

By-laws

Union County Young Democrats

Adopted: Wednesday, September 20, 2017

Mission Statement

We the Union County Young Democrats (Union County, New Jersey), in order to further the ideals and principles of the Democratic Party, to promote the election of the party's candidates for public office at all levels, to encourage the involvement of young people in civic and political affairs, to promote justice, equality, and diversity, and to promote fellowship and cooperation with one another, establish these by-laws of the Union County Young Democrats.

Article I: Name and objectives

Section 1: The name of this organization shall be "Union County Young Democrats" (UCYD).

Section 2: The objectives of Union County Young Democrats shall be:

- To support and elect Democratic candidates for public office;
- To widen and increase the interest, knowledge, and participation of young people in governmental, civic, and political affairs;
- To train and develop young people for leadership positions;
- To serve those in need in our community;
- To increase awareness and activism on issues of importance to young people;
- To increase the role of underrepresented people in the Democratic Party, government, and society; and
- To provide opportunities for young people to network and socialize.

Article II: Policy

Section 1: Union County Young Democrats shall contribute to the activities, growth, and influence of the Democratic Party.

Section 2: Union County Young Democrats shall support and endorse only those candidates for elected public office who have been nominated or endorsed by the Democratic Party.

Section 3: Union County Young Democrats shall not endorse candidates in any contest for the nomination or endorsement of the Democratic Party, and shall maintain its neutrality until after such contests are settled. Union County Young Democrats shall provide an equitable forum in a manner determined by the Executive Board for all candidates seeking the nomination or endorsement of the Democratic Party to solicit its members' support. Nothing in this article shall be interpreted to preclude individual members of the Union County Young Democrats from endorsing candidates seeking the nomination or endorsement of the Democratic Party in his or her individual capacity.

Section 4: Union County Young Democrats shall actively support the candidates and the platform of the Democratic Party at all levels; although nothing in these bylaws shall be interpreted to preclude the Union County Young Democrats or its members from advocating for amendments to, or the inclusion of particular views or issues in, the platform of the Democratic Party at any level.

Section 5: Union County Young Democrats shall not act in any manner inconsistent with these bylaws. Union County Young Democrats should act with consideration of, and to the best of its ability in a manner consistent with the New Jersey Young Democrats, the Young Democrats of America, the Union County Democratic Committee, the New Jersey Democratic State Committee, and the Democratic National Committee.

Article III: Membership

Section 1: Membership in the Union County Young Democrats is open to anyone between the ages of fourteen and thirty-six years, inclusive, who believes in the principles of the Democratic Party and is a resident of Union County, New Jersey. No person will be denied membership on the basis of race, gender, religion, economic status, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability.

Section 2: Members shall pay a nominal membership fee. Members between the ages of 22-36 must pay a two-year membership fee of \$40.00. Members between ages 18 & 21 must pay a two-year membership fee of \$10.00. There shall be no membership fee for individuals between ages 14 & 17. Membership fees will become effective immediately. Members in arrears at the time of the annual Reorganization Meeting shall not vote unless dues are paid prior to voting.

Section 3: Honorary Members: The Executive Board may designate honorary members of the Union County Young Democrats who do not meet the criteria in Section 1. Honorary Members shall be nonvoting members of the general membership of the Union County Young Democrats.

Article IV: Officers

Section 1: The officers of the Union County Young Democrats shall be President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Executive Director. These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these bylaws adopted by the Union County Young Democrats. Each officer will serve for a two-year period, following the Reorganization and Election Meeting. No person may hold more than one office at a time. This collective of officers shall be known as the "Executive Board." The Executive Board shall establish committees and caucuses at their discretion, subject to the provisions of Article VIII. Executive Board members shall serve as ex-officio members of any committees and caucuses. Committees and caucuses shall elect a chairperson with a majority vote of committee and caucus members.

Majority of the votes should consist of the 5 Board Members. In order to be considered a majority vote a minimum of three (3) of the five (5) Executive Board members must vote the same way.

Section 2: The duties of the officers of the Union County Young Democrats are as follows:

President – Presides over all meetings of the Executive Board and the general membership; exercises general managerial tasks with respect to the operation of the organization; establishes and terminates committees as needed and appoints chairpersons to such committees; shall be notified of any meeting; appoints or removes additional officers not prescribed in these bylaws, subject to the approval of a majority of the elected Union County Young Democrats’ Executive Board; coordinates relationships and liaisons with other recognized Democratic organizations; and shall exercise such other powers and duties as may be assigned to the office of President by other provisions of the bylaws.

