

By-Laws of the Young Democrats of Atlanta

Revised by vote December 7, 2005

ARTICLE I NAME AND AFFILIATION

The name of this organization shall be the Young Democrats of Atlanta, hereafter referred to as the YDAtl. It shall be affiliated with the Young Democrats of Georgia and the Fulton County Democratic Party.

ARTICLE II PURPOSE

The purpose of the YDAtl shall be to stimulate in the youth of Fulton County an active interest in governmental affairs; to increase the efficiency of popular government; to foster and perpetuate the ideals of the Democratic Party; to provide, through its administration, the highest degree of justice and social welfare for our people; and to serve as a voice for young people in the Democratic Party.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Section A Eligibility

Any person of at least 14 years of age, but under 36 years of age, who professes and demonstrates allegiance to the Democratic Party shall be eligible for membership in the YDAtl. The YDAtl shall not discriminate in any proceeding on account of race, religion, national origin, sex, sexual preference, physical disability, or previous political activity.

Section B Requirements

Membership in good standing of the YDAtl shall be contingent solely upon payment of annual membership dues, to be payable by the May membership meeting or upon joining the YDAtl. A member joining YDAtl after the October membership meeting and before the May membership meeting, or any member currently attending an institution of higher education in Georgia, shall have the option of paying fifty percent of normal dues, or \$12.50. All other members may elect to pay dues in any of the following amounts: \$25, \$35, \$50, \$75, and \$100. Any member who is unable to pay dues for reasons of economic hardship shall so notify the Finance Chair in writing; such notification shall be considered payment of dues.

Section C Privileges

Members of the YDAtl in good standing shall have the right to participate in any vote taken at any membership meeting.

ARTICLE IV OFFICERS

Section A Positions

The officers of the YDAtl shall be the President, the Membership Chair, the Campaigns Chair, the Policy Chair, the Communications Chair, the Finance Chair, the Secretary, and the Immediate Past President.

Section B Selection

The membership shall, by majority vote, elect all officers at the November membership meeting, with all officers thus elected to take office effective as of the December membership meeting. Officers shall serve one-year terms. No officer shall serve more than two consecutive terms.

Section C Eligibility

- I. A candidate for any YDAtl officer position shall be any YDAtl member of less than 35 years of age.
- II. No person shall hold office in the YDAtl who is prohibited from holding office in a political organization by any government merit system. If any YDAtl officer accepts employment covered by such a merit system, such officer's resignation shall take effect upon the commencement of such employment.

Section D Vacancies

- I. In case of vacancy in an office other than President, the membership shall, by majority vote, elect a replacement to fulfill the remainder term.
- II. In the event of a vacancy in the office of President, the Membership Chair shall serve the remainder term. If the Membership Chair is unwilling or unable to serve the remainder term, or the office of the Membership Chair is also vacant, the membership shall elect by majority vote a person to fill the remainder term at the first possible meeting.

Section E Attendance

- I. All officers of the YDAtl shall attend all membership meetings of the YDAtl.
- II. If the President is unable to attend a regular membership meeting, he or she shall so notify the Membership Chair in writing prior to that meeting. Such written notification shall include the President's officer report.
- III. If an officer other than the President is unable to attend a regular membership meeting, he or she shall so notify the President in writing prior to that meeting. Such written notification shall include such officer's report.
- IV. Any officer who is absent from a regular membership meeting without notification as described above may submit a written explanation for the absence to the President or the Membership Chair, as appropriate, within one week of the meeting. The President or Membership Chair, as appropriate, may, at his or her discretion, elect to excuse the officer's absence on the basis of such a written explanation. In all other cases, an absence without notification as described above shall be considered unexcused.
- V. Any officer of the YDAtl who accumulates two consecutive unexcused absences shall be dismissed.

