

CYD Bylaws



BYLAWS OF THE CALIFORNIA YOUNG DEMOCRATS

as last amended August 1, 2026

PREAMBLE

The California Young Democrats shall endeavor to stimulate in young people an active interest in governmental affairs, increase the efficiency of our government, maintain the viability of our free institutions, work to elect Democrats at the local, regional, state, and federal levels of government, and contribute to the growth of as well as influence the values and policies supported by the Democratic Party.

ARTICLE I: NAME AND AFFILIATION

Section 1: Name

The name of this organization shall be the California Young Democrats.

Section 2: Affiliation

The California Young Democrats (CYD) shall be affiliated with the Young Democrats of America (YDA). CYD shall be affiliated with the College Democrats of America (CDA) through its standing caucus, California College Democrats (CCD). CYD shall be affiliated with the High School Democrats of America (HSDA) through its standing caucus called the California High School Democrats (CAHSD).

ARTICLE II: ORGANIZATION

Section 1: Regions

CYD shall be subdivided into regions as outlined below:

1. The **North State Region** shall consist of Siskiyou, Modoc, Shasta, Lassen, Tehama, Plumas, Glenn, Butte, Sierra, Colusa, Sutter, Yuba, Sacramento, Yolo, Placer, El Dorado and Nevada Counties.
2. The **North Coast Region** shall consist of Del Norte, Trinity, Humboldt, Mendocino, Lake, Sonoma, Napa, and Marin Counties.
3. The **Bay Area Region** shall consist of Solano, Contra Costa, San Francisco, Alameda, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito Counties.
4. The **North Valley Region** shall consist of Amador, Alpine, San Joaquin, Calaveras, Stanislaus, Tuolumne, Mono, Merced and Mariposa Counties.
5. The **Central Coast region** shall consist of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties.
6. The **South Valley Region** shall consist of Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare, Inyo, and Kern Counties.
7. The **Los Angeles Region** shall consist of Los Angeles County.
8. The **Orange County Region** shall consist of Orange County.
9. The **San Bernardino County Region** shall consist of San Bernardino County.
10. The **Riverside Region** shall consist of Riverside County.

11. The **South State Region** shall consist of San Diego and Imperial Counties.

Section 2: Sections

Regions may be divided into two sections (Northern and Southern), as required by these bylaws.

1. The South State, Los Angeles, Orange County, South Valley, San Bernardino County, Riverside, and Central Coast Regions shall comprise the Southern Section.
2. The North Valley, Bay Area, North Coast, and North State Regions shall comprise the Northern Section.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: State Membership

1. CYD membership shall be comprised of duly chartered Chapters of CYD and the members thereof. Chapter members do not have voting rights at the State Convention or State Leadership Committee except when credentialed as a delegate or member of the State Leadership Committee under another provision of these bylaws.
2. At-Large membership in CYDs shall be granted to individuals on a limited basis. At-Large members receive all privileges, except voting, and may not run for CYD office. At-Large membership is open to persons who meet requirements as outlined in Article III, Section 2, part 1.
3. Alumni membership in CYD shall be granted to individuals who exceed the age of thirty five (35) years of age or members who have been members in the past but no longer participate as a member of a chartered chapter and seek alumni status. Alumni members will be admitted upon submitted dues set by the CYD Executive Board and shall receive all privileges, except voting, and may not run for CYD office. Alumni members may participate in CYD caucuses should the caucus bylaws allow for such participation.

Section 2: Chapter Membership

1. Regular membership in chartered chapters shall be open to persons who are at least thirteen (13) years of age and not more than thirty-five (35) years of age who are registered Democrats or who intend to register when eligible.
2. Every regular member of a duly chartered chapter shall be eligible for any office in this organization, but no chapter shall have more than two members serving as State Officers or Regional Directors during any one term.

3. Persons below the minimum age of thirteen (13) or over the age of thirty-five (35) may be admitted as non-voting members of any chapter. No non-voting member may be used for the purpose of representation at any meeting of this organization.
4. No member may be claimed by more than one chapter for the purpose of chartering. The most recent date of chapter membership shall be binding unless the member in question expressly changes their membership for chartering purposes. Individuals are considered to reside in the same region as the chapter of which they are a member.
5. Regular membership in chartered chapters shall be open to persons who meet the requirements for membership established in Article II. California College Democrats (CCD) chapters and California High School Democrats (CAHSD) chapters shall waive the age restrictions for persons who would otherwise be eligible to be a member thereof. However, any such chapter member shall not be considered a member of this organization nor count towards requirements or privileges of chapters (e.g. minimum members for chartering and determining Convention delegate votes).

ARTICLE IV: CHARTERING AND MEMBERSHIP PROVISIONS

Section 1: Procedure

1. Any chapter meeting the requirements of these Bylaws and with at least ten (10) members may charter with CYD.
2. A chapter seeking to be chartered with CYD shall file an application with the Rules Committee Chair during the Open Chartering Period which begins November 1st and closes on December 31st.
 - a. CYD must notice the closing date of the Open Chartering Period to all Officers, chartered chapters and on the CYD website twenty-one (21) days in advance of the open charter period.
 - b. Any applicant who submits their Charter Application prior to November 30th during the Open Chartering Period may submit a single revision prior to the closing deadline.
 - c. The Charter Application must contain all the materials and information detailed in Article IV, Section 1(4)
3. In order to vote at the State Convention, all chapters must submit their charter application by the conclusion of the Open Chartering Period, pending approval by the Rules Committee.
4. Charter Application Contents:
 - a. A Chapter membership roster listing of all members including their full name, date of birth, address where they are registered to vote, phone number, email address, and, for College and High School chapters, their predicted year of graduation.

- b. A list of the chapter's officers that includes their full name, title, phone number, and email address.
- c. A copy of the chapter's current bylaws.

Section 2: Duration

Every chapter's charter shall expire annually following the approval of charter applications for the new year by the Rules Committee at the first State Convention or the State Leadership Committee meeting of the calendar year, whichever is earliest. Any charter application received during the Open Chartering Period shall be deemed an applicant for the new year. Upon receipt of the Credentials Report from the Committee on Credentials & Membership, the Rules Committee shall approve charter applications before the election of statewide Officers at a regularly scheduled State Convention.

Section 3: Code of Conduct Compliance and Implementation for Chapters

All Chapters and statewide members must adopt and incorporate by reference the California Young Democrats Code of Conduct, attached as Appendix A in the Bylaws. All members, officers, directors, delegates, and volunteers acting on behalf of a CYD Chapter shall comply with the Code of Conduct as a condition of participation. Violations of the Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action, including censure, suspension, removal from office, or termination of membership, in accordance with these Bylaws and Code of Conduct.

Section 4: Suspension or Revocation

Chapter charters may be suspended or revoked by action of any duly called meeting of the Rules Committee at a State Convention or State Leadership Committee for violations of these Bylaws.

Additionally, Chapter charters may be suspended or revoked by three-fourths (3/4) by the CYD Executive Board if a State Convention or State Leadership Committee is

more than 60 days away. The CYD Executive Committee will forward the suspension/revocation to the Rules Committee at the next State Convention or State Leadership Committee or CYD Retreat. Said chapter and all Committee members will be notified of alleged violations and such action at least fifteen (15) days prior to said meeting.

Section 5: Name of Chapters

Chapters may assume any name, including the name of its college, region, city, county or political subdivision, provided that the name is not already being used by a chartered chapter.

Section 5: Mid-year chartering of new Chapters

1. Any new chapter that is not currently chartered with CYD, may apply to have their new charter approved mid-year, with the approval of their charter up for a vote at a duly noticed State Leadership Committee meeting.
2. Chartering packet requirements are the same as in Article IV, Section 1, Subsection 4.
3. Complete chartering packet and payment must be received fifteen (15) days prior to a duly noticed State Leadership Committee meeting.
4. The mid-year chartering process shall have no effect on the annual chartering process. Chapters who newly charter at a duly noticed State Leadership Committee meeting must still follow the official procedure for rechartering in order to be eligible to participate in the CYD Statewide Convention.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS

Section 1: Officers

The Officers of CYD shall be: State President, State Vice President of Membership, State Vice President of Finance, Vice President for Operations, State Secretary, State Parliamentarian, National Committeewoman, National Committeeman, State Political Director, Communications Director and eleven Regional Directors. Together, these officers, Regional Directors, CCD President, and CAHSD President shall constitute the State Executive Board.

