

El Paso County Young Democrats Constitution

ARTICLE I

Name and Affiliation

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the “El Paso County Young Democrats” and may be appropriately referred to as “EPCYD.”

Section 2. This organization shall, without objection, be affiliated with El Paso County Democratic Party.

Section 3. This organization shall apply as needed for affiliation with the Colorado Young Democrats.

ARTICLE II

Guiding Principles

Section 1. This organization shall, to the greatest extent legal and possible, be beneficial to Young Democrats.

Section 2. This organization shall actively support, to the greatest extent legal and possible, nominees of the local, state, and national Democratic parties.

Section 3. This organization shall remain neutral in Democratic primaries and shall not support or endorse any candidate who is not the official Democratic nominee for office.

Section 4. This organization may endorse or oppose non-candidate ballot initiatives by a unanimous vote of the executive board. If any board member chooses to recuse himself or herself from such a vote due to a conflict of interest or similar reason, a “unanimous vote” in this circumstance shall be defined as all voting board members, excluding the recused member.

Section 5. The executive board and this organization’s members shall not endorse or oppose candidates or ballot issues when representing himself or herself as a representative of this organization, unless this organization supports those candidates, as per the previous Sections of this Article.

ARTICLE III

Membership

Section 1. All Young Democrats in El Paso County shall be eligible for membership in this organization. A Young Democrat is defined as a pre-registered or registered Democrat in El Paso County, Colorado who has attained the age of sixteen (16) and not yet attained the age of thirty-six (36).

Section 2. Eligible Young Democrats may be required to, at the discretion of the executive board, register for membership with EPCYD and pay annual dues to be an active member of this organization.

ARTICLE IV

Executive Board

Section 1. This organization shall be governed by an executive board, comprised of a Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary, and three (3) at-large members elected by popular vote of the membership for a total of six (6) members.

Section 2. The executive board members have discretion to organize themselves as they see fit by a plurality vote of the board.

Section 3. The executive board shall meet at least six (6) times each year, with no more than two (2) meetings in any month qualifying to meet this obligation. In the event the executive board does not meet this obligation, the board shall be considered dissolved and a popular vote of the membership shall be held to determine a new board administered by the Colorado Young Democrats.

Section 4. Each executive board member shall attend at least seventy-five percent of the meetings of the executive board each year. In the event an executive board member fails to meet this obligation, this shall serve as grounds for removal by the other members of the executive board.

Section 5. Serving as an executive board member of this organization is contingent on maintaining eligibility as a member. In the event an executive board member loses that eligibility (i.e., due to change in age, political affiliation, or residency), and, upon ten (10) days notice, that board member either cannot or does not come into compliance with the requirements for membership, he or she shall be removed from the Board effective as of the next Board meeting.

Section 6. Any board member who actively undermines EPCYD, violates this Constitution, repeatedly fails to attend or participate in EPCYD meetings or activities, repeatedly fails to execute his, her, or their duties, or who otherwise similarly obstructs the mission of EPCYD, may be removed by a majority vote of serving board members. The board member(s) under consideration for removal must be notified via email at least five (5) days prior to the intent to

remove him, her or them. The board member(s) under consideration for removal may make an appeal to the other executive board members prior to the removal vote.

Section 7. In the event of a vacancy on the executive board, the executive board shall appoint a replacement executive board member from this organization's membership by a plurality vote to fill the remainder of the former board member's term. Appointments to fill a vacancy shall be made within thirty (30) days of the vacancy.

Section 8. The executive board shall have the power to create and dissolve special and/or temporary committees for specific purposes, defined by the executive board. These committees shall be composed of any group of two (2) or more members, appointed by the executive board.

Section 9. All expenses shall be made only to benefit this organization and shall be approved by the Chair and one other executive board member who shall be selected for the term at the first executive board meeting following elections and upon vacancy thereafter by a plurality vote of the executive board.

Section 10. The executive board of this organization shall have sole authority over decisions of the organization, with the exception of the dissolution of the board. All decisions, except where stated otherwise, are considered binding with a majority vote of the entire executive board.

ARTICLE V

Elections

Section 1. Elections of the executive board shall be held every year between March 15 and April 15.