Vice President – Presides over the organization in the absence of the President; oversees the schedule and the presentations of meetings of the general membership and programs outside of regular general membership meetings; shall be notified of any meeting; shall become President in case of the removal of the President from office or of his or her death or resignation; and shall exercise such other powers and duties as assigned to the office of Vice President by other provisions of the bylaws, and as delegated by the President.

Treasurer – Establishes procedures to handle disbursements and expenditures; tracks and reports all receipts and disbursements; maintains all financial records; should the need arise, provides for the preparation and filing of reports with the Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) and other state, county or local agencies; ensures financial records are open to inspection by any member of the Union County Young Democrats at any reasonable time; shall become Vice President in case of removal of the Vice President from office or of his or her death or resignation; shall be notified of any meeting; and shall exercise such other powers and duties as may be assigned to the office of Treasurer under the bylaws, and as delegated by the President.

Secretary – Transcribes minutes of the meetings; provides a written report of meetings of the Executive Board and the general membership and records membership attendance; maintains the official Membership Roster of the Union County Young Democrats; shall become Treasurer in case of the removal of the Treasurer from office or of his or her death or resignation; shall be notified of any meeting; and shall exercise such other powers and duties as may be assigned to the office of Secretary under the bylaws, and as delegated by the President.

Executive Director – Responsible for the day to day operations of the UCYD, which includes managing committees, caucuses, relationships with external chapters in conjunction with the Executive Board, and ultimately, developing an action plan for regular business.

Section 3: In the event of a vacancy, the Executive Board shall fill such vacancy within (30) days and the new officer shall hold the position until the next reorganization meeting.

Article V: Elections

Section 1: Unless the method of selection is otherwise identified under this Article, each officer will be elected by a plurality vote of present Union County Young Democrats' members in good standing, as defined in Article V, Section 5. Each officer shall serve until his or her successor is elected, and each officer's term shall begin upon the adjournment of the meeting at which he or she was elected. The position of President Emeritus shall be occupied by the person to have most recently served as President before the current President.

Section 2: Only members in good standing at the time of the election shall be eligible to vote for the officers of this organization. Determinations as to "good standing" status shall be made exclusively by the Executive Board prior to the election. Elections shall be held before the biennial convention of the Young Democrats of America. The Executive Board shall give notice of the election date at thirty (30) days prior to the date of the meeting.

Section 3: A candidate for UCYD office must submit a written declaration of candidacy via the UCYD email at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the Reorganization Meeting and Election.

Section 4: The Executive Board will conduct voting procedures in the manner deemed appropriate.

Section 5: A member in "good standing" shall be defined as a member on the Union County Young Democrats Membership Roster as maintained by the Secretary and certified by the Executive Board prior to the biennial Reorganization Meeting, and is current on his or her membership dues. "Good standing" members must have a documented record of attending at least two (2) UCYD General Meetings (not including the Reorganization/Election Meeting) and at least two (2) chapter events per year.

Section 6: Only members in "good standing" may vote at the biennial Reorganization Meeting. General members' votes shall only be cast by members physically present.

Article VI: Meetings

Section 1: Fifteen days (15) notice must be given to the Executive Board and the general membership of each regular and special meeting. A quorum shall be defined as a majority of (3) Executive Board members present.

Section 2: Regular meetings of Union County Young Democrats will be held at the discretion of the Executive Board. Special meetings of the Union County Young Democrats' general membership may be called by the President, a majority of the Executive Board, or by the written request to the President and the Secretary and subsequent approval of a majority of the Executive Board of any member of the Union County Young Democrats.

Section 3: Regular and special meetings of the general membership may be cancelled, postponed, or adjourned by the President with approval of a majority of the Executive Board.

Article VII: Governance

Section 1: The President shall enforce the bylaws.

Section 2: Amendments. These by-laws may not be altered, amended, or repealed, except as set forth in this Article VII. These bylaws may only be amended by a two-thirds vote of members in good standing, present and voting at a general membership meeting when notice of the amendment is given in writing at the previous general membership meeting. When no previous notice of the amendment is given, the amendment may not be adopted.

Section 3: Parliamentary Procedure. The proceedings of this organization shall be governed by the following authorities in the following order of precedence: The by-laws of the Union County Young Democrats; Executive Board discretion; and the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

Article VIII: Committee/Caucus

Section 1: Committee/Caucus Chairs shall be appointed and/or removed by the President with the advice and approval of a majority of the Executive Board.