Section 2: Duties

1. The State President

- a. Shall be the chief executive Officer and official voice of CYD and shall represent at all California Democratic Party (CDP) and Democratic National Committee (DNC) functions.
- b. Shall chair all meetings of the Executive Board and State Leadership Committee.
- c. Shall appoint chairs of all standing committees and the chairs and membership of all special committees, unless otherwise provided for in these Bylaws, with the exception of CCD and CHSD.
- d. Shall appoint the members of any standing committee in case of vacancy in the office of an officer with appointing authority or in case an officer with appointing authority fails to submit their appointments within two months of the State Convention.
- e. Shall appoint voting members of the Democratic State Central Committee (DSCC) as defined under Article II of the CDP Bylaws and Rules.
- f. May appoint a qualified professional to manage organizational accounting, bookkeeping, and reporting with consent and approval of the Executive Board.

- g. All appointments of the President are subject to the approval of the Executive Board.
- h. The President shall establish an organizational calendar and shall make all efforts to maintain and strengthen communications between the various member chapters.
- i. Shall be an ex officio member of all standing and special committees

2. The State Vice President of Membership

- a. Shall be an ex officio member of all standing and special committees,
- b. Shall coordinate and work to increase At-Large membership in parts of the state where no established chapters exist,
- c. Shall coordinate the annual chartering process with the appointed chair of the credentials committee during all chartering periods
- d. Shall be the officer responsible for coordinating all caucus membership and partnership efforts in partnership with the caucus director and caucus chairs
- e. In the absence of the President, the Vice President of Membership shall preside at properly noticed meetings.
- f. Should a vacancy occur in the presidency of this organization, the Vice President of Membership shall assume the duties of President and shall assume the office of President for the remainder of the term.

3. The State Vice President of Finance

- a. Shall serve as the Treasurer of record, be responsible for coordinating all CYD fundraising activities,
- b. Shall submit financial statements to the State Leadership Committee at each regularly scheduled and properly noticed meeting,
- c. Shall, if desired, and approved by the Executive Board, convene a Finance Committee to assist with officer responsibilities.
- d. Shall retain final responsibility for seeing that all disbursements, receipts, banking relationships, FPFC statements and in general, any

and all bookkeeping responsibilities of CYD are fully and properly performed.

- e. Bookkeeping, accounting, and reporting duties may be performed by an appropriately qualified professional, provided one has been appointed by the State President.
- f. Shall prepare an annual CYD budget for approval of the State Leadership Committee at least thirty (30) days prior to the fall Executive Committee meeting.

4. The State Vice President of Operations

- a. Shall be an ex officio member of all standing and special committees
- b. Shall be the officer responsible for coordinating convention and state leadership committee meetings in partnership with the State President and CDP staff
- c. Shall be the officer responsible for coordinating CYD committee meetings in partnership with committee chairs
- d. Shall be the officer responsible for coordinating major events in partnership with CYD officers and all appointed staff
- e. Shall act in the capacity of Chief of Staff

5. The State Secretary

- a. Shall author minutes of all CYD meetings, maintain all CYD records, serve all required notices, and discharge any other duties at the discretion of the President.

6. The National Committeepersons

- a. Shall, together with the State President, represent CYD at all meetings of the National Committee of YDA.
 - i. In the event that the National Committeepersons and/or the State President unable to attend any National Committee

meeting, that Officer shall give their proxy to any member of CYDs or any YDA National Committeeperson.

- b. The National Committeepersons shall prepare the materials necessary to maintain CYD's current membership in YDA.

7. The State Parliamentarian

- a. Shall assist the State President and render opinions and rulings requested by the Chair, or when appealed to from the membership regarding CYD's bylaws, its interaction with the State or National Party or with YDA.
- b. Shall chair the Rules Committee.
- c. To facilitate accurate rulings, the State Parliamentarian shall collect and maintain records of CYD parliamentary inquiries, and issues. Copies of these parliamentary records shall be provided to the State Secretary and to any Officer, chapter or members as requested.

8. The Political Director

- a. Shall maintain contact with elected officials and statewide campaigns and notify the membership of political events.
- b. Shall also submit recommendations to the Executive Board regarding endorsements and the process by which CYD may endorse Democratic candidates, state-wide ballot measures, constitutional amendments, referenda, initiatives, recalls of persons otherwise eligible for CYD endorsements, or other matters of statewide concern.
- c. Shall make a good faith effort to notify all registered Democratic candidates of pending endorsements at least seven (7) days before a scheduled endorsement consideration by the State Leadership Committee or Convention.
- d. Shall endeavor to keep the membership informed on relevant political activities in the state.

- e. Shall be the Chair of the Political Affairs committee and appoint its subcommittees.

9. The Communications Director

- a. Shall be responsible for the generation, distribution and follow up of all CYD Press Releases as well as statements made on CYD social media. Additionally the Communications Director will be the Secondary Media Contact on behalf of CYD and is empowered to speak on behalf of CYD if the President is unavailable.
- b. Shall be responsible for internal communications from the executive board to member chapters. Communications director is responsible for follow up communications to member chapters to ensure notices have been received.
- c. Shall chair the Communications Committee.

10. Regional Director

- a. Shall be the chief organizing Officer of their respective region of the state. The Regional Director shall proactively recruit members, regularly inform their region of political activities, and aid in the development and retention of chapters. The Regional Director shall call and preside over the Regional Leadership Committee.
- b. Regional Directors shall assist the State President with the State President's duties in their respective regions.
- c. The Regional Director shall call and preside over the Regional Leadership Committee in accordance with Article IX Section 7.
- d. Shall make a good faith effort to notify all Registered Democratic Candidates of pending endorsements at least seven (7) days before a scheduled endorsement consideration by their Regional Leadership Committee.

Section 3: Election of Officers

1. All Officers shall be elected at the regularly scheduled CYD State Convention.
2. The State President, State Vice President of Membership, State Vice President of Finance, State Vice President of Operations, State Secretary, National Committeepersons, State Parliamentarian, State Political Director, and Communications Director shall be elected by the entire membership of this organization at the State Convention in the order listed in Section 2 of this Article.
3. The State Vice President of Membership must reside in a different region than the State President.
4. Two (2) National Committeepersons shall serve, each of whom shall be of a different self-identified gender.
5. All Regional Directors shall be elected by the membership of their respective regions.
6. An unsuccessful candidate for an Officer position for which no candidate has declared may be nominated from the floor and elected for any remaining Officer position provided they meet all requirements as stipulated by these Bylaws.
7. All candidates for state office, including Regional Directors, shall file their "intent to run" with the State Secretary at least thirty (30) days prior to a regularly scheduled election. In the event of a special election "intent to run" shall be filed at least seven (7) days prior to the election.

Section 4: Term of Office

Officers elected at the State Convention shall take office immediately after the adjournment of the State Convention.

Section 5: Vacancy

1. Vacancy in any of the nine statewide offices, except the Presidency, shall be filled by a majority vote at a meeting of the State Leadership Committee, which shall be summoned upon at least twenty-one (21) days notice.
2. For the offices of State President and State Vice President of Membership the vacancy may not be filled by a person who would violate the requirement that the State President, and the State Vice President of Membership must reside in different Regions, pursuant to Section 3(3) of this article.
3. The person filling the vacancy of one of the National Committee person positions must be of a different self-identified gender than that of the other National Committee person.
4. For a vacancy in the office of any of the ten Regional Directors the office shall be filled by a vote of the Regional Leadership Committee. The CYD President or their designee shall call a meeting either in person or by teleconference with at least fourteen (14) days notice.

