



**Young Democratic Socialists of America
2020 Annual Convention
Draft Convention Rules**

Approved by the National Coordinating Committee 03/13/2020

Delegate Apportionment and Credentials

1. YDSA members (hereafter referred to as “members” or “membership”) shall be determined on the basis of meeting all of the following criteria:
 - a. That they are dues paying DSA members in good standing.
 - b. That they are listed on the YDSA chapter’s most current membership list as submitted to the national office by **May 1st, 2020**.
 - c. Their chapter has received a formal charter from the National Coordinating Committee (NCC), and that this charter has not expired or been otherwise nullified as of **May 1, 2020**.
2. Voting at the 2019 YDSA Annual Conference (hereafter referred to as the “Convention”) shall be apportioned on a ratio of one (1) delegate per every four (4) members in their chapter. Each chapter may elect no more than one (1) alternate for every two (2) apportioned delegates. No chapter shall have less than one (1) delegate and one (1) non-voting alternate. (E.g. a chapter with 8 members would receive 2 delegates and 1 alternate, a chapter with 13 members would receive 3 delegates and 1 alternate, etc.)
3. Beginning April 1, 2019, the national office will provide YDSA chapters (hereafter referred to as “chapters”) with the number of delegates and alternates they have been allocated. A chapter’s members are determined on the basis of the membership list provided to the NCC upon their application for chapter recognition. A chapter may update their membership list by submitting it to the national office. No updated membership lists will be accepted for the purposes of the Convention after **May 1st, 2020**. No applications for chapter recognition will be accepted for the purposes of the Convention after **May 15th, 2020**.
4. Chapters shall conduct and supervise their own elections of Convention delegates and alternate delegates in accordance with the applicable provisions of the YDSA constitution. Only members are eligible to be elected as delegates or alternates.
5. Each local must report the result of its elections in writing to the national office no later than **June 1st, 2020**. The report must include full contact information, including an email address and phone number, for all delegates. If any of the names submitted are found not to be members by the national office, that person will not be issued credentials and the chapter will be responsible for determining a replacement within the aforementioned deadline. The national office shall make their list of members for a chapter available at the request of that chapter.

6. Each Local delegation shall designate a chair who shall be responsible for official communications with the Convention Secretary.

Convention Organization

Committees

7. The Convention committees shall consist of the following:

- a. a Resolutions Committee, to be appointed by the NCC, to manage all submitted constitutional amendments and resolutions. They shall work to reconcile any submissions that are out of order or beyond the scope or powers outlined in the YDSA constitution. (E.g. amendments that attempt to define powers outlined in the DSA constitution or resolutions that attempt to prescribe actions to DSA, both of which would be outside of the powers of the Convention.) The Resolutions Committee shall also work with sponsor(s) who submit similar or overlapping submissions in the interest of developing a single mutually agreeable submission for all sponsors. The Resolutions Committee may propose steps to facilitate consideration of resolutions, including but not limited to appointing small groups to redraft or combine resolutions, preferably in advance of the convention, and in consultation with the sponsors. The Resolutions Committee will structure the order in which resolutions are to be considered, the time allotted to each, and the number of speakers pro and con, taking into account the priorities expressed by the delegates in the poll (see Rule 24). They shall also submit a Consent Agenda to the convention based on the results of the poll, consisting of resolutions for immediate adoption and to be deferred to the NCC in the interest of time. A vote of 20% or more of the full delegated strength of the Convention may bring to the plenary for discussion and vote any resolution or amendment submitted in a timely fashion, but not recommended to the convention by the Resolutions Committee.
- b. a Convention Planning Team, appointed by the NCC, which is responsible for coordinating with the national office, the DSA Convention Planning Team, and Resolutions Committee around logistics and developing a final schedule for the Convention, pending approval from the Convention itself. This includes developing the programming around plenary sessions, workshops, and strategy sessions.
- c. a Presidium, to be confirmed by the Convention, whose duties shall include interpreting the the rules of the convention (see Rule 26 and 27), designating chairs for each Convention session, conducting the elections of members to the National Coordinating Committee and all other elections requiring a written ballot, and for making recommendations to the Convention on any challenges made to any election. The outgoing NCC may propose a slate for the Presidium for the Convention. The Convention Secretary shall be an ex-officio member of the Presidium.
- d. a Styles Committee, to be elected by Convention, to meet after the Convention is concluded which shall be responsible for compiling all adopted constitutional amendments and drafting them into a revised copy of the YDSA Constitution as amended by the Convention. This committee's aim is to incorporate the language of adopted amendments into the constitution in the interest of consistency and clarity. They will submit their draft to the NCC within six

weeks of the conclusion of the Convention for the NCC to review and adopt. The Presidium may propose a slate for the Styles Committee for the Convention to adopt.