Section 2. The current executive board shall be responsible for organizing elections, including the date, time, and location, each providing for reasonable attendance and participation of members and candidates for the executive board. The current executive board shall work with the Colorado Young Democrats to ensure best practices and Party rules are followed and may include the Colorado Young Democrats Executive Board in the organization of the elections and creation of election procedures. No current board member seeking to serve on the board for the following year will be involved with the election. If all current executive board members are candidates for the executive board, the current executive board shall work with the Colorado Young Democrats Executive Board and the El Paso County Democratic Party Officers to identify an election committee to conduct the election, including but not limited to the verification of candidate and member eligibility and vote tallying.

Section 3. The election shall be announced and sufficiently publicized by the outgoing executive

board, including through all normal communication mediums no later than twenty (20) days prior to the date of the election.

Section 4. Only eligible members of this organization may be candidates for the executive board. Candidates may declare their candidacy at any time following the previous election, but must declare their candidacy no later than ninety-six (96) hours prior to the time of the next scheduled election, in order to verify eligibility. Known declared candidates shall be included when all other candidates are being publicized. All candidates shall be given equal opportunity to be promoted through the means of this organization. Candidates for the executive board need not be present on the date of election to be eligible. Nothing in this section precludes the current executive board from establishing a deadline for members to declare their candidacy for inclusion in online ballots or early voting, if such methods are used.

Section 5. The executive board comprised of a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and at-large members shall be elected by a popular vote of this organization's membership, with the top three (3) vote receiving candidates being elected to fill the three (3) at large board positions.

Section 6. Voting may be conducted in any fashion that allows for the greatest participation of this organization's membership, but shall include in-person voting on the date of the election. All voting methods shall include reasonable assurance of security to prevent fraud or vote manipulation, including a method to ensure that only votes cast by eligible members are tallied. Election procedures shall be made available to all declared candidates.

Section 7. Votes shall not be tallied by any candidate for the executive board, including candidates serving on the current executive board. Candidates shall have the right to observe vote tallying.

Section 8. Any candidate for the executive board may, with reasonable cause, challenge the outcome of the election. In the event of such a challenge, the current executive board shall compile and organize all relevant election records for review by the leadership of the Colorado Young Democrats and the El Paso County Democratic Party, without the involvement of any candidates for the executive board. The Colorado Young Democrats and El Paso County Democratic Party may seek clarification from the executive board, but the board should otherwise not be involved in the challenge investigation. If the leadership of the Colorado Young Democrats and El Paso County Democrats determines that the outcome of the election was in error, the winners then determined by the leadership shall take office with the incoming executive board, or as soon as possible thereafter.

Section 9. The total number of valid votes cast may be made public with the election results and must be provided to members upon request. Democratic Party Rules do not allow for secret ballots and EPCYD must retain records of ballots for review for a period of forty-five (45) days after any election.

Section 10. Executive board terms shall start seven (7) days from the day of the election. The

current and incoming executive boards shall communicate about organization business during the transition period.

Section 11. The executive board members shall serve a term of one (1) year and are eligible for consecutive terms as long as they meet the criteria for membership. The term may be reasonably extended or shortened to accommodate the actual date of the election, provided the election falls between the dates outlined in Article V, Section 1.

ARTICLE VI

Bylaws

Section 1. The executive board shall have the authority to draft bylaws or other guiding documents beneficial to serving the purposes outlined in this Constitution.

Section 2. No bylaws or other guiding documents shall supersede anything explicit or implied in this Constitution.

ARTICLE VII

Changes to Constitution

Section 1. Changes to this Constitution can be made only by a vote of the members of this organization. A majority of the voters must approve the change and there must be at least twenty members who vote.

Section 2. The executive board can, at any time, call for a vote of the members to approve changes to this Constitution. Such a vote must be sufficiently publicized by the executive board, including through all normal communication mediums and held no sooner than ten (10) days after the date of the announcement. In-person voting is not necessary for Constitutional changes so long as other reasonable means for voting are provided and voting eligibility is verified.

Section 3. Any member of this organization can propose changes to this Constitution by collecting a number of valid signatures from eligible members equal to the number of voters in the last executive board election. A vote on those proposed changes by this organization's members shall take place at the discretion of the executive board, but no later than the next scheduled executive board election. Proposed changes and signatures can be submitted at anytime, but must be submitted to the executive board no later than ten (10) days prior to the next scheduled executive board election for them to be voted on in that election. Proposed changes shall be sufficiently publicized by the executive board, including through all normal communication mediums. Proposed changes shall not conflict with other parts of the

constitution to be considered a valid request for changes.

CERTIFICATION OF CONSTITUTION

The undersigned executive board members certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Official Constitution of the El Paso County Young Democrats. This Constitution shall be considered in effect from the date signed.