

North Carolina Association of Teen Democrats Plan of Organization



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Article I: Name, Abbreviations, and Affiliations

Section 1. Name.

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

Section 2. Abbreviations.

The following abbreviations are recognized when referring to their corresponding organizations in this document:

- A. NCATD - North Carolina Association of Teen Democrats
- B. NCDP - North Carolina Democratic Party
- C. YDNC - Young Democrats of North Carolina
- D. CDNC - College Democrats of North Carolina

Section 3. Affiliations.

The NCATD is recognized as the high school and teenage adjunct of the Young Democrats of North Carolina, the high school and teenage partner of the College Democrats of North Carolina, and the high school and teenage auxiliary of the North Carolina Democratic Party.

Article II: Mission and Purposes

Section 1. Mission.

The mission of the NCATD shall be to promote the interests of high school students and teenagers through activism and volunteering within the Democratic Party.

Section 2. Purposes.

The mission of the NCATD shall be fulfilled through six purposes, as detailed below:

1. To increase youth participation in the political process;
2. To encourage civil discourse among youth through compliance with the NCDP Plan of Organization;
3. To aid members as future leaders through engagement in professional development;
4. To promote elected officials and nominees for elected office affiliated with the Democratic Party through campaign volunteering and work;
5. To serve local, state, national, and international communities through participation in philanthropic events and causes; and
6. To promote the Democratic Party

Article III: Endorsement Policy

Section 1. Endorsement Policy.

This organization shall endorse and actively support the nominees of the Democratic Party in local, state, and national elections. This organization shall not endorse or support any candidate who has not been nominated by the Democratic Party for the office they seek in the current election cycle; however, individual members are free to do so.

Article IV: Membership

Section 1. Qualifications for Full Membership.

Any resident of North Carolina who is thirteen to fifteen years of age and currently enrolled in a public, private, or home-based middle or high school; or who is sixteen to nineteen years of age and has graduated high school within the last two months; shall be eligible for full membership within the NCATD. If resident is legally eligible to vote and over the age of 19, they must be registered to vote to become eligible for full membership

Section 2. Qualifications for Junior Membership.

Any resident of North Carolina who is twelve years of age or younger shall be eligible for junior membership within the NCATD.

Section 3. Qualifications for Associate Membership.

Any registered Democrat in North Carolina who is twenty years of age or older shall be eligible for associate membership within the NCATD.

Section 4. Removal.

Any full, junior, or associate member shall be immediately and permanently removed from the NCATD upon the unanimous agreement of the Executive Committee or upon the request of the adult advisor. The state chair of the NCDP shall have the power to overturn any removal.

Section 5. Membership Fees.

No fee shall be requested or imposed upon any person in exchange for membership in the NCATD or any of its local chapters.

Article V: Executive Board

Section 1. Composition.

The Executive Board shall be composed of a President, an Executive Vice President, a Vice President of Membership, a Vice President of Fundraising, and a Vice President of Communications. The President shall preside over all meetings of the Executive Board.

Section 2. Eligibility.

Members of the Executive Board must possess full membership throughout the entirety of their terms.

Section 3. Term Lengths.

Members of the Executive Board shall serve from seven days after their election until their successor takes office.

Section 4. Election.

Members of the Executive Board shall be elected by a majority of the votes cast at the annual state convention in accordance with the Executive Board Elections article of this document.

Section 5. Duties of the President.

The duties of the President shall be to serve actively on the NCDP Executive Council, the NCDP Executive Committee, the NCDP Platform and Resolutions Committee, the NCDP Auxiliary Presidents Committee, and the YDNC Executive Committee; to call and preside over meetings of the NCATD Executive Board as he or she sees fit; to manage and maintain the official NCATD website; to coordinate with the YDNC Executive Committee in scheduling and planning the annual YDNC-CDNC-NCATD Convention; to ensure that applications for appointed offices and filing forms for elected offices are easily accessible to the full membership; to ensure that the full membership is made aware of upcoming elections, appointments, events, and other relevant items; to plan and organize statewide events throughout his or her term; to participate in the creation of binding resolutions that may be adopted with the super majority of the Executive Board and majority of the Executive Committee; to work with the NCDP and its auxiliaries to expand the influence and public awareness of the NCATD; and to fulfill all other duties prescribed to this office within this document.

Section 6. Duties of the Executive Vice President.

