

Constitution of the North Carolina Association of Teen Democrats

Preamble

This association of Teen Democrats in the state of North Carolina is formed for the purpose of coordinating efforts and promoting the interest of Teen Democrats in this state by interclub relations and functions with assistance of the State Teen Democrat's advisor, the Democratic Women, North Carolina Federation of College Democrats, Young Democrats of North Carolina, Senior Democrats, and the North Carolina Democratic Party.

Article I

Name

The name of this organization shall be the "North Carolina Association of Teen Democrats."

Article II

Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be:

- Section 1. To encourage young people to learn and live the principles and ideals of the Democratic Party.
- Section 2. To actively support and promote Democratic nominees and programs.
- Section 3. To help educate young people as future citizens and leaders.
- Section 4. To help insure that the Democratic Party shall continue to legislate and administrate for the welfare of all the people.
- Section 5. To organize into one association of Teen Democrat clubs in this state.
- Section 6. To hold statewide meetings at least two times a year under the direction of the State Teen Democrats' advisor for the purpose of conducting business, promoting unity among the clubs of the state, and discussing matters pertaining to the general welfare of the Teen Democrat Clubs in this state.
- Section 7. To exchange ideas and experiences, to encourage fellowship among the members, and to render every service possible to the Democratic Party.

Article III

Powers

This association shall be constituted with the advice of the State Teen Democrats' advisor and shall possess no legislative or judicial powers except to provide regulations for the conduct of its own affairs

Article IV

Policy

Section 1. This organization shall not endorse or support the candidacy of any person for public office prior to nomination by the Democratic Party, or in any manner give its influence as an organization to the cause of any candidate or faction of the Party in any campaign or inter-party controversies. Individual members, however, may engage in such campaigns and controversies.

Section 2. This organization shall support actively the nominees of the Democratic Party in national, state, and local elections; it shall conduct a vigorous campaign in order that it may contribute continuously to the growth and influence of the Democratic Party. One rally should be held between the annual State Conventions.

Article V

Membership of Clubs

Section 1. The membership of this association shall be comprised of all Teen Democrats Clubs within the state of North Carolina duly chartered in good standing with and bearing true allegiance to the Democratic Party and in good standing with this association.

Section 2. Clubs shall charter with the State Association by submitting a membership roster to the State Teen Democrats' advisor. Clubs should also submit chartering information to be determined by the State Teen Democrats' advisor.

Section 3. Clubs having the qualifications set forth in Article V, Sections 1 and 2, and Article VIII, Section 5 shall be admitted to membership upon gaining approval from the Teen Democrats Executive Committee and payment of any necessary dues.

Article VI

Individual Membership

- Section 1. There may be three classes of membership in the North Carolina Association of Teen Democrats; active, at-large, and honorary. All persons must profess allegiance to the principles and ideals of the Democratic Party in order to be eligible for membership.
- a. To be eligible for active membership of this association, a person must be a member of a local club.
 - b. To be eligible for at-large membership of this association, a person must be from a school or county which has no club. The at-large member shall carry all rights of active membership, except that during business sessions of this association the at-large member may not be permitted the allocation of club votes.
 - c. To be eligible for honorary membership of this association or local club, a person must have rendered service of outstanding character in the association. Honorary membership shall be granted by majority vote of the Executive Committee. They shall carry all rights of active membership, except that honorary members may not vote or hold office in Teen Democrats.

Section 2. The age for active and at-large membership in the North Carolina Association of Teen Democrats shall be from thirteen through nineteen years of age.

Section 3 Any members may be expelled by a three-fourths vote of the governing body of a local club for disloyalty to the Democratic Party, failure to support the Democratic Party, or for any conduct that is criminal or degrading in character; any member expelled by his/her club shall have the right of appeal to the State Executive Committee, whose action, determined by a three-fourths vote, is final.

Article VII

Local Organization

The local units of this organization shall be known as clubs, and shall be organized and function under the North Carolina Democratic Party Plan of Organization.

Article VIII

State Convention

Section 1. This association shall assemble in an annual State Convention at a time and place to be determined by the State Executive Committee.

Section 2. The State Convention shall be attended by delegates who are affiliated with a school or county club as active members or by delegates at-large.

Each club shall be allotted two votes for each delegate at the convention. Delegates at-large shall be entitled one vote.

Section 3. A Credentials Committee shall be appointed by the President. This committee shall meet and officially certify the list of delegates and votes allotted to each club. The Credentials Committee shall hear and decide all appeals and protest regarding the charters and allotted votes.

Section 4. All protests and appeals of the Credentials Committee's decision must be submitted to the State Secretary, after which the appeal may be made to the full convention with a two-thirds majority of the properly certified convention votes necessary to overrule the decision of the Credentials Committee.

Section 5. No club may participate in any state convention if it has failed to meet the membership requirements of the State Association. It also must submit to the State Treasurer a current membership roster containing the name and addresses of all its members.

Section 6. A quorum at any convention for the conducting of business shall be ½ of the eligible total number of delegates at the convention.

Article IX

Elections and Officers

- Section 1. Officers
- a. The elected officers shall consist of a President, three Vice-Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer.
 - b. The Executive Committee members shall consist of the State President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, and Up to five at-large members, who will be appointed and whose roles will be designated by the President.
 - c. On the Executive Committee, no more than three members can be from any one club when circumstances permit.
 - d. The elected officers of this organization shall attend all meetings possible. They shall also be required to submit a report of their activities at the annual convention. Officers found guilty of malfeasance in office or gross negligence in attending to their duties may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee.
 - e. The Vice-Presidents' duties shall be as follows:
 1. The First Vice-President shall be in charge of publicity.
 2. The Second Vice-President shall be in charge of expansion and club membership.
 3. The Third Vice-President shall be in charge of fundraising.

Article X

Finance

- Section 1. The North Carolina Association of Teen Democrats State Executive Committee shall prepare budget for presentation to the sponsoring organization.
- Section 2. The registration fee of all state meetings shall be set by the State Executive Committee.

Article XI

Amendments

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the qualified delegates at any State Convention.

Article XII

Ratification

- Section 1. This Constitution is ratified upon acceptance by the Teen Democrats Convention and becomes effective upon its acceptance.
- Section 2. This Constitution shall supersede any constitution which may previously have been adopted.
- Section 3. This Constitution shall overrule any local constitution.

Constitutional Amendments

- Amendment 1. Election of state officers shall be conducted at the annual state spring convention. At least two weeks prior to the state convention, anyone desiring to run for a state office shall declare his/her candidacy in writing to the North Carolina Association of Teen Democrats State Executive Committee, providing the following: name, age, year in school, office being sought, prior Teen Democrats offices, activities, and a brief description of why he/she is running. At the convention, this information regarding all declared candidates shall be distributed to every chartered club. Anyone may also be nominated from the floor of the annual convention upon a petition signed by at least 30% of the registered delegates at the convention.

Amendment 2.The business of the organization between state meetings shall be conducted by the Executive Committee. Meetings of the committee shall be called by the President or by a petition of a majority of the members of the committee.