ARTICLE V DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section A President

The President shall plan and preside over all meetings of the YDAtl as provided in Article VII. The President shall communicate the time and place of all membership meetings to the YDAtl officers and membership by all appropriate means, including, but not limited to, conventional mail, electronic mail, and the YDAtl web site. The President shall act as the official representative of the YDAtl at YDG, DPG, and DPF functions. The President shall coordinate the efforts of the other officers of the YDAtl. The President shall provide an annual report at the January membership meeting detailing the goals and long-term strategies of the YDAtl.

Section B Membership Chair

The Membership Chair shall preside at all meetings in the absence of the President and shall assume the office of President if that office becomes vacant. The Membership Chair shall maintain and update a list of all YDAtl members in good standing; the Membership Chair shall provide in person or otherwise make available such list at all membership meetings. The Membership Chair shall be responsible for planning social events and other activities intended to stimulate political interest in the YDAtl membership and prospective members, including, but not limited to, the monthly YDAtl Happy Hour.

Section C Campaigns Chair

The Campaigns Chair shall coordinate all efforts of the YDAtl to support the campaigns of Democratic nominees or Democratic candidates without primary opposition and shall define, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee, the YDAtl's overall campaign strategy and objectives. The Campaigns Chair shall plan appropriate training activities to prepare YDAtl members to effectively participate in campaigns. The Campaigns Chair shall serve as the official liaison of the YDAtl to the leadership of all Democratic campaigns and campaign support groups. The Campaigns Chair shall communicate by all appropriate means key issues and developments in such campaigns and groups to the YDAtl membership.

Section D Policy Chair

The Policy Chair shall plan and coordinate all activities, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee, of the YDAtl intended to impact policy decisions in any branch or level of government, including, but not limited to, lobbying of elected officials, phone and letter campaigns, and issues education. The Policy Chair shall plan appropriate training activities to prepare YDAtl members to participate effectively in the policymaking process. The Policy Chair shall communicate by all appropriate means important developments related to the policy activities of the YDAtl.

Section E Finance Chair

The Finance Chair shall collect all dues paid to the YDAtl and report the names of those paying dues to the Membership chair. The Finance Chair shall maintain the YDAtl bank account, and keep a detailed record of all deposits, withdrawals, and related documentation. The Finance Chair shall, in consultation with the other officers of the YDAtl, prepare the YDAtl Annual Budget, to be submitted to the membership for approval at the January membership meeting. The Finance Chair shall plan and execute all YDAtl fundraising activities, to include at least one major fundraising event per year.

Section F Communications Chair

The Communications Chair shall compose and disseminate by all appropriate means a newsletter containing information of interest to YDAtl members, including, but not limited to, specific information regarding YDAtl events and meetings. The Communications Chair shall maintain and update the YDAtl web site. The Communications Chair shall act as the liaison between the YDAtl and all media entities, and shall provide such entities with press releases and announcements concerning YDAtl events and activities. The Communications Chair shall prepare and disseminate printed and electronic documents or other material as necessary to facilitate the operation of the YDAtl.

Section G Secretary

The Secretary shall record and preserve the minutes of all YDAtl membership meetings and all required YDAtl executive meetings. The Secretary shall provide a copy of relevant YDAtl documents, including such minutes and these By-Laws, at all regular membership meetings for inspection by all YDAtl

members. The Secretary shall be responsible for securing locations as determined by the President for all official YDAtl meetings.

Section H Immediate Past President

The Immediate Past President shall provide advice and any other appropriate assistance to the other officers of the YDAtl.

ARTICLE VI REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

Section A Impeachment

Any member in good standing of the YDAtl may call for the impeachment of any Officer for reasonable cause, including, but not limited to, failure to perform his or her duties as provided in Article V, gross official misconduct, conduct detrimental to the goals and spirit of the YDAtl, and criminal behavior. All calls for impeachment shall be made at a regular membership meeting and be accompanied by a letter detailing the grounds for impeachment, to be read in full before the members present. If the impeached officer is present, such letter shall be presented to him or her. If the impeached officer is not present, such letter shall be submitted to the President or the highest ranking officer present, as appropriate; such officer shall undertake any reasonable effort necessary to deliver or otherwise convey such letter to the impeached officer. The President or Membership Chair, as appropriate, shall notify the membership at large of the impeachment by all available means.