Section 6: Removal of Officers and Members for Cause

1. Removal for Just Cause
 - a. Any Executive Officer, Regional Director, or CYD Member may be subject to disciplinary action, including suspension or removal from CYD office or membership, for cause by the CYD Executive Board by a two-thirds (2/3) vote. Cause includes, but is not limited to:
 - i. A material violation of the organization's Code of Conduct;
 - ii. Conduct that materially harms the reputation, mission, or operations of the organization;
 - iii. Abuse, harassment, discrimination, retaliation, or other misconduct prohibited by the organization's policies;
 - iv. Misuse of organizational funds, property, or authority;

- v. Conviction of a felony or other crime involving fraud, violence, sexual misconduct, abuse, corruption, or moral turpitude during your term as a CYD Officer and/or member; or
 - vi. Being formally charged with a serious criminal offense when the Executive Board determines that the individual's continued service poses a substantial risk to the safety, integrity, reputation, or effective functioning of the organization.
- b. Interim Suspension
 - i. When serious allegations or criminal charges arise that may affect the organization's safety, integrity, or public trust, the CYD Executive Board may, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, place the individual on interim suspension pending the outcome of an investigation or disciplinary hearing.
 - ii. An interim suspension shall temporarily remove the individual's authority to represent the organization, vote in their official capacity, or exercise the powers of their office until final action is taken.
- c. Voting Requirements
 - i. Following consideration of the evidence, an Executive Officer or Director may be removed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Board or the governing body authorized by these Bylaws.
 - ii. A member may be suspended or expelled by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Board, subject to any additional rights provided elsewhere in these Bylaws.
 - iii. Removal from office shall immediately vacate the position. Removal from office does not automatically terminate membership unless specifically included in the disciplinary action. A vacancy created through removal shall be filled in accordance with the vacancy provisions of these Bylaws.

2. The State Leadership Committee may, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, remove any Officer contingent upon the following procedures:

- d. Written charges against the Officer shall be provided to every member of the State Leadership Committee at least thirty-five (35) days in advance of the meeting at which the removal shall be moved.
 - e. The Officer shall be given the opportunity to answer the charges and to know the identity of the individual(s) bringing forward the charges.
 - i. Notification by email to all known addresses shall be deemed as sufficient notice and shall constitute an invitation to answer the charges of
 - f. Upon passage by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the State Leadership Committee, a motion for removal shall take effect immediately, at which time a vacancy shall be declared pursuant to Section 5 of this Article. If within twenty-four (24) hours of receiving notice of the charges, the Officer submits a resignation, the motion to remove shall be expunged from all records and the resignation shall be recorded as such.
2. The excessive absence of a Statewide Officer at properly noticed events of the State Leadership Committee or meetings of the Executive Board shall be deemed an effective resignation, creating a vacancy in the office.
- a. At the close of the third event or meeting in a single quarter in which an Officer has not submitted a written excuse for absence or failed to submit an Officer's report, their office shall be declared vacant due to dereliction of duty upon the vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Executive Board.
3. When personal, academic or professional obligations prevent an Officer's attendance, the Officer may submit a written note and an Officer's report prior to the meeting directed to the State President, and State Secretary as a sufficient excuse for absence.

ARTICLE VI: STATE CONVENTION

Section 1: Time and Location

1. This organization shall convene in a State Convention concurrent with regularly scheduled CDP State Conventions.
 - a. The location of the Convention shall follow the rotation of the CDP State Convention.
 - b. A notice as to the date, place, and tentative agenda along with a current CYD roster of all chartered chapters and a current copy of these Bylaws shall be sent to each chartered chapter and to each member of the State Leadership Committee at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the State Convention.
 - i. The information required in Section 1(b) above may be provided via email so long as the State Secretary has verified that all chapters and chapter presidents may be reached by electronic means.

Section 2: Voting

1. All chartered chapters shall receive two (2) delegate votes for every twenty-five (25) members
2. Chapters with less than twenty-five (25) members but more than ten (10) shall receive two (2) delegate votes
3. Caucuses shall receive two (2) delegate votes.
4. The Credentials Committee shall approve each chapters' membership and assign the proper number of delegate votes to each as detailed in Article VII, Section 1, Subsection 4.
5. Each delegate from each chapter of the Section in which the State Convention is being held has only one (1) vote and may not cast more than

their allotted vote.

6. Each delegate from each chapter of the Section in which the State Convention is not being held shall have one (1) vote and may carry one (1) proxy vote.
 - a. No member may cast more than two (2) votes.
7. All Statewide Officers, Regional Directors, the President of the CCD, the President of the CAHSD, elected Young Democrat members of the DNC (if residing in California and a member of a chartered CYD chapter), Young Democrat CDP officers (if a member of a chartered CYD chapter), the YDA Pacific Region Director (if residing in California and a member of a chartered CYD chapter), and any CYD, YDA, CDA, or HSDA Caucus Chairs who are members of a chartered CYD chapter and reside in California shall be voting delegates. Any voting delegates residing in the State of California who are members of a chartered CYD chapter may not allow others to carry their proxy vote and may not carry a proxy vote for any other Officer or delegate. Officers who are in a position to carry more than one vote must inform the State Secretary of whether they are carrying their vote or another's vote. They may not do both.
8. If an Officer listed in Section 2(5), above, forgoes the vote granted to them by virtue of their elected position, they remain subject to the proxy limits specified in Section 2(3) or Section 2(4), above.

Section 3: Procedure and Action

1. These Bylaws may be amended, resolutions may be adopted, and all action appropriate and consistent with these Bylaws may be taken at the State Convention or a meeting of the State Leadership Committee.
2. All meetings shall be run according to these Bylaws and Robert's Rules of Order (Newly Revised).

3. Any report or resolution to be presented to the full convention must be copied in sufficient numbers as to allow each delegate adequate access to the matter under consideration.

Section 4: Special Conventions

1. Special State Conventions shall be called by the State President upon written request of a majority of the entire State Leadership Committee or three-quarters ($\frac{3}{4}$) of the State Executive Board.
2. A Special Convention shall consider only those items stated in the request for such a convention.
3. Notice shall be sent to all chartered chapters and State Leadership Committee members stating the time, location, and proposed agenda at least sixty (60) days in advance of the Special Convention.

ARTICLE VII: STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1: Credentials Committee

It shall be the duty of the Credentials Committee to approve the true number of members of chartered chapters for the purpose of allocating votes at any statewide meeting requiring such representation.

1. There shall be a Standing Committee on Credentials consisting of one member appointed by each chartered chapter.
 - a. Quorum of the Credentials Committee shall be ten (10) voting members.
2. The President shall appoint the Chair of the Credentials Committee. The appointment must be confirmed by a majority vote of the Executive Board.
 - a. The Chair must be a member in good standing of CYD.
 - b. At no time during their service may the Chair run for election to any Office enumerated in these Bylaws.
 - c. The Chair may be removed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote the State Executive Board at a duly noticed meeting.
3. The Credentials Committee shall be formed by January 31st of each year.
4. Rules for Annual Credential Verification for the purpose of Voting at the State Convention:
 - a. One week following the conclusion of the Open Chartering Period, the Credentials Committee will distribute an unverified Preliminary Credentials Report to the President of all pending chapters, declared candidates for State Leadership Committee positions, and all State Leadership Committee Members. The report must include:
 - i. The name and location of each pending chapter
 - ii. The total number of unverified members each chapter submitted

- iii. A column for each piece of information required in the chapter membership roster indicating missing information for each chapter by item
- b. Pending Chapters are allowed seven days following the distribution of the Preliminary Credentials Report to submit a single revision to their chapter member roster.
 - i. The revision is intended to correct small errors, or missed details. No new names may be added. Revisions submitted with more members listed than the original chapter membership roster will be rejected.
- c. Members that do not meet the requirements of CYD Membership shall be removed from the roster and not counted toward the chapters' total membership. Following verification, the Credentials Chair shall submit for approval, a report detailing the true membership of each chapter, and the final number of votes each chapter may assign at a meeting of the Credentials Committee prior to the State Officer Elections at the State Convention.
- d. Credentials may only be designated to chapters whose charter is approved by the Rules Committee.