The duties of the Executive Vice President shall be to call and preside over meetings of the Executive Committee as he or she sees fit; to attend to any duties prescribed to the President when the President is unable to fulfill them; to attend to any other relevant duties upon request from the President; to participate in the creation of binding resolutions that may be adopted with the super majority of the Executive Board and majority of the Executive Committee; to work with the NCDP and its auxiliaries to expand the influence and public awareness of the

NCATD; and to fulfill all other duties prescribed to this office within this document.

Section 7. Duties of the Vice President of Membership.

The duties of the Vice President of Membership shall be to keep detailed records of past and present membership, statewide leadership, adult advisors, senior advisory board members, county chapters, and county chapter leadership; to manage online forms allowing members to register, charter county chapters, and register new county chapter members; to coordinate with NCDP leaders, county Democratic Party leaders, high schools, and other organizations in order

to raise awareness of the NCATD, expand membership, and charter new county chapters; to engage in frequent communication with county chapters in order to assist in drafting bylaws, expanding membership, coordinating with high schools and other organizations, planning events, holding meetings, scheduling an annual convention, and conducting leadership elections; to monitor the fulfillment of the duties of the members of the Executive Committee; to participate in the creation of binding resolutions that may be adopted with the super majority of the Executive Board and majority of the Executive Committee; and to fulfill all other duties prescribed to this office within this document.

Section 8. Duties of the Vice President of Fundraising.

The duties of the Vice President of Fundraising shall be to manage a process by which the NCATD may properly collect, hold, and distribute funds; to keep detailed records of all revenues and expenditures; to assist county chapters in fundraising endeavors; to actively promote donations to the NCATD; to plan, organize, and preside over statewide fundraising efforts; to make the full membership aware of fundraising goals and opportunities; to participate in the creation of binding resolutions that may be adopted with the super majority of the Executive Board and majority of the Executive Committee; and to fulfill all other duties prescribed to this office within this document.

Section 9. Duties of the Vice President of Communications.

The duties of the Communications Director shall be to actively maintain and promote the presence of the NCATD on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and other relevant social media applications; to use social media applications to connect with Democratic persons and causes throughout North Carolina and elsewhere; to make the full membership aware of upcoming events and other relevant information through postings on social media; to participate in the creation of binding resolutions that may be adopted with the super majority of the Executive

Board and majority of the Executive Committee; to create graphic designs that may be used by the NCATD to promote membership, upcoming events, or causes; and to assist the Executive Board in managing and promoting the NCATD.

Section 10. Removal.

Members of the Executive Board may be removed by a 3/4 vote of the Executive Committee if said vote occurs during a single conference call or an in-person event.

Section 11. Vacancy.

Upon the removal, resignation, or incapacitation of a member of the Executive Board, the remaining members shall create an application for the vacated position. This application must be distributed to all full members and shall remain open for a period no less than fourteen days. The remaining members of the Executive Board shall then unanimously select an applicant to fill the vacated position within no more than thirty days of the initial vacancy. If the Executive Board is unable to come to a unanimous decision within thirty days of the initial vacancy, the NCATD Adult Advisor shall select an applicant to fill the Executive Board vacancy in question.

Section 12. Staff

The Executive Board may appoint an NCATD staff to aid in fulfilling these responsibilities and furthering the goals of NCATD as a whole. Applications are required to appoint NCATD Staff.

Section 13. Resolutions

The Executive Board may create binding resolutions with the approval from the super majority of the Executive Board and majority of the Executive Committee, consisting of the power to assign fluid duties, positions, protocols, allocation of resources, & statements, in the service of a goal set down by a resolution which consists of goals and summary and an assignment of responsibility to bearer's of responsibility for carrying out the resolution.

Fluid being defined as the state of being subject to unilateral change by bearers of responsibility. Resources being defined as any non human capital, this control of resources only applicable to the resources assigned to the resolution by the executive board. Change to the summary or goals would be a super majority.

Article VI: Executive Committee

Section 1. Composition.

The Executive Committee shall consist of the Executive Board and the presidents of all chartered county chapters. If the president of a county chapter does not wish to serve on the Executive Committee, he or she may choose a delegate from his or her chapter to serve instead. The Executive Vice President shall preside over meetings of the Executive Committee.

Section 2. Responsibilities.

