Members, and (e) Distinguished Members

- i. Full Members are registered to vote within Jefferson County as a member of the Democratic Party; younger than 40 years of age; Have formally requested membership to the LYD by any means deemed appropriate; Have attended two (2) of the previous twelve (12) all-members events; and deemed in good standing of paying any dues for that year as provided by Article II.
- ii. Partial Members are those who meet the same qualifications as Full Members, but, either due to unpaid dues or incomplete attendance criteria, shall not possess the same privileges or status as Full Members.
- iii. Non-Voting Members are registered to vote within Jefferson County as a member of the Democratic Party; and younger than 40 years of age; and have not completed either dues payment or fulfilled any attendance requirement.
- iv. Honorary Members are anyone who does not qualify for either Full or Partial Membership; but has made a monetary or in-kind donation during that particular Calendar year.
- v. Distinguished Members are individuals, through either extraordinary achievement or exceptional contributions to this organization, who are recognized in distinct honor by the LYD. These members shall be decided by a 2/3 vote of the Executive Board. Recommendations shall be started for this honor on May 1st and will be voted on by the first Executive Board meeting in June.

Section II: Voting Status for Members

Members of the LYD will have certain voting rights depending on their current standing with the organization. There will be three groups of voting regarding the groups: full voting, partial voting, and non-voting.

- i. Full Voting status will allow the individual to vote on all matters that a member can; these matters are limited to all matters not explicitly given

authority to the Executive Board. This includes and is limited to, amendments to the Charter and By-Laws of the LYD, roles of new officers of the Executive Board, and removal of members of LYD. Full members would be placed in this status.

- ii. Partial Voting status will allow the individual to vote on limited matters relative to Full Voting members. This is limited to amendments to the Charter and By-Laws of the LYD. Partial Members and Distinguished Members would be placed in this status.
- iii. Non-Voting status will prohibit the individual to vote on any matters. Non-Voting Members and Honorary Members would be placed in this status.

Section III: Revocation of Membership

Membership and all associated privileges including the right to attend LYD meetings may be revoked under the following: a unanimous vote of the Executive Board; or three-quarters of Voting Members present at a regularly scheduled meeting. Any member who has been removed from LYD may petition the Executive Board for reinstatement once per calendar year. The Board will consider any such petitions at their next meeting.

Section IV: Granting of Distinguished Membership

In recognition of extraordinary achievement or contributions to the organization, the LYD Executive Board may grant distinguished honors to certain individuals to cement this recognition. These awards, in highest honor, are as follows:

- i. LYD Lifetime Achievement Award: This award is the highest honor one may receive from the Louisville Young Democrats. Recognizing lifetime achievements and contributions, this person resembles the pinnacle of success regarding the individual and the organization. Those who achieve this honor will be referred to “Young Democrats for Life”; those who had received this honorific will also be recipients of the Lifetime Award. The nomination of this award shall commence on May 1st and end on May 31st.
- ii. Young Democrat of the Year: This award shall go out to the person who has gone above and beyond the call of duty of what it means to be a Young Democrat in Louisville.
- iii. LYD Rookie of the Year: Awarded to the newest but impactful member of the LYD.

These awards will be awarded to each of the recipients at the November election date, which is specified in Article VI, Section II. The recipients will be personally notified of their award a month prior.

Article II: Dues and Membership Fees

Section I: Establishment of Dues

Dues shall apply to each calendar year: January 1 through December 31. Dues may be set or adjusted by two thirds of Executive Board Members. Dues must be set before January 1st of the calendar year in which they are to take effect.

Section II: Hardship Clause

Dues may be reduced and/or waived for any member by a majority vote of the Executive Board if payment of dues would create a hardship. This will be addressed on a member-by-member basis; with individual members notifying, through written or electronic means, either the Finance Committee or the President. This notification shall be deliberated on the next Executive Board meeting.

Article III: Officers and the Executive Board

Section I: Establishment of the Executive Board

Full Voting Members of LYD shall elect an Executive Board consisting of the following positions: President, Vice President of Advocacy and Outreach, Vice President of Membership, Vice President of Recruitment, Vice President of Communications, Vice President of Finance, Vice President of Procedure, and three At-Large Board Members.

Section II: Roles of the Officers

- i. The President of LYD shall serve as the chief leadership officer, administrative officer, and public spokesperson for the organization. They shall be responsible for the welfare and success of the organization in accordance with the mission statement and shall ensure that all club officers perform the duties of their respective offices. Such duties include but are not limited to — presiding at all regular and special meetings of the LYD and Executive Board; enforcing the by-laws of the LYD; representing LYD at public and political functions, through either themselves or a proxy. The President establishes the agenda and brings up what is to be voted on and not, but the President itself is not a voting member of the Executive Board.
- ii. The Vice President of Advocacy and Outreach
- iii. The Vice President of Finance
- iv. The Vice President of Membership
- v. The Vice President of Recruitment
- vi. The Vice President of Communications
- vii. The Vice President of Procedure

Section III: Removal of Officers from the Executive Board

Any elected officer who fails to attend either LYD functions or Executive Board meetings for three consecutive months shall be deemed to have immediately vacated their office. Elected officers may be removed for improperly performing

or failing to perform the duties and responsibilities of their office by a three-quarters vote of all other Executive Board members. Any officer removed from office may appeal their removal within 30 days of being removed, by having a member of the Executive Board submit a written petition for reinstatement for consideration at the next regularly scheduled meeting; affirmation of three-quarters of Voting Members in attendance will result in reinstatement.