Section 2: Rules Committee

1. There shall be a Standing Committee on Rules consisting of one member appointed by each chartered chapter.
 - a. Quorum of the Rules Committee shall be ten (10) voting members.
2. The State Parliamentarian shall chair the Committee.
3. The Rules Committee:
 - a. Shall interpret these bylaws when called upon by the State President, the State Leadership Committee, or any CYD member in good standing; and
 - b. May review the Bylaws of chartered chapters or caucuses as required by these Bylaws or upon the request of any member.

- c. Shall arbitrate grievances submitted to the Rules committee relevant to the Bylaws of the California Young Democrats or the Bylaws of any chartered caucus and upon a majority vote may issue a binding ruling.
 - d. Grievance rulings made by the Rules Committee may be appealed in writing to the Executive Board and should such an appeal be filed the CYD President may, at their discretion, suspend the ruling until the Executive Board has been able to issue a final decision
 - e. May form ad hoc committees at the discretion of the CYD President to ensure that rulings are impartial and that grievances are properly vetted, researched and processed.
4. The Rules Committee shall maintain, review and recommend amendments to these under the following provisions:
- a. At the discretion of the Parliamentarian and President, a Governance Subcommittee shall be formed to propose changes to these bylaws.
 - i. The Governance Subcommittee shall be chaired by the Parliamentarian and include ex officio:
 - 1. The President
 - 2. The Immediate Past President
 - ii. The Parliamentarian shall appoint a minimum of three Rules Committee members not currently serving in any officer position, from a minimum of three different regions as defined in Article II, Section 1.
 - iii. There shall be no maximum number of Governance Subcommittee members.
 - iv. Quorum of the Governance Subcommittee shall be four (4) members, or if the total membership of the Subcommittee is nine (9) members or higher, quorum shall be 50% of voting members.
 - v. No later than ten (10) days prior to a Rules Committee meeting held at a State Convention or a State Leadership Committee, the Subcommittee shall:
 - 1. Review and recommend any bylaw amendments, in writing, for consideration by the Rules Committee.

2. Review any proposed bylaw amendments submitted by any CYD member in good standing and provide these amendments in writing and any additional recommendations, as needed, to the Rules Committee.
 - b. Shall receive proposed bylaw amendments from the Governance Subcommittee, revise as necessary, and provide a set of recommended amendments to the State Leadership Committee.
 - c. Shall provide any recommended bylaw amendments to the State Leadership Committee in writing at least four (4) hours before the State Leadership Committee convenes.
5. The Rules Committee shall review all chapter chartering applications and, if the applications meet the chartering criteria as defined in these bylaws, provide them to the Credentials Committee and recommend their acceptance.

Section 3: Policy and Legislation Committee

1. There shall be a Standing Committee on Policy and Legislation consisting of a minimum of ten (10) CYD members, with no more than two (2) members being from the same chapter. In the event the Regional Director position is vacant, the President of the CYD shall make the appointments with the consent of a simple majority (fifty percent (50%) plus one (1) of the State Executive Board.
2. Quorum shall be a minimum of ten (10) CYD members.
3. The State President shall appoint the chair.
4. The Policy Committee and Legislation shall review all proposed resolutions.
 - a. The Committee may recommend, reject, or amend a resolution prior to referring it to the membership or State Leadership Committee.

5. The Policy Committee shall take all appropriate action in support of legislation that is either endorsed by CYD resolution or is in keeping with the organization's platform.
6. Proposed resolutions and the most recent bill analysis of the legislative body wherein legislation being considered by this committee is pending shall be distributed to all members eligible to vote.

Section 4: Platform Committee

1. A Platform Committee shall convene in odd-numbered years for the purposes of drafting a platform.
2. The Committee shall consist of one Committee Chair as well as two members from each region as defined in Article II.
3. The Committee Chair shall be nominated by the President immediately following the State Convention in an odd-numbered year. Each Regional Director shall nominate as members two persons from within the region each Director represents who are members in good standing of a chartered chapter of CYD, have separate gender identities and who do not hold primary membership in the same chartered chapter. Nominations shall be submitted to the President in writing thirty (30) days after the first State Leadership Committee meeting following the State Convention.
4. The nominations of the Committee Chair shall be confirmed by vote of the State Leadership Committee at the first State Leadership Committee meeting following the State Convention and Committee members shall be confirmed by the President 36 days after the first State Leadership Committee meeting.
5. Should any Regional Director fail to nominate two qualified candidates by the 30 day deadline the President shall appoint as many members are necessary so as to satisfy the requirements in Subsection 2.

6. Authority to ratify the Platform lies with the delegates to the Fall State Leadership Committee Meeting.
7. Copies of the platform shall be distributed to all voting members of the State Leadership Committee. In the event that a Platform is not adopted, the most recently approved Platform shall remain in effect.
8. If a platform is not adopted the CYD President may schedule consideration of the Platform at a subsequent State Leadership Committee meeting with at least twenty one (21) days notice.
9. The Platform Committee members shall attend their respective regional meetings for the purposes of receiving and considering written and oral testimony prior to the Fall State Leadership Committee meeting in odd years.
10. The platform of the CYD shall reflect the core values of the CYD, shall treat of issues from the perspective of young voters and shall be separate and distinct from the platforms of the CDP and the YDA.

Section 5: Awards Committee

1. There shall be a Standing Committee on awards for the purpose of acknowledging dedication and achievement by young activists and chartered chapters. The committee shall convene prior to the first meeting of the year.
2. The State President shall appoint the Awards Committee Chair, who shall develop and administer the nomination and awards procedures, and who may not vote on Awards except in case of a tie.
 - a. At no time during their service may the Chair run for election to any Office enumerated in these Bylaws.
3. The Awards Committee shall consist of the State President, the CCD President and the eleven Regional Directors.

4. Annual awards shall be:
 - a. 2 CYD/CCD Members of the Year to two members of distinct gender identities (elected Officers ineligible),
 - b. Outstanding Young Democrats Chapter of the Year,
 - c. Outstanding College Democrats Chapter of the Year,
 - d. High School Chapter of the Year,
 - e. CYD/CCD Outstanding Project,
 - f. Outstanding Leadership Award (reserved for an elected Officer),
 - g. The Mentor Award for a recipient over 35 years of age, and
 - h. The Vanguard Award will be given to a young democrat or party leader who has stood at the forefront of a political movement or has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to the California Young Democrats organization.
5. Only chartered chapters and members in good standing are eligible to receive awards, with the exception of the Mentor Award.
6. All awards shall be presented annually at either the State Convention or the first State Leadership Committee meeting of the year. With the exception of the Mentor Award which may be presented at any time deemed appropriate by the Executive Board.

Section 6: Communications Committee

The Communications Committee will include the State President, President of the CCD, State Political Director, CCD Political Director, and Communications Director as well as any additional members deemed necessary by the Communications Director subject to the approval of the executive board.

1. The Communications Committee will include:
 - a. External communications subcommittee, which will be responsible for media contact on behalf of CYD;

- b. Internal communications subcommittee, which will be responsible for communicating executive board decisions, state meetings and statewide coordinated actions to member chapters;
- c. Technology subcommittee, which will be responsible for developing and implementing a comprehensive technology plan.

Section 7: Political Affairs Committee

There shall be a Standing Committee on Political Affairs consisting of the State President, State Political Director, the State Parliamentarian, President of the CCD, CCD Political Director, President of the CAHSD, and one (1) member from each region appointed by the Regional Director of the respective region. In the event the Regional Director position is vacant, the President of the CYD shall make the appointments with the consent of the State Executive Board. With the consent of the CYD State Executive Board, the Political Affairs and Policy and Legislation Committees may convene a joint meeting with official notice.

1. Quorum shall be fifty percent (50%) plus one (1) of the committee's membership.
2. The State Political Director shall chair the Political Affairs Committee.
3. The Political Affairs Committee shall take all appropriate action in support of candidates who are endorsed by CYD.
4. The Political Affairs Committee shall make recommendations to the State Leadership Committee or the State Convention regarding endorsements of statewide ballot measures and recall elections for candidates eligible for the CYD endorsement.
5. The Political Affairs Committee may make recommendations to the State Leadership Committee or the State Convention regarding any endorsements not previously acted upon by a Regional Leadership Committee.