The Executive Committee is responsible for facilitating organizational growth, coordinating communication between state and county chapters, and ensuring all full members are aware of upcoming events and opportunities. Members of the Executive Committee are also required to assist in planning and attend statewide events whenever possible. Members of the Executive Committee are also responsible for passing resolutions and amendments to the bylaws through a simple majority by vote after they were approved by the Executive Board through a super majority by vote.

Section 3. Communication.

The responsibilities of the Executive Committee shall in part be fulfilled through regular conference calls in which organizational growth, upcoming opportunities, and other relevant matters are discussed. These calls shall be organized and led by the Executive Vice President.

Section 4. Removal.

Members of the Executive Committee may be permanently removed by a 3/4 vote of the Executive Committee if said vote occurs during a single conference call or an in-person event.

Section 5. Reports

All chapters who are recognized as legitimate chapters of NCATD must file a monthly report to the NCATD Vice President of Membership. The content of the report is at the discretion of the NCATD Board's consensus.

Article VII: Adult Advisor

Section 1. Appointment.

The adult advisor to the NCATD shall be appointed by the state chair of the North Carolina Democratic Party, as referenced in Section 4.05 of the NCDP Plan of Organization.

Section 2. Responsibilities.

The adult advisor to the NCATD shall have the duty of propagating NCATD chapters throughout North Carolina and of providing guidance and coordination for NCATD operations.

Article VIII: Senior Advisory Board

Section 1. Composition.

The Senior Advisory Board shall consist of government officials, party officials, and associate members who wish to participate in the NCATD and assist in facilitating its success.

Section 2. Appointment.

The President of the NCATD shall appoint to the Senior Advisory Board any adult who seeks appointment and has demonstrated a history of dedication to Democratic Party ideals and causes.

Section 3. Responsibilities.

The responsibilities of the members of the Senior Advisory Board shall be to speak at and participate in NCATD events when able; to increase public awareness of the NCATD through social media and other communications; and to offer guidance to the NCATD in pursuing campaign volunteering opportunities, meetings with government officials, and other forms of engagement in the political process.

Section 4. Removal

The president may remove anyone from the senior advisory board with a second from the NCATD board member.

Section 5. Revaluations

After every executive board election the members of the senior advisory board must be reevaluated and reappointed.

Article IX: County Chapters

Section 1. Composition.

County chapters shall consist of two or more NCATD members from a single North Carolina county.

Section 2. Chartering.

County chapters may officially associate with the NCATD by submitting their chapter's location, list of leadership, and list of members to the Vice President of Membership. The Vice President of Membership shall manage an online form to accommodate this process.

Section 3. Adult Advisor.

Each county chapter shall have an adult advisor appointed by the chair of the county Democratic Party. This advisor shall assist the chapter in drafting bylaws, expanding membership, coordinating with high schools and other organizations, planning events, holding meetings, scheduling an annual convention, and conducting leadership elections. This advisor must also assure his or her county chapter is a chartered chapter of the NCATD.

Section 4. County Democratic Party Executive Committee Representation

As recognized in Section 2.01 of the NCDP Plan of Organization, the president and adult advisor

of each county's Teen Democrats shall equally share one vote on their county's Democratic Party Executive Committee. The county Executive Committee may choose to extend a full vote to both the president and the adult advisor.

Section 5. County Chapter Bylaws.

Each county chapter shall have a set of governing bylaws. These bylaws must be approved annually by a simple majority of the chapter's full membership and by the NCATD Executive Board. The President of the NCATD shall provide each county chapter with an optional set of recommended bylaws.

Section 6. Guidebook.

The President of the NCATD shall provide each county chapter with a guidebook that provides advice on drafting bylaws, expanding membership, coordinating with high schools and other organizations, planning events, holding meetings, scheduling an annual convention, and conducting leadership elections.

Section 7. County Executive Board.

Each county chapter shall have a county Executive Board consisting of a President, an Executive Vice President, a Vice President of Membership, and a Vice President of Fundraising; however, county chapters with two full members or three full members may assign multiple Executive Board positions to single members until four full members are available. Members of each county Executive Board must be elected by their county chapters and must possess full membership within their county chapter throughout the entirety of their terms. The term lengths, responsibilities, election procedures, removal procedures, and vacancy filling procedures for each county Executive Board shall be included within the county chapter bylaws.

Section 8. Additional County Leadership.