Section B Removal From Office

At the regular membership meeting following notice of impeachment as provided in Section A, a vote, requiring a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those members present, shall be taken on the question of whether to remove the impeached officer from his or her position. Prior to such vote, the impeached officer shall, if he or she is present, be given a period of not less than five minutes to defend himself or herself against the grounds for impeachment. If such officer is not present, he or she may submit a written defense of reasonable length to the President or Membership Chair, as appropriate, to be read in full prior to such vote. If an officer is removed from his or her position by such a vote, the vacancy shall be filled in the manner described in Article IV, Section D.

ARTICLE VII MEETINGS

Section A Membership Meetings

- I. Regular membership meetings Regular membership meetings of the YDAtl shall be held on the first Wednesday of each month. The time and place of such meetings shall be determined by the President.
- II. Additional membership meetings Additional meetings may be called by the President or by petition of 1/3 of the YDAtl membership. The time and place of such meetings shall be determined by the President.
- III. Conduct The agenda and format of membership meetings shall be subject to the discretion of the President or the highest ranking officer present. The presence of a number of members in good standing of the YDAtl equal to one and one-half the number of sitting officers of the YDAtl plus one shall be required to establish quorum. Any member in good standing of the YDAtl may at any time request that a roll call of those present be taken to determine whether quorum has been established, or to force a roll call vote on a specific question before those assembled be taken. If such request is made, and no record of members in good standing of the YDAtl is available, quorum shall be determined as not having been established. In no case where quorum has not been established shall any business of the YDAtl be transacted except as provided in Article XI, section B.

Section B Executive Meetings

- I. Occurrence The President shall have the power to convene Executive Committee Meetings consisting of the officers of the YDAtl. The time and place of such meetings shall be determined by the President. The President may further designate at most one such meeting per month as mandatory, subject to the provisions of Article IV, Section E.
- II. Conduct The presence of at least half of the officers of the YDAtl shall be required to establish quorum. Officers not attending an executive meeting may, at their option, indicate in writing their intended vote on specific questions considered by those present; such notification shall count toward establishment of quorum regarding such questions. If quorum is not established, no business of the YDAtl shall be transacted with the exception of such questions where quorum has been established by proxy as provided by this subsection.

ARTICLE VIII COMMITTEES

Section A Standing Committees

The Membership Committee, the Finance Committee, the Communications Committee, the Campaigns Committee, and the Policy Committee shall exist in perpetuity. The Membership Chair, the Finance Chair, the Communications Chair, the Campaigns Chair, and the Policy Chair, respectively, shall act as chairpersons for these committees. These committees shall meet at the discretion of their chairperson for the purpose of assisting the chairperson with his or her duties as an officer as described in Article V.

Section B Ad-hoc Committees

The President, at his or her discretion, may create any committee for any specific purpose. Such committee shall exist until dissolved by the President or until its purpose has been achieved. The President shall appoint the chairperson of any such committee. Such committee shall meet at the discretion of the chairperson with approval of the President.

ARTICLE IX PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of “Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised” shall govern the YDAtl in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these By-Laws or any special rules the YDAtl may adopt.

ARTICLE X AMENDMENTS

Section A Regular Amendments

These By-Laws shall be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership. Such vote shall take place at the membership meeting subsequent to the meeting in which such amendments are proposed.

Section B Emergency Provision

If quorum, as described in Article VII, section A, subsection II, is not established for two consecutive membership meetings, those members present at the second meeting, regardless of their standing, shall have the power to, by unanimous consent of all members present regardless of their standing, establish quorum for the purpose of amending these By-Laws. Such amendments shall not be subject to the provisions of Section A of this Article.

ARTICLE XI DISSOLUTION

In the event that the YDAtl dissolves, after all liabilities and obligations are satisfied, all monies remaining in the YDAtl treasury shall be transferred to the YDG.