6. The Chair of the Committee shall create any subcommittees deemed necessary for the conduct of committee business:
 - a. All subcommittee members shall be appointed by the State Political Director.
 - b. Any registered Democrats of chartered chapters of CYD shall be eligible to serve on a subcommittee.

Section 8: The Judicial Committee

There shall be a standing Judicial Committee consisting of a chair appointed by the State President and one representative from each region appointed by the Regional Directors. The Judicial Committee shall make recommendations to the Executive Board relevant to all disciplinary matters within the California Young Democrats. Members of the California Young Democrats are expected to abide by the CYD Code of Conduct. Members who violate the Code of Conduct are subject to the jurisdiction of the Judicial Committee.

The Judicial Committee shall observe the following Procedure:

1. Complaints shall be submitted to the State President and the Chair of the Judicial Committee.
 - a. Should the State President be the complainant, the accused, or a witness identified in a complaint, then that complaint need only be submitted to the other officer.
 - b. Should the Judicial Committee Chair be the complainant, the accused, or a witness identified in a complaint, then the State President shall preside as the Judicial Committee Chair for all purposes relevant to the complaint.
 - c. Should both the President and the Judicial Committee Chair be either the complainant, the accused, or witnesses identified in the same complaint, then that complaint should be submitted to the next disinterest officer in the line-of-succession and that officer shall preside as the Acting Judicial Committee Chair for all purposes

relevant to the complaint.

2. The Judicial Committee Chair shall forward the complaint to the accused and to those members of the Committee who are not witnesses identified in that complaint.
 - a. Any members of the Committee who are interested parties, be they identified in the complaint or discovered during the investigative process, are, from the point their interest is known, recused from further participation in the committee for all purposes relevant to that complaint, except for their functions as interested parties.
 - b. The relevant Regional Director or the Chair, if that Regional Director is an interested party, may appoint disinterested parties to vacancies caused by recusals. If it is the Chair that makes the appointment, the appointee must be from the same region as the committee member whose recusal warranted the appointment.
3. The Chair shall appoint a panel of three committee members who shall convene within thirty(30) days of the submission of the complaint. The complainant, the accused, and any witnesses shall be invited to address the panel separately.
 - a. At all times and in all successive stages, the complainant and the accused shall have the right to have an emotional support person of their choosing present, so long as that person is not themselves a witness.
 - b. An accused person has the right to refuse to completely participate, and that may not be held against them. However, if they participate only partially, their lack of full participation may be held against them.
 - c. Neither the complainant nor the accused has the right to question each other, nor may they put questions for the panel to ask.
 - d. The panel may allow the complainant and the accused to be present when the panel questions witnesses, but it may not allow one and refuse the other and, at the panel's discretion, it may allow both parties to ask relevant questions to witnesses.

- e. At any point, if the panel determines that the Chair of the Judicial Committee is an interested party, the panel shall timely inform the State President, and the State President shall preside as Chair for all purposes relevant to the complaint.
 - f. At any point, if the panel determines that both the Chair and the State President are interested parties, the panel shall timely inform the next disinterested Officer in the line-of-succession, and that Officer shall preside as the Acting Judicial Committee Chair for all purposes relevant to that complaint.
 - g. At any point, if the panel determines that any member of it is an interested party, it shall suspend itself, and the panelists will immediately inform the Chair, who shall appoint a replacement for each interested panelist within 24 hours.
 - h. The panel may meet subsequently as needed to deliberate or investigate the complaint.
- 4. The panel will report limited information on the case and findings to the Judicial Committee. In the report, only the limited information on the case findings and section of the Bylaws was violated will be sent to the Executive Board report due to privacy concerns, public viewing, and avoiding legal disputes between the parties involved.
- 5. The Executive Board may, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, temporarily suspend a member's rights and privileges while a judicial complaint or disciplinary matter is pending if it determines the member's continued participation poses a clear and present threat to the safety of others or the organization. Such suspension shall remain in effect only until the matter is resolved or the Executive Board takes final disciplinary action in accordance with these Bylaws.
- 6. The Judicial Committee shall have the authority to make the following recommendations to the Executive Board:
 - a. Expulsion of a member from the California Young Democrats

- b. Suspension of a member for a specified time not to exceed their 35th birthday
 - c. Censure
 - d. Other non-judicial mediation, training, or settlement
 - e. Dismissal of the Complaint
- 7. All proceedings of the Judicial Committee shall be held in executive session.
- 8. All decisions of the Judicial Committee shall have the recommendation of a ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of the committee. The failure of the Judicial Committee to hold or reach a 2/3 vote within 30 days of receipt of the panel's report shall be deemed a recommendation for dismissal of the complaint.
- 9. Recommendations by the Judicial Committee shall, within 24 hours, be submitted to the Executive Board for Ratification. The Executive Board shall invite the complainant, the accused, and all relevant witnesses to a meeting to make a final determination on the complaint.
- 10. The Judicial Committee report shall include the following:
 - a. Bylaws sections that were violated
 - b. Summary of case with no identifiers of plaintiff and witnesses
 - c. Judicial Committee Recommendation of the case
- 11. The Executive Board shall review and deliberate all complaints relevant to this section in executive session.
 - a. Should a member of the Executive Board be an interested party, then they shall be recused.
 - b. If the Executive Board is unable to constitute a quorum due to the number of recused Executive Board members, then witnesses shall no longer be recused.
- 12. The Executive Board may amend, ratify, and execute any recommendation by a ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority. The failure of the Executive Board to hold or reach a 2/3 majority vote within 30 days of receipt of the Judicial Committee's report shall

be deemed a dismissal of the complaint.

13. The Complainant and the accused shall be notified of the determination of the Executive Board no later than three weeks prior to the next State Convention or State Leadership Committee meeting. Should the complainant or accused wish to appeal the decision of the Executive Board, they shall notify the State President no less than two weeks prior to a State Convention or State Leadership Committee meeting.
14. The appeal shall be heard by the Rules Committee in executive session, unless both the complainant and the accused stipulate otherwise in writing to the Chair. The Rules Committee Chair shall invite the Judicial Committee Chair, the complainant, the accused, and any witnesses to the Rules Committee meeting where the complaint is heard.
 - a. Should a member of the Rules Committee be an interested party, then they shall be recused from these proceedings. A substitute may be appointed by the recused committee member's chartered chapter.
 - b. Should the chair be an interested party, then they shall be recused, and the State President shall appoint a disinterested Acting Chair. Should the State President also be an interested party then the next disinterested person in the line-of-succession shall make the appointment.
15. The Rules Committee shall make a determination with a 2/3rd majority.
16. The determination of the Rules Committee is final.
17. For purposes of this section, an interested person is defined as someone who is the complainant, the accused, a witness to the complaint at issue, or an emotional support person.
18. Any conduct which threatens the physical safety of any attendee of a California Young Democrats event or otherwise violates the rules of the event shall lead to the timely convening of the Executive Board within 24

hours. The Executive Board may vote to expel an attendee from the event by a 2/3rd majority.