Recording

8. The National Campus Organizer of DSA shall serve as Convention Secretary, keeping the official record of the Convention, and may appoint such assistants as they deem necessary. In the absence of a National Campus Organizer, the NCC may appoint a Convention Secretary. The Convention Secretary shall also be responsible for convening Convention committees and act as a liaison between all Convention committees and the national office.

Voting

9. A quorum of the Convention shall consist of fifty percent plus one of the registered delegates and seated alternate delegates.
10. An accredited alternate delegate may be seated for a delegate temporarily or permanently. The permanent seating of an alternate must be reported immediately to the Convention Secretary.
11. Each delegate and seated alternate shall be entitled to one (1) vote on all questions coming before the Convention, except that each chapter delegation may vote its full strength provided that no individual casts more than three votes unless authorized to do so by the Convention. A chapter delegation which is less than full strength must inform the Convention Secretary prior to any vote in which multiple votes are to be cast, and shall advise the Convention Secretary of the method by which such multiple ballots will be cast (whether by the delegation as a whole, or by designated delegates.)
12. All questions to the Convention shall be decided by majority vote of the delegates and seated alternate delegates present and voting, except where a specified super-majority vote is required by the Constitution. A motion to suspend rules will require a two-thirds majority vote. All other procedural motions shall require a majority vote, except where otherwise provided in the Rules.
13. No secret ballot shall be conducted. All voting will be through online methods. The Chair of the Convention session shall determine the results of online votes and report the results to the Convention Secretary as well as announcing it to the convention session. A vote will be recounted at the request of any delegate or seated alternate, or if in the judgment of the Chair it is warranted due to closeness of the initial count. The Chair shall appoint such tellers as needed to assist in the counting of the vote.
14. Roll call votes shall be conducted at the request of thirty percent of the delegates and seated alternates present and voting, and shall consist of a recorded vote by delegation.

Plenary Procedure

15. Only delegates, seated alternate delegates, NCC members, and DSA staff members may speak on questions coming before the Convention in plenary session. Speakers on all motions shall be limited to two minutes, unless the convention accepts a different limit.
16. No additional amendments will be accepted from the floor of the Convention. Only primary and secondary amendments submitted and distributed in advance will be heard.

Procedural Authority

16. Except as provided in these Rules, or the Constitution, the latest edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* shall govern the proceedings of the Convention.
17. Presidium shall be the sole interpreter of the Convention Rules.
18. Any delegate or seated alternate may appeal any ruling of the Presidium. In such instance, the person making the appeal may speak for up to two minutes to advocate the appeal and the Chair may speak for up to two minutes to defend the ruling. No other debate shall be permitted. The ruling of the Chair may be overturned by a vote in favor of the appeal by a majority of delegates and seated alternates present and voting.

Submissions

19. The national office will hold at least one (1) informational call open to all members conducted over Zoom about the submissions process and NCC elections before **May 1st, 2020**.
20. All proposed amendments to the constitution and resolutions shall have a sponsor and at least two (2) additional cosponsors. All sponsors and cosponsors must be members. Proposed amendments and resolutions shall be submitted via a digital form to the Resolutions Committee no later than **June 1st, 2020**. The national office shall make the digital form for submissions available through the national website.
21. Resolutions should consist primarily of statements of policy or outlines for organizational activity. This may include campaign initiatives, the formation of national bodies, direction for local activity or structure, or statements of support that may help guide the NCC in their direction of the affairs of the organization.
22. All constitutional amendments and resolutions shall be submitted electronically to the Resolutions Committee.
23. The Resolutions Committee shall submit a report to the national office containing all primary submissions in time for their inclusion in the **June 21st** Member's Bulletin.
24. Amendments to submissions shall be submitted digitally no later than **July 1st, 2020**. The Resolutions Committee shall work to reconcile any out of order or overlapping submissions as it sees fit under the same guidelines enumerated in Rule 7, Section A. Sponsors of the original submission may decide whether or not they consider an amendment to their submission to be friendly.
25. After **July 1st, 2020**, the national office shall distribute to all Convention delegates an online form listing all constitutional amendments and all resolutions, each resolution grouped together with its proposed amendments as a single item. The delegates will be allowed 48 hours to rank the items in terms of which should be allotted the most time for debate. The Convention Planning Team will allot greater time for debate and earlier scheduling to those with higher priority, unless a logical need to vote on some item before another demands different ordering. The Resolutions Committee shall submit a report to the National Office containing all primary and secondary submissions no later than July 22nd for their inclusion in the Final Member's Bulletin to be distributed at the Convention.

