

Sonoma County Young Democrats Bylaws

Mission Statement

The California Young Democrats of Sonoma County's mission is to develop, support and sustain a network of local young Democrats in their efforts to raise the awareness of pressing issues and help mold the future of the Democratic Party.

ARTICLE I - Name

Section 1: The name of this organization will be the Sonoma County Young Democrats (SCYD).

Section 2: Sonoma County Young Democrats will be chartered with, and affiliated with the California Young Democrats, and by and through the California Young Democrats, will be affiliated with the Young Democrats of America.

ARTICLE II - Membership

Section 1: Membership requirements for the Sonoma County Young Democrats will be the same as those of the Young Democrats of America, except that members must reside in or be registered to vote in Sonoma County or an adjoining county.

Section 2: Membership will not be affected by race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, disability, gender, sexual orientation, or religion.

Section 3: Members in good standing must:

- A. Pay the annual membership fee of \$5 due by January 15. Prorating is available for new members.
- B. Register with full name, address, email, phone and date of birth.

Section 4: Members in good standing have the right to:

- A. Attend and speak at all General Body meetings.
- B. Form committees vis-à-vis article IX.
- C. Hold SCYD officer position.
- D. Receive information about the activities of SCYD.

ARTICLE III - Officers

The Sonoma County Young Democrats will compose of the Sonoma County Young Democrats Executive Board and the remaining members. The Executive Board will consist of the officers of the Sonoma County Young Democrats. The organization will have five (5) elected officers, and up to two (2) members-at-large.

Section 1: The five voting officers will be: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary/Treasurer, Campaign Director, and Policy Director.

Section 2. The two (2) members-at-large shall be full members of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE IV - Officer Duties

Section 1: The Chair will be the chief executive officer for the organization. He/she will preside over all chapter meetings. The Chair will have all of the following duties and powers. The absence of a specific power or duty from this list is not necessarily a denial of its existence.

- A. Establish administrative procedures not otherwise provided for by the constitution or bylaws of this chapter.
- B. Act for and on behalf of the county chapter when they are not in session.
- C. Attend all meetings of the California Young Democrats. When the attendance of the Chair is not possible he/she will appoint a suitable replacement and give said person his/her voting proxy.
- D. Establish the agenda for each meeting of the county chapter (general and executive).
- E. Serve as delegation chair to the California Young Democrats state convention.
- F. Be an ex-officio member of all committees.
- G. Remove anyone from any appointed position, pending the approval of the Executive Board.
- H. Co-sign SCYD's bank account, if at least 18 years of age.
- I. Assure publicity for all upcoming events and meetings.

Section 2: Vice-Chair. The Vice-Chair will have all the following duties and powers:

- A. Chair the Recruiting Committee.
- B. Appoint a co-chairperson of the Recruiting Committee, pending the approval of the Executive Board.
- C. Act as Chair Pro-Tempore in the absence of the Chair. In a case where the Chair's office becomes vacant, the Vice-Chair will become the Chair automatically and will assume all powers, duties and responsibilities associated with that position. The office of the Vice-Chair then is vacant and will be filled by an appointment by the new Chair, pending the approval of the Executive Board and the general body.
- D. Assist the Chair.

Section 3: The chapter Secretary/Treasurer shall have all the following duties and powers:

- A. Keep accurate minutes of all chapter meetings (general and Executive Board).
- B. Keep an accurate mailing list and phone directory of all members.
- C. See to all correspondence of the chapter as directed by the Chair.
- D. Be at least 18 years of age
- E. Keep accurate record of SCYD's financial transactions.
- F. Co-sign SCYD's bank account.
- G. Present a financial report to the General Body annually.

Section 4: The chapter Campaign Director shall have all the following duties & powers:

- A. Chair the campaign committee.
- B. Substitute for other board members.

Section 5: The chapter Policy Director shall have all the following duties & powers:

- A. Chair the policy committee.
- B. Serve as lead delegate to the Accountable Development Committee.
- C. Serve as lead contact to the Sonoma County Democratic Central Committee Issues and Legislation Committee.
- D. Represent the SCYD on matters of policy.

Section 6: Members-at-Large will have the following duties and powers:

- A. Participate in at least one standing committee.
- B. Lead on projects of the SCYD.

ARTICLE V - Executive Board

Section 1: The Sonoma County Young Democrats Executive Board will be the chief policy making body for the chapter.

Section 2: The Executive Board will have all the powers necessary for the proper and legal execution of all duties of the Sonoma County Young Democrats.