ARTICLE VIII: CAUCUSES

Section 1: Special Caucuses

CYD may recognize Special Caucuses among members of similar interests at its discretion for the purposes of participating in the policy decisions and the outreach programs of CYD. Recognition shall be subject to the Special Caucus submitting biennial chartering requirements listed and complying with the following provisions:

1. A Caucus membership list and bylaws are submitted to the Rules Committee for approval by the State Leadership Committee.
2. A Caucus officer list.
3. The Caucus bylaws are consistent with the Bylaws of this organization.
4. Special Caucus annual financial reports, if any, shall be filed with the State Vice President of Finance of this organization at the time of chartering.
5. Letters of support submitted by no less than ten (10) chartered chapters or Executive Board Members, unless the Special Caucus has successfully completed at least two (2) consecutive chartering requirements and is currently considered in good standing by the organization. Letters shall properly identify the Chapter President or of an Executive Board Member as submitted to CYD in that year's chartering packet. At least seven (7) of ten support letters must be signed by a Chapter President. Three (3) of ten support letters may be signed by an Executive Board Member of a Chapter.
 - a. Letters of support shall be received by the Rules Committee Chair no later than ten (10) days prior to Rules Committee meeting of the CYD State Convention.
 - b. Letters of support shall be submitted in any one of the following ways to be deemed valid:

- i. Mailed to CYD mailbox with wet signature of as submitted that year to CYD in that year's chartering packet.
 - ii. Emailed scanned copy of letter with wet signature and Executive Board Members as submitted that year to CYD in that year's chartering packet from any email address to the Rules Committee Chair's CYD email address.
 - iii. Electronic letter of support emailed from the email address submitted to CYD in that year's chartering packet to the Rules Committee Chair's CYD email address.
6. Caucuses may file "intent to charter caucus" statements with the CYD Secretary at any time during or after the open chartering period. Filing an "intent to charter caucus" form entitles caucuses to receive an emailed copy of the preliminary unverified chartering report as submitted to all chartered chapter leaders.
7. A Chartering fee of \$20 must be submitted in the form of a check or money order or paid online, postmarked no later than the final day of the Open Chartering Period.
8. Official recognition of a Special Caucus shall be renewed biennially except for CCD and CAHSD which shall be considered standing caucuses.
9. Membership and full voting rights in an officially recognized Caucus shall be open to all registered Democrats of chartered chapters of CYD who meet the membership requirements of the Caucus bylaws.
10. All Special Caucuses shall meet in conjunction with the CYD State Leadership Committee and regional meetings.
11. All Special Caucuses are encouraged to participate fully in the CYD Platform, Legislative Advocacy, and Resolutions process.

12. No Standing or Special caucus shall endorse candidates or legislation in contravention of candidates or legislation first endorsed by CYD. Caucuses may take political action on behalf of a candidate that is endorsed by CYD. Caucuses may take appropriate action in support of legislation that is endorsed by CYD resolution or is in keeping with the organization's platform.
13. The State Leadership Committee shall reserve the right to suspend recognition of special caucuses for violation of the Bylaws of this organization.
14. Grievances relevant to the bylaws of Special Caucuses may be submitted in writing to the Rules Committee who will vet, research and issue binding rulings in response. Such rulings may be appealed in writing to the Executive Board. In the case of such an appeal the CYD President, at their discretion, shall have the power to suspend such a ruling until the Executive Board can issue a final decision.

Section 2: Standing Caucuses

1. California College Democrats (CCD)
 - a. CYD recognizes the CCD as an integral part of the overall CYD organization and will strive to ensure fair and consistent representation to college chapters.
 - b. The President of CCD, or their designee, shall serve as the official liaison of CYD and the CCD Caucus to the CDA. The President, their designee, shall update CYDs State Leadership Committee on activities of the CDA at each Executive Board Meeting.
2. California High School Democrats (CAHSD)
 - a. CYD recognizes CAHSD as an integral part of the overall CYDs organization and will strive to ensure fair and consistent representation to high school chapters.
 - b. The President of CAHSD, or their designee, shall serve as the official liaison of CYD and the CAHSD to the YDA High School Caucus. The President, or their designee, shall update the CYD State Leadership

Committee on activities of the YDA High School Caucus at each Executive Board Meeting.

ARTICLE IX: STATE LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

Section 1: State Leadership Committee

There shall be a State Leadership Committee of this organization that shall have all the powers and duties of CYD.

Section 2: State Leadership Committee Membership

The State Leadership Committee shall consist of the following members:

1. All Statewide Officers and the Regional Directors;
2. The immediate past-State President;
3. The Presidents of each duly chartered chapter and, by their appointment before the meeting, one (1) chartered member of their chapter of a differing gender as them [or their proxy] whenever possible;
4. The President of CCD;
5. The President of CAHSD;
6. Any Officer of YDA, CDA, or HSDA residing in the State of California who is a member of a chartered CYD chapter;
7. Any member of the Democratic National Committee elected by the California Democratic Party Executive Board who is a resident of the State of California and a member of a chartered Young Democrats chapter;
8. Any elected CDP officer who is a member of a chartered Young Democrats chapter;

9. The Chairs of all Standing and Special Caucuses and, by their appointment before the meeting, one (1) chartered member of their chapter of a differing gender as them (or their proxy) whenever possible;

10. Non-Voting Members

- a. The chairs of all Standing and Special Committees

Section 3: State Leadership Committee Organization

The State President shall be the Chair of the State Leadership Committee and the State Secretary shall be the Secretary of the State Leadership Committee.

Section 4: State Leadership Committee Meetings

1. The State Leadership Committee shall meet a minimum of two (2) times per year. When possible, these meetings shall be held in conjunction with Executive Board meetings of the California State Democratic Central Committee.
2. The State Leadership Committee may convene Special Meetings:
 - a. The call of the State President at such time and in such place as the State President may designate, or
 - b. Upon written request submitted to the State President of ten (10) or more members of the State Leadership Committee representing at least five (5) different regions at such time and in such place as they may designate.
 - c. The State Secretary shall give notice of Regular and Special Meetings via email at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the Meeting. Notice may be provided solely via email so long as the State Secretary has verified that all chapters and chapter presidents may be reached by electronic means. This notice must also contain a reminder for chapters and caucuses to submit their current officer list.
 - d. Prior to all State Leadership Committee meetings, chartered chapters and caucuses must submit their current officer list that includes last

name, first name, title, phone number and email address of each elected officer to the State Secretary in order to be eligible to vote.

Section 5: State Leadership Committee Proxy Voting

State Leadership Committee Members may not carry more than one vote. For State Leadership Committee Members to cast their vote in absentia the following conditions must be met:

1. The person carrying the proxy must be a Member of a chartered CYD chapter. The proxy holder may not be a member of the State Leadership Committee.
 - a. No person may hold more than one proxy.
2. The President of a duly chartered chapter may designate as their proxy only another member of the President's chapter.
3. A State Leadership Committee Member as defined in Sections 2(1) and 2(2) of this Article may not designate a proxy to cast their vote.
4. A State Leadership Committee Member wishing to cast their vote in absentia shall file their intent in writing with the State Secretary.

Section 6: State Leadership Committee Quorum

The State Leadership Committee shall be deemed to have quorum and may conduct business when at least ten (10) voting members of the State Leadership Committee are present.

Section 7: Regional Leadership Committees

1. Each Region shall have a Regional Leadership Committee. The Regional Leadership Committee shall have such duties within the Regions not covered

by the State Leadership Committee.

2. Membership in each Regional Leadership Committee shall consist of the following:
 - a. The current Regional Director,
 - b. A representative from each chapter in the region (each chapter has one vote),
 - c. CYD Executive Board Members who reside in the Region,
 - d. The immediate past Regional Director.
3. The Regional Director shall chair the Regional Leadership Committee.
4. Each Regional Leadership Committee shall meet at least once between each State Leadership Committee meeting. Special meetings may be called by the Regional Director or upon written request of at least five (5) members.
5. Notice of regular and/or special meetings shall be sent to members of the Regional Leadership Committee at least seven days before the respective scheduled meeting by the Regional Director.

Section 8: State Leadership Committee Electronic Voting

1. At the call of the CYD President or upon the request of two-thirds (2/3) of the CYD Executive Board, any matter under the jurisdiction of the State Leadership Committee, except the election of CYD Officers, may be voted on electronically.
2. For the purposes of electronic voting only, each chartered chapter and caucus shall be entitled to cast one (1) vote, to be cast by their President or other duly appointed officer, and all other individual members of the State Leadership Committee as defined in Article IX, Section 2, excepting Subsections 3 and 9, shall be entitled to cast one (1) vote.

3. Quorum for votes conducted electronically shall be 50% of the total votes as defined above in Article IX, Section 8, Subsection 2.
4. All submitted ballots must bear the electronic signature of the member casting the vote.
5. All votes conducted electronically shall include an option to postpone the matter under consideration until the next in-person meeting of the State Leadership Committee, and the matter shall be tabled until said date if 25% or more voters vote to postpone it.
6. Members shall have at least ten (10) days to return their ballot, and within seven (7) days after the close of voting, the list of votes shall be distributed to the State Leadership Committee.