Section IV: Office Vacancies

Any office vacated for any reason may be temporarily filled by an appointment at the LYD President's discretion until the next regularly scheduled meeting, during which a special election shall be held to fill the remainder of any unexpired term.

Article IV: Election Procedure

Section I: Timeline of Procedure

The club shall annually elect officers to the positions established in Article III at a all-members event on November 15th. The general membership shall be notified of the date, time, and place of an upcoming election not less than twenty-eight (28) days in advance. LYD Members who wish to be considered for elected office within the club must declare their candidacy to the VP of Procedure at least fourteen (14) days before the election. Newly elected officers shall assume their offices on January 1st following their election.

Section II: Election Protocol

Contested elections shall be conducted by secret, written ballot. The candidate for each office who receives the highest total votes shall be declared the winner. Only full members will be allowed to vote in officer elections.

Section III: In Event of Delayed Election

If the officers or Executive Board fails to hold elections by November 30th, any Voting Member may motion for club elections at any subsequent regularly scheduled meeting. If the motion passes by simple majority vote, elections shall be held immediately at that meeting to fill out the remaining terms of office.

Section IV: Term Limits

No officer may be elected to the same position for more than 2 consecutive full terms. A full term will be counted even when only three-quarters of a term is carried out.

Article V: Committee Assignments

Section I: Permanent Committees

Committees that directly involve the elected Vice Presidents of the Executive Board shall be established as permanent committees, with membership of these committees to be year-round. These committees include and are limited to,

Recruitment, Finance, Communications, Advocacy and Outreach, Membership, and Procedures. The

Section II: Ad-Hoc Committees

Section III: Event Committees

Article VI: Meetings

Section I: Executive Board Meetings

The LYD Executive Board shall convene a minimum of one meeting per month for the purposes of conducting any formal business of the organization. This meeting must not exceed more than 90 minutes but be no less than 45 minutes.

Section II: All-Membership Meetings

LYD shall, in addition to monthly Executive Board meetings, have monthly all-members gathering to increase and maintain the size and interest of LYD. These meetings will not include formal business, unless explicitly stated with no less than twenty-eight (28) days' notice of items that require all members to vote on.

Section III: Quorum

Two-thirds of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum to conduct business and consider motions. The lesser of 25% or eleven (11) Full or Partial Voting Members shall constitute a quorum and the ability to conduct the business of the club.

Section IV: Parliamentary Authority

The current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Revised shall govern all proceedings, except when inconsistent with the Constitution and bylaws of LYD. Two thirds of the Executive Board present is required to suspend any club rules.

Article VII: Expenses

Section I: Amount of Discretionary Spending

Section II: Notification of Spending

Section III: Voting of Spending

Article VIII: Ratification and Amendments

Section I: Ratification

The above bylaws shall go into effect immediately upon approval of a majority vote of Voting Members present at a regularly scheduled meeting.

Section II: Amendment Process

The bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of Voting Members present at a regularly scheduled meeting. Proposed bylaws amendments must be presented, in writing, at least 28 days prior to being voted upon at a regularly scheduled meeting. The substance of the proposed amendments must be included in the notice of said meeting.

Article IX: Prior and Future Amendments

Amendment I: On the Subject of Harassment

The Louisville Young Democrats are committed to providing a safe environment for all its members, free from discrimination on any ground and from harassment including sexual harassment. LYD will operate a zero-tolerance policy for any form of discrimination and harassment, treat all incidents seriously and promptly investigate all allegations of sexual harassment. Any person found to have sexually harassed another will face disciplinary action, up to and including removal from events and dismissal from LYD and affiliated organizations. All complaints of sexual harassment will be taken seriously and treated with respect and in confidence. No one will be victimized for making such a complaint.

If an individual is the victim of discrimination and harassment, he/she can approach a member of the executive board, all of whom are responsible for receiving complaints of discrimination and harassment. A member of the executive committee has the authority to immediately remove any individual accused of harassment in order to create a safe environment.

Amendment II: Regarding the Vacancy of the President

In the event of the death, resignation, removal, or change in residence from Jefferson County of the President, the resultant vacancy shall be filled at a special meeting for the LYD Executive Board called for that purpose not less than fifteen (15) days nor more than forty-five (45) days from such occurrence. The call to meeting shall be issued by the Secretary, and a majority vote by secret ballot of the Executive Board will elect the Presidential successor who shall serve for the balance of the current unexpired term. In the interim between the vacating of the office and the election of the successor, the Vice President of Advocacy shall serve as the Acting President.