NCC Elections

26. In order to be considered an eligible candidate for the NCC, a candidate must:
- Be a member (as defined in Rule 1)
 - Receive no fewer than five (5) nominations from individual members.
 - Be 29 years of age or younger.
 - Review and agree to the YDSA Collective Accountability Agreement.
 - Accept their nomination.
27. All candidates for NCC are expected to comply with the rules outlined in the YDSA and DSA constitutions and bylaws and publicly disclose any past or current political affiliations upon acceptance of their nomination that may be reasonably considered pertinent to the conditions of their election.
28. Candidates who are eligible for nomination and receive the adequate number of nominations will be asked to accept their nomination in the form of a digital candidate questionnaire submitted to the national office. Eligible candidates for NCC will be asked to report how they self-identify for the purposes of parity. All information collected via this digital form will be made available to the membership. This questionnaire will also ask candidates to declare either for the office of “Co-Chair” or “At-Large”.
29. The deadline for submission of nominations for the NCC shall be the end of **Wednesday, July 1st, 2020.**
30. The names of all candidates, along with their answers to the candidate questionnaire, will be published and distributed in the final Convention Bulletin, along with their nominations. If their nominations exceed five (5), only the first five (5) nominations chronologically will be published.
31. The national office will be responsible for confirming eligible candidates and their inclusion in the Convention Bulletin.
32. Contested elections for office shall be conducted by online ballots.
33. **The election for the NCC Co-Chairs shall be conducted by ranked-choice voting and the election for the NCC At-Large Members shall be conducted by single transferable vote.** The Presidium shall count the ballots. All ballots from which the voter's preference can be clearly determined shall be counted, except that no "bullet" voting (voting for fewer candidates than the number of positions to fill) shall be allowed. The candidate(s) with the highest number of total votes, after the application of all parity requirements as stipulated by YDSA constitution have been applied, shall be declared elected. Ballots are not secret.
34. Co-Chair and At-Large candidate elections will be held separately. Candidates who run for election as Co-Chair who are not elected may be added to the pool of At-Large candidates if they so choose.

Regional Organizing Committee co-chair Elections

35. In order to be considered an eligible candidate for a Regional Organizing Committee (ROC) co-chair position a candidate must:
- Be a member (as defined in Rule 1)

- b. Be a member of a chapter within the region they are seeking election in.
 - c. Receive no fewer than two (2) nominations from individual members.
 - d. Be 29 years of age or younger.
 - e. Review and agree to the YDSA Collective Accountability Agreement.
 - f. Accept their nomination.
36. All ROC co-chair candidates are expected to comply with the rules outlined in the YDSA and DSA constitutions and bylaws and publicly disclose any past or current political affiliations upon acceptance of their nomination that may be reasonably considered pertinent to the conditions of their election.
37. Candidates who are eligible for nomination and receive the adequate number of nominations will be asked to accept their nomination in the form of a digital candidate questionnaire submitted to the national office. All information collected via this digital form will be made available to the membership.
38. The deadline for submission of nominations for the ROC co-chairs shall be the end of Wednesday, July 1st, 2020.
39. The names of all candidates, along with their answers to the candidate questionnaire, will be published and distributed in the final Convention Bulletin, along with their nominations. If their nominations exceed two (2), only the first two (2) nominations chronologically will be published.
40. The national office will be responsible for confirming eligible candidates and their inclusion in the Convention Bulletin.
41. Contested elections for office shall be conducted by paper ballots.
42. Each seated delegate shall only vote in the ROC co-chair election for the region that their chapter falls within. The regions are divided as follows:
- a. Northeast: Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Washington D.C.
 - b. Southeast: Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, Louisiana, Arkansas
 - c. Midwest: Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri
 - d. West: Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Colorado, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, California, Alaska, Hawaii
43. The election for ROC co-chairs shall be conducted by preferential ballot. The Presidium shall count the ballots. In counting the ballots each #1 choice shall be accorded a number of votes equal to the number of positions to be elected, each #2 choice shall be accorded a number of votes equal to one less than the number of positions to be elected. All ballots from which the voter's preference can be clearly determined shall be counted, except that no "bullet" voting (voting for fewer candidates than the number of positions to fill) shall be allowed. The candidate(s) with the highest number of total votes, after the application of all

parity requirements as stipulated by YDSA constitution have been applied, shall be declared elected. Ballots are not secret.