ARTICLE X: GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1: Expenditures

1. The Budget of the California Young Democrats shall be approved by the State Leadership Committee. The State President and State Vice President of Finance are responsible for categorizing and executing expenditures toward the approved budget's line items.
2. Neither CYD nor any of its officers or members may expend any amount, not covered in the approved budget, in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500) in aggregate to a single source per calendar year without the prior approval of the State President and State Vice President of Finance.
3. Neither CYD nor any of its officers or members may expend any amount, not covered in the approved budget, in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) in aggregate to a single source per calendar year without the prior majority approval of the State Executive Board.
4. Neither CYD nor any of its Officers or members may expend any amount that may be in violation of applicable federal, state or local law.

Section 2: Endorsements

The State Leadership Committee and all CYD Officers shall use their power and influence to achieve a high level of effective participation by the chartered chapters and their members in Democratic nominees' campaigns.

1. The State Convention or State Leadership Committee may, upon due notice of twenty-one (21) days, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those present and voting, endorse in any of the following races:
 - a. California Statewide Elected Officers
 - b. United States Senate,
 - c. United States President,

- d. California ballot propositions,
 - e. United States House of Representatives,
 - f. California Board of Equalization,
 - g. California State Assembly,
 - h. California State Senate,
 - i. Local races submitted for consideration by Regional Leadership Committee in which a Young Democrat is a candidate, and
 - j. Democratic party offices.
2. A chartered chapter may endorse or support the candidacy of a registered Democrat provided that the chartered chapter uses only its official name in conjunction with the endorsement, and not the name of CYD. Member chapters may make endorsements in races that differ from the endorsement of CYD.
 3. The State Leadership Committee may only consider for endorsement a candidate who is a registered Democrat. Chartered chapters may not endorse candidates who are not registered Democrats, and doing so is a violation of these bylaws that shall result in charter revocation.
 4. Prior to a primary election, the State Leadership Committee may consider for endorsement a candidate who is a registered Democrat and who commits to file for candidacy as "Party Preference: Democratic" (hereinafter "self-identified Democrats"). The State Leadership Committee may not consider for endorsement a candidate who has not committed to file as such. A candidate who fails to file as such, after receiving the endorsement of the CYD, shall have this endorsement rescinded.
 5. Endorsements in non-statewide legislative and Board of Equalization races, defined in subsection 1(e) through 1(i) of this section, may be considered by the following process for endorsement in a Primary and/or General Election:
 - a. The State Convention or State Leadership Committee will consider approval of a consent calendar consisting of endorsement

recommendations submitted by each Regional Leadership Committee and the Political Affairs Committee.

- b. Each Regional Leadership Committee will convene within fourteen (14) days of the State Convention or State Leadership Committee at which endorsements are considered. Regional Meetings shall be scheduled to conclude at least one (1) hour prior to the Convention or State Leadership Committee meeting.
 - c. Each Regional Leadership Committee may consider making recommendations for endorsements in local races, as defined by this section, whose district is included in its region.
 - d. Each Regional Leadership Committee may make such recommendations only after reaching a (2/3) majority of those present and voting. Such a vote requires that the committee have quorum of the members eligible to vote on at the time of the vote.
 - e. The State Leadership Committee may approve by acclamation such a consent calendar by unanimous voice vote. Any voting member of the State Leadership Committee who is present at the meeting of the committee may pull from consideration a candidate recommended for endorsement by verbally objecting to the consent calendar's approval and by specifically identifying a race and candidate. The pull must be ratified by simple majority. Such action would necessitate that candidate's endorsement to be separately discussed and voted on pursuant to the CYD bylaws and Robert's Rules of Order (Newly Revised).
6. Candidates who are registered Democrats running against a candidate in a general election who is not a registered Democrat may be considered on consent at the next State Leadership Committee meeting after the primary election but before the general election. Should a State Leadership Committee meeting not be scheduled within thirty (30) days after the certification of a primary election's results, the consent calendar may be considered electronically pursuant to the provisions of Article IX, Section 8 of these bylaws.

Section 3: Reserved Powers

Subject to the conditions and limitations herein provided, both Regions and Chapters of CYD shall be considered autonomous organizations.

Section 4: National Committee

Should the State President or National Committee persons be voting members of the National Committee by virtue of any other national position, the State Leadership Committee may elect an alternate to represent the State until such time as the affected Officer no longer holds said position.

Section 5: Organizational Records

The State President, Secretary, and Parliamentarian shall, whenever possible, forward relevant organizational records to an established CYD archive within the University of California Northern Regional Library facility and Southern Regional Library facility.

Information including, but not limited to photos, memorabilia, meeting minutes, leadership rosters, conference notes, convention agendas, credentials reports and other statements shall be forwarded periodically and at the close of each State Convention. Such records serve to preserve the history of the organization for future generations.

Section 6: Executive Director

The State President, with the consent of the State Executive Board, may hire an Executive Director. The Executive Director shall be responsible to the general direction and policies of the CYD and work under the general direction of the State President. The State Executive Board may adopt a CYD staff policy manual. All other employees of the CYD shall report to the Executive Director or Designee. All matters concerning discipline, employment terms or other items relating to personnel deemed sensitive by the State President or Executive Director shall be handled by a

personnel task-force consisting of the elected State Officers as defined in Article V, Section 1. These meetings shall be closed and confidential. Any decisions requiring a change in the adopted budget of the CYD shall require ratification by the State Leadership Committee.

Section 7: CYD President

With the consent of the State Executive Board, the position of President may be made a paid role, with the following provisions:

1. The contract expires at the end of each Presidential term and must be approved on an annual basis.
2. In the case of financial insolvency as determined by the Vice President of Finance and affirmed by the Executive Board, the contract may be permanently or temporarily terminated as necessary for the continued financial health of the organization.

ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENT OF THE BYLAWS

Section 1: Amendment

These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote at any State Convention or State Leadership Committee. An amendment shall become effective immediately after approval.

Section 2: Notice

Notice to amend the Bylaws shall be given twenty-one (21) days prior to any State Leadership Committee meeting at which the amendment may be considered. Written notice and the draft bylaw revisions must be provided to the State Leadership Committee within ten (10) days of any State Leadership Committee Meeting or State Convention at which an amendment may be considered.

ARTICLE XII: SUSPENSION OF THE BYLAWS

Any section of these Bylaws may be suspended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting at any meeting of the State Leadership Committee or State Convention where at least one-third (1/3) of the total State Leadership Committee membership is present and who represent at least five (5) different regions. A motion to suspend must identify the Article and Section being suspended and may not suspend more than one Article. This Article may not be suspended.

ARTICLE XIII: STANDING RULES

By a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the CYD State Executive Board (comprising of CYD State Officers and Regional Directors), CYD may adopt standing rules that supplement, but do not conflict with, these Bylaws. If so adopted, these standing rules will be read into the record at the immediately following Statewide Leadership Committee or State Convention, whichever comes first.

APPENDIX A: CODE OF CONDUCT

A Code of Conduct is a set of organizational standards, values, principles, and agreements meant to guide the interactions and behaviors of an organization.

The **California Young Democrats (CYD)**, the official youth arm of the California Democratic Party, is a statewide organization of Democrats ages 13–35 committed to building the next generation of leadership and securing Democratic victories for years to come. Through proven peer-to-peer organizing, CYD members have made a measurable impact in elections across California while advancing core values of social justice, gender equity, and global stability.

As a volunteer-led organization, our strength depends on the integrity, accountability, and collaboration of our members. By joining the California Young Democrats—and especially by serving in leadership—we commit to upholding the highest standards of conduct.

I understand that, as a member of CYD, I am required to uphold the highest standards of professionalism by maintaining the confidentiality of all CYD business, including endorsements, judicial proceedings, and internal discussions—and I understand that any unauthorized disclosure may result in disciplinary action, up to and including removal.

CYD is committed to providing an atmosphere free of harassment, exploitation, or violence, for any reason. CYD strictly prohibits harassment, sexual violence, and domestic violence. This behavior is in contrast with CYD's core tenets of tolerance, inclusion, and community. CYD will respond promptly and effectively to reports of harassment, sexual violence, and domestic violence, and will take appropriate action to prevent, to remedy, and when necessary, to discipline, members that violates the Code of Conduct. CYD will cooperate with law enforcement when behavior violates local, state or federal laws.