Section 3: If votes are tied at the Executive Board, the Chair may refer the item to the General Body for resolution.

Section 4: The Executive Board will meet no less than ten (10) times during the course of one (1) fiscal year.

Section 5: Teleconference Meeting: Meetings of the Executive Board may be held via conference call or other web/phone related technology. On phone meetings, all contested votes shall be cast by roll call vote. Each executive board member is entitled to speak on a motion at least once prior to a motion to close debate being passed by the body.

Article VI – Financial Regulations

Section 1: SCYD's bank account must be co-signed by two (2) people of at least eighteen (18) years of age. Expenses of \$10 or less only require one (1) signature.

Section 2: The acting treasurer must present a financial report to the General Body annually.

Section 3: Executive board members have a discretionary expenditure limit of \$10.

Section 4: All expenditures must be in line with SCYD's mission.

ARTICLE VII - General Body

Section 1: The Sonoma County Young Democrats general body will meet no less than four (4) times during the course of one (1) year.

Section 2: A quorum is defined as one-third (1/3) of the active members and no less than five (5) members in good standing. A quorum is necessary for election of officers, candidate endorsement, amendments to bylaws, and any binding resolutions.

Section 3: An active member must have attended at least 2 of the last 5 General Body meetings.

Section 4: Officers and active members shall comprise the voting membership of the General Body.

ARTICLE VIII – Elections, Endorsements and Voting

Section 1: Elections of officers will be held at the first General Body meeting of each year. All terms are for one year.

Section 2: The order of elections will be as follows: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary/Treasurer, Campaign Director, Policy Director and members at large.

Section 3: All contested officer elections must be held by secret ballot.

Section 4: Officers are elected by regular majority; if no candidate receives a majority the two (2) candidates with the most votes will have an instant runoff election.

Section 5: An endorsement requires two-thirds (2/3) of the general body (in attendance) voting in favor of the endorsement. Any voting member may request a secret ballot election.

Section 6: The Secretary and one assistant designated by the Chair will count the votes.

ARTICLE IX - Standing Committees

Section 1: There will be three (3) standing committees. These committees will be the Campaign committee, Policy Committee and the Recruiting committee.

Section 2: The Campaign committee will research and recommend endorsements for the General Body, design campaign material and strategies, as well as organize rallies and get out the vote drives.

Section 3: The Policy Committee will research and recommend positions on non-election issues and resolutions. Also, the committee may develop and recommend a policy platform for the SCYD.

Section 4: The Recruiting committee will reach out to new possible members and integrate them in SCYD, as well as design and implement new outreach strategies. And provide support to facilitate chartering of clubs on high school and college campuses.

ARTICLE X - Forming New Committees

Section 1: The Chair or the Executive Board can form adjunct committees at any time for any reason they deem necessary.

Section 2: Any member in good standing can form adjunct committees by submitting a committee description for the approval of the Chair or Executive Board.

ARTICLE XI – Bylaw Amendments

Section 1: Amendments to these bylaws must be submitted in writing to the chapter Chair and chapter Secretary at least two weeks (14 days) prior to the meeting at which the amendment will be considered. The Chair is obligated to place the amendment on the agenda for that meeting.

Section 2: The amendment will be considered approved if a regular majority of the Executive Board and two-thirds (2/3) of the general body (in attendance) vote in favor of the amendment.

ARTICLE XII – Impeachment & Expelling

Section 1: Only the elected offices may be subject to impeachment. The Chair reserves the right to remove anyone from an appointed position, pending approval of the Executive Board. Procedures for impeachment will be as follows:

- A. Any person holding an elected office within the chapter may be impeached if found guilty of failure to adequately perform his/her duties.
- B. The person shall be notified of the charges against them no less than thirty days (30) prior to the meeting in which the impeachment will be discussed.
- C. Members of the Executive Board who are not charged with negligence of their duties shall appoint a committee and chairperson to hear the testimony of the person or persons charged. The findings of the committee shall be final.

Section 2: A member may be expelled from the SCYD if:

- A. He/she has engaged in work contrary to SCYD mission or damaged SCYD's organization or reputation.
- B. And ninety percent (90%) of the Executive Board, and ninety percent (90%) of the General Body (in attendance) vote for the expelling.

Article XIII – Vacancy of Executive Board Position

Section 1: A vacancy in any position of the Sonoma County Young Democrats may be filled by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Board or a Majority Vote of the General Body.

Bylaws amended by the General Body on January 26th 2009.

Chair

Secretary/Treasurer

Erin C. Pelletier

Kim O. Johannsen