The Executive Board of each county chapter may opt to create additional appointed leadership positions per the advice of their county chapter bylaws. The term lengths, responsibilities, appointment procedures, removal procedures, and vacancy filling procedures of these positions shall be included within the county chapter bylaws.

Section 9. Membership Records.

Each county chapter shall regularly provide the Vice President of Membership with an updated record of past and present membership and leadership. The Vice President of Membership shall manage an online form to accommodate this process.

Section 10. Fundraising Records.

Each county chapter shall regularly provide the Vice President of Fundraising with an updated record of past and present fundraising statistics. The Vice President of Fundraising shall manage an online form to accommodate this process.

Article X: Annual Statewide Convention

Section 1. Timing and Location.

The annual statewide convention of the NCATD shall be held at the same time and location as the annual statewide conventions of the YDNC and CDNC, as determined by the YDNC Executive Committee.

Section 2. Notification.

All full members of the NCATD shall be informed of the time and location of the annual statewide convention no less than thirty days before its commencement.

Section 3. General Session.

The annual statewide convention of the NCATD shall contain a general session, in which amendments to the plan of organization, upcoming events, coordination with high schools and Democratic Party groups, and other relevant items shall be discussed. The general session shall also contain elections for the Executive Board. The President of the NCATD shall preside over all non-electoral discussions during the general session, while the adult advisor shall preside over elections for the Executive Board.

Article XI: Executive Board Elections

Section 1. Timing and Location.

Elections for each Executive Board position shall be held annually during the general session of the NCATD statewide convention.

Section 2. Filing of Candidacy.

In preparation for each annual statewide convention, the outgoing Executive Board shall prepare an online form through which full members may file to run for one Executive Board position. This form shall be made available to all full members for a filing period of fourteen days. This filing period shall occur no more than thirty days and no less than ten days before the commencement of the annual statewide convention.

Section 3. Candidate Platforms.

Each candidate for an Executive Board position may send a platform statement to the outgoing Executive Board during the filing period. Each platform statement may contain no more than five hundred words. The outgoing Executive Board shall provide all full members with each candidate's platform statement after the filing period but no less than seven days before the annual statewide convention.

Section 4. Fundraising.

No candidate may spend more than fifty dollars on campaign-related expenditures during the course of each election cycle. Each candidate must provide a report to the adult advisor detailing all campaign expenditures before or during the general session. Violation of this rule shall result in disqualification from running for any Executive Board position in the relevant election cycle.

Section 5. Determination of Candidate and Voter Credentials.

The adult advisor shall determine the full membership status of all those who wish to run for an Executive Board position. The adult advisor shall also determine the full membership status of all those present at the general session who wish to vote in the elections for Executive Board.

Section 6. Nominations from the Floor.

During the annual statewide convention, any full member may create a petition to be nominated

for an Executive Board position. This petition must be signed by at least five full members other than the member seeking nomination and must be submitted to the adult advisor before election proceedings for the position sought commence. Any full member having successfully filed a petition for nomination from the floor shall be considered a candidate for the position sought. No full member may be a candidate for two Executive Board positions at the same time.

Section 7. Withdrawal of Candidacy.

Any candidate for an Executive Board position may withdraw his or her candidacy at any time.

Section 8. Election for President.

After all non-electoral discussion during the NCATD general session has concluded, each candidate for President shall be entitled to deliver a presentation at most five minutes in length to the present membership. The order candidates are to present in shall be determined randomly by the adult advisor. After all candidates for President have concluded their presentations, all physically present full members shall be entitled to cast one vote for President in a manner prescribed by the adult advisor. The adult advisor shall then tally the votes and announce the results to the present membership. Each candidate for President or a chosen delegate thereof may be present at the tallying of the votes. All votes shall be made public after the results for the office are announced.

Section 9. Election for Executive Vice President.

After the results of the election for President have been announced, unsuccessful candidates for President may choose to instead run for Executive Vice President. Each candidate for Executive Vice President shall then be entitled to deliver a presentation at most five minutes in length to the present membership. The order candidates are to present in shall be determined randomly by the adult advisor. After all candidates for Executive Vice President have concluded their presentations, all physically present full members shall be entitled to cast one vote for Executive Vice President in a manner prescribed by the adult advisor. The adult advisor shall then tally the votes and announce the results to the present membership. Each candidate for Executive Vice President or a chosen delegate thereof may be present at the tallying of the votes. All votes shall be made public after the results for the office are announced.

