

By-laws of the Middlesex County Young Democrats

(Adopted: 2001; 6/2007; 1/2017; 7/10/2017)

Mission Statement

We the Young Democrats of Middlesex 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 Middlesex County Young Democrats.

Article I: Name and objectives

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

Section 2: The objectives of Middlesex 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 government, the political process, and civic involvement;
- To train and develop young people for positions of leadership;
- 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 under-represented people in the Democratic Party, government, and society; and
- To provide opportunities for young people to network and socialize.

Article II: Policy

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

Section 2: Middlesex 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. Middlesex 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 Middlesex County Young Democrats from endorsing candidates seeking the nomination or endorsement of the Democratic Party in his or her individual capacity.

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Section 3: Middlesex County Young Democrats shall actively support the candidates and the platform of the Democratic Party at all levels; although nothing in these by-laws shall be interpreted to preclude the Middlesex 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 4: Middlesex County Young Democrats shall not act in any manner inconsistent with these by-laws. Middlesex 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 Middlesex County Democratic Organization, the New Jersey Democratic State Committee, and the Democratic National Committee.

Article III: Membership

Section 1: Membership in the Middlesex County Young Democrats is open to anyone between the ages of fourteen (14) and thirty-six years (36), who believes in the principles of the Democratic Party and is a resident of Middlesex County, New Jersey. No person will be denied membership on the basis of race, gender, religion, economic status, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, citizenship status or disability.

Section 2: Members shall pay a nominal membership fee annually. Members between the ages of 18 and 36 must pay an annual \$5.00 (Five Dollar) membership fee. Members between the ages 14 and 17 must pay an annual \$1.00 (One Dollar) membership fee. Membership dues will become effective immediately and shall further be due no earlier than January 1st of each succeeding year. New members may join at any time during a given year, but shall not receive the benefit of prorated dues. Members in arrears at the time of the annual March 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 Middlesex County Young Democrats who do not meet the criteria in Section 1. Honorary Members shall be non-voting members of the general membership of the Middlesex County Young Democrats. Honorary Members shall pay dues in the same manner as voting members.

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Article IV: Officers

Section 1: The officers of the Middlesex County Young Democrats shall be President, Executive Vice President, Vice President of Engagement and Recruitment, Vice President of Fundraising, Treasurer, and Secretary. These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these by-laws adopted by the Middlesex County Young Democrats. The collective of officers is known as the “Executive Board.” The Executive Board shall establish committees and caucuses at their discretion. No person may hold more than one office of the Executive Board at a time. Executive Board members may serve as chairpersons of any committee and caucus.

Section 2: The duties of the officers of the Middlesex 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 standing and ad hoc committees and appoints chairpersons to such special committees; shall be notified of any meeting; appoints or removes additional Voting Board Members not prescribed in these by-laws, subject to the approval of a majority of the elected Middlesex County Young Democrats’ Officers; coordinates relationships and liaisons with other recognized Democratic organizations; shall appoint members to the Advisory Board and shall exercise such other powers and duties as may be assigned to the office of President by other provisions of the by-laws.

Executive 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 may be assigned to the office of Vice President by other provisions of the by-laws, and as delegated by the President.

Vice President of Engagement and Recruitment – Shall plan a comprehensive engagement and recruitment strategy and, with the advice of the General Membership and approval of the Executive Board, shall effectuate the strategy. The Vice President may establish a committee to assist him or her in executing the strategy. In the event of a vacancy, the General Membership shall elect a replacement to complete the duration of the term until its regularly scheduled expiration.

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Vice President of Fundraising – Shall plan and execute fundraiser(s) with the advice of the General Membership and approval of the Executive Board as frequently as proscribed by a majority of the Executive Board. All monies raised must be direct to MCYD to be later disbursed. The Vice President may establish a committee to assist him or her in executing fundraiser(s). In the event of a vacancy, the General Membership shall elect a replacement to complete the duration of the term until its regularly scheduled expiration.

Treasurer – Establishes procedures to handle disbursements and expenditures; tracks and reports all receipts and disbursements; maintains all financial records for the MCYD and any MCYD-sanctioned caucuses and events; should the need arise, prepares filing reports to 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 Middlesex County Young Democrats at any reasonable time; shall become Executive Vice President in case of removal of the Executive 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 by-laws, 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; 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; shall maintain the official roster of the Middlesex County Young Democrats; shall maintain a record of all members present at official Middlesex County Young Democrats' publicly-advertised General Meetings and shall exercise such other powers and duties as may be assigned to the office of Secretary under the by-laws, and as delegated by the President.

Section 3: Standing Committees: the President shall appoint standing committees and their chairpersons to address issues of particular concern to the organization, which may include but not limited to:

- i. Black Caucus
- ii. Policy Committee
- iii. Committee on Women Engagement
- iv. South Asian Caucus
- v. High School Caucus
- vi. Latino Caucus
- viii. LGBTQ Caucus
- ix. Finance Committee
- x. Constitution and By-Laws Committee
- xi. Social/Events Committee

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Section 4: In several instances enumerated in these by-laws, the Executive Board and appointed Voting Board Members shall vote to conduct official business. Where applicable, a “majority of the Voting Board members” shall be defined as no less than one more than half of the eligible members voting in the affirmative. No individual person may have more than one vote. In the event of an absence from a Voting Board vote, Voting Board members may vote absentee through electronic means, including but not limited to, telephone, facsimile and e-mail.

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 Middlesex County Young Democrats’ members in good standing. 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. Elections shall be held each March at the annual Reorganization Meeting. The Executive Board shall give notice of the Reorganization Meeting and Election date thirty (30) days prior.

Section 3: A “member in good standing” shall be defined as a member on the current Middlesex County Young Democrats’ Membership Roster as maintained by the Secretary and certified by the President and the Chair of the Advisory Board prior to the annual Reorganization Meeting and is current on his or her membership dues. Additionally, members must have a documented record of attending at least two (2) publicly advertised Middlesex County Young Democrats General Meetings and at least one (1) volunteer opportunity offered or advertised by the Middlesex County Young Democrats as a membership activity within the previous one (1) year period beginning on or after March 27, 2017.

Section 4: In the event of a vacancy of an officer, Middlesex County Young Democrats may elect a replacement in accordance with the by-laws.

Section 5: Only eligible members may vote at the annual Reorganization Meeting and any General Meeting where by-laws are considered for ratification. Votes shall only be cast by members physically present.

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Article VI: Meetings

Section 1: Notice must be given to the Voting Board and the general membership of each regular and special meeting. A quorum shall be defined and assumed as a majority of the Voting Board present.

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

Article VII: Governance

Section 1: Amendments. These by-laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of physically present members 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 2: 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 Middlesex County Young Democrats; Executive Board discretion; and the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

Article VIII: Advisory Board

Section 1: An Advisory Board shall be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of a majority of the Executive Board.

Section 2: The Advisory Board shall be comprised of an unlimited amount of persons of any age and shall serve at the pleasure of a majority of the Executive Board. The Executive Board, by a majority vote, shall appoint an Advisory Board Chair annually following the March Reorganization Meeting to serve as the Advisory Board's spokesperson. With the advice and consent of the President and Advisory Board Chair, the Executive Board, by a majority vote, shall remove an Advisory Board member at any time.

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Section 3: The Advisory Board shall advise the Executive Board and General Membership about past practices, interpretations of chapter By-Laws and participate on committees or caucuses as desired.

Section 4: The Advisory Board shall administer and oversee the annual Reorganization Meeting Election process, including but not limited to, the eligibility of members, the design of the election ballot, the eligibility of candidates for the Executive Board and the process by which the election is conducted and the results calculated.