All **Executive Board Members, Appointed Leaders, Regional Leaders, and CYD Statewide members** are required to read, sign, and adhere to this Code of Conduct as a condition of service.

Table of Contents

- Introduction of Code
- Definitions
 - Harassment
 - Sexual Violence
 - Domestic Violence
- Procedures for Harassment Complaints
- Filing a Complaint
- Filing an Appeal
- Leadership Principles
 - Mindset & Culture
 - Teamwork & Execution
 - Professionalism & Accountability
 - Attendance & Engagement
 - Communication Standards
 - Conflict of Interest
 - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Introduction of Code

Members are to conduct themselves with civility and respect towards all other members while attending CYD events or acting in an official capacity as a representative of CYD or at any CYD Event. Members shall not engage in harassment.

Members shall not discriminate against on the basis of race, color, ancestry, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, genetic information, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, medical condition, immigration status, physical appearance, military or veteran status or the status as a victim of domestic violence, assault or stalking.

Members shall observe and abide by the rules of order and shall maintain decorum during meetings. Members shall observe and abide by the Bylaws of the California Young Democrats.

Definition of Harassment

Harassment means any inappropriate conduct, comment, display, action or gesture by a person that is either based on race, religion, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, pregnancy, disability, physical size or weight, age, nationality, ancestry or place of origin.

Examples of harassment may include (but not limited to):

Inappropriate or unwelcome touching, suggestive or abusive remarks of a sexual nature, compromising invitations, sexual assault, coarse language of a sexual nature, displaying pornographic or demeaning material or seeking sexual favors;, jokes, innuendos or taunts of sexual, racial, gender-based or an ethnic nature; displaying materials, pictures or graffiti that degrades one's race, gender, or ethnic background; and insulting gestures, jokes, disparaging written material based on race, ethnic background or gender that causes embarrassment or humiliation.

Harassment between members is prohibited not only at CYD meetings, retreats, conferences and events,

Definition of Sexual Violence

Sexual violence is any act of a sexual nature--including the touching, fondling, or penetration of another individual or the use of an object to touch, fondle, or penetrate--performed on an individual, or in which an individual is made to perform on another, without their freely given, voluntary, and conscious consent to such act. Sexual violence includes rape, sexual battery, and sexual assault.

An individual cannot consent if that individual is underage, unconscious, asleep, intoxicated due to alcohol, drugs, or another substance, or is otherwise incapacitated. Lack of protest, silence, or lack of resistance do not by themselves constitute consent. A prior sexual or romantic relationship between the persons involved is not by itself an indicator of consent.

Definition of Domestic Violence

Conduct by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim--or a person with whom the victim shares a child in common--that intentionally or recklessly causes bodily injury to the victim, another, or an animal, or places the victim or another in reasonable fear of serious bodily injury.

Procedures for a Harassment Complaint

The Executive Board will take complaints of harassment seriously in regard to members. Complaints of discrimination or harassment shall be handled to protect the confidentiality of those involved.

Per the Judicial Process, complaints will be dealt with in the following manner:

Members have a right to make a report verbally or in writing to any CYD Board Member or the Judicial Chair. Complaints will be investigated by a Committee composed of three members of the Judicial Council who have no involvement or role in the complaint, and preferably have little relationship with those involved.

The Committee shall attempt to investigate the complaint and submit a report and suggested course of action to the Executive Board as quickly as possible. The Executive Board will impose disciplinary sanction on the respondent as recommended.

If an Executive Board Member is a Complainant or Respondent, they must recuse themselves from the decision-making process. Disciplinary action may include suspension, expulsion from the Club, expulsion from an event, or any other penalty deemed appropriate.

A Respondent under this policy shall be entitled to notice, verbal or written, of the substance of a complaint under this policy.

Both a Complainant and Respondent under this policy shall be entitled to a statement of reasons for the final disposition of the investigation. Any decision

made or penalty imposed shall not be arbitrary or discriminatory. Both parties have the right to request an appeal of the decision made by the Executive Board.

Filing a Complaint through the Judicial Process

Members may initiate a complaint verbally or in writing to any Executive Board Member or Judicial Chair by identifying the Complainant and Respondent and providing a detailed description of the occurrence including the time, date and location of the incident, along with the names of any other persons involved and witnesses.

Filing an Appeal following the Judicial process

A Complainant or Respondent may appeal to the Executive Board within thirty (30) calendar days after notification of the final disposition. The appeal must be in writing and specify why the decision is unsatisfactory.

The right to appeal is limited to:

Significant procedural lapses

The appearance of substantive new evidence not available at the time of the original decision

An appellate decision will be determined by the State Leadership Committee during a regularly scheduled Convention, Statewide Leadership Committee or Retreat.

Leadership Principles

Mindset & Culture

We lead with intention, respect, and shared purpose. In service to this, I commit to:

- Listening actively and engaging with openness and respect.
- Approaching challenges with a solutions-oriented mindset.

- Being mindful of space—stepping up when needed and making room for others to lead.

Teamwork & Execution

Effective organizing requires discipline and collaboration. To ensure strong outcomes, I commit to:

- Establishing clear goals, timelines, and expectations for all projects.
- Communicating my availability, capacity, and boundaries honestly and proactively.
- Defining roles and responsibilities when leading initiatives.
- Maintaining consistent and timely communication (responding within 48 hours).
- Seeking clarity when expectations or tasks are unclear.

Professionalism & Accountability

Our credibility depends on our reliability. I commit to:

- Respecting the time and contributions of others.
- Taking ownership of my responsibilities and holding work to a high standard.
- Being transparent about limitations and requesting support early when needed.
- Following through on commitments and honoring deadlines.

Attendance & Engagement

Active participation is essential to our success. I commit to:

- Attending meetings, events, and check-ins consistently.
- Showing up prepared, engaged, and ready to contribute.
- Providing advance notice if I am unable to attend.
- Serving as an active ambassador by promoting CYD initiatives within my network.

Communication Standards

Clear and respectful communication is foundational to our work. I commit to:

- Responding through agreed-upon communication channels in a timely manner.

- Communicating openly, directly, and constructively.
- Fostering an environment where diverse perspectives are respected and valued.

Conflict of Interest

Transparency protects the integrity of our work. I commit to:

- Disclosing any actual or potential conflicts of interest.
- Seeking guidance when uncertain about a potential conflict.
- Recusing myself when necessary and supporting alternative solutions.
- Respecting the boundaries of others managing conflicts.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Equity is central to our mission and must be reflected in our actions. I commit to:

- Upholding a zero-tolerance policy for discrimination, harassment, or harmful conduct, including sexist, racist, ableist, or otherwise intolerant behavior.
- Speaking up when harmful behavior occurs and reporting concerns to CYD leadership.
 - If the behavior violates the CYD Code of Conduct, reporting it to the judicial chair so the appropriate follow up can be made.
 - If the behavior violates the CYD Code of Conduct, informing the impacted parties of their options for reporting.
- Taking accountability for my words and actions, and engaging in repair when harm occurs.
- Treating all members with dignity and respect, regardless of background or identity.
- Upholding the CYD Membership Code of Conduct and processes.

APPENDIX B: AMENDMENTS & REVISION HISTORY

This document was last revised:

- August 1, 2026 - San Diego, Calif.
President Maiya De La Rosa | Parliamentarian Alondra Esquivel Garcia
- February 15, 2025 - Monterey, Calif.
President Giovanni Chavez | Parliamentarian Ryan K. Brown
- August 23, 2023 - Visalia, Calif.
President Giovanni Chavez | Parliamentarian Nabil Kherfan

APPENDIX C: ABBREVIATIONS AND DEFINITIONS

To aid in the interpretation of these bylaws, the following abbreviations and definitions are used consistently throughout:

CYD: California Young Democrats

CCD: California College Democrats

CAHSD: California High School Democrats

CDP: California Democratic Party

DSCC: Democratic State Central Committee

YDA: Young Democrats of America

CDA: College Democrats of America

HSDA: High School Democrats of America

DNC: Democratic National Committee