Section 10. Election for Vice President of Membership.

After the results of the election for Executive Vice President have been announced, unsuccessful candidates for President and Executive Vice President may choose to instead run for Vice

President of Membership. Each candidate for Vice President of Membership shall then be entitled to deliver a presentation at most five minutes in length to the present membership. The order candidates are to present in shall be determined randomly by the adult advisor. After all candidates for Vice President of Membership have concluded their presentations, all physically present full members shall be entitled to cast one vote for Vice President of Membership in a manner prescribed by the adult advisor. The adult advisor shall then tally the votes and announce the results to the present membership. Each candidate for Vice President of Membership or a chosen delegate thereof may be present at the tallying of the votes. All votes shall be made public after the results for the office are announced.

Section 11. Election for Vice President of Fundraising.

After the results of the election for Vice President of Membership have been announced, unsuccessful candidates for President, Executive Vice President, and Vice President of Membership may choose to instead run for Vice President of Fundraising. Each candidate for Vice President of Fundraising shall then be entitled to deliver a presentation at most five minutes in length to the present membership. The order candidates are to present in shall be determined randomly by the adult advisor. After all candidates for Vice President of Fundraising have concluded their presentations, all physically present full members shall be entitled to cast one vote for Vice President of Fundraising in a manner prescribed by the adult advisor. The adult advisor shall then tally the votes and announce the results to the present membership. Each candidate for Vice President of Fundraising or a chosen delegate thereof may be present at the tallying of the votes. All votes shall be made public after the results for the office are announced.

Section 12. Election for Vice President of Communications.

After the results of the election for Vice President of Fundraising have been announced, unsuccessful candidates for President, Executive Vice President, Vice President of Membership, and Vice President of Fundraising may choose to instead run for Vice President of Communications. Each candidate for Vice President of Communications shall then be entitled to deliver a presentation at most five minutes in length to the present membership. The order candidates are to present in shall be determined randomly by the adult advisor. After all candidates for Vice President of Communications have concluded their presentations, all physically present full members shall be entitled to cast one vote for Vice President of Communications in a manner prescribed by the adult advisor. The adult advisor shall then tally the votes and announce the results to the present membership. Each candidate for Vice President of Fundraising or a chosen delegate thereof may be present at the tallying of the votes. All votes

shall be made public after the results for the office are announced.

Section 13. Ties.

If a tie for first place between multiple candidates occurs during any Executive Board election, then the candidates tied for first place shall engage in a runoff election for the office. Runoff election proceedings shall be held in a manner identical to initial election proceedings; however, only candidates tied for first place in the initial election are eligible for candidacy in the runoff election. Further ties shall result in subsequent runoffs until a single winner can be determined.

Section 14. Public Announcement of Results.

The outgoing Executive Board shall make all full members aware of the electoral results no more than forty-eight hours after the conclusion of the elections.

Section 15. Endorsements

Endorsements is the act of endorsing. Endorsing is to express approval of or to give public support especially public statements.

Current NCATD executive Board Members are not allowed to provide endorsements to any candidates running for NCATD Executive Board excluding endorsements of themselves.

Section 16. Statement of Ethics

All candidates must submit a statement of ethics to the NCATD board when filing their candidacy along with publishing this statement of ethics publicly at the latest three days after announcing their candidacy. A statement of ethics is defined as an expression of the values, practices and guidelines to run an ethical and fair campaign with integrity, honesty, professional competence, and professional behavior.

Section 17. North Carolina Election Law Compliance

As recognized in Section 2.2 of the NCDP Plan of Organization, NCATD will comply with North Carolina Election law.

Article XII: Amendments to the Plan of Organization

Section 1. Proposal of Amendments.

Any member of the NCATD may propose amendments to the NCATD Plan of Organization.

Section 2. Approval of Amendments.

Amendments to the NCATD Plan of Organization shall be approved by a 3/4 vote of the incumbent Executive Board and by a simple majority vote of the Executive Committee.

Section 3. Recording of Amendments.

All amendments to the NCATD Plan of Organization must be made aware of the full membership, updated in the publicly-available version of the Plan of Organization, and recorded in the Plan of Organization within forty-eight hours of their approval.

Article XIII: Adoption of the Plan of Organization

Section 1. Authority.

The adoption of this plan of organization confirms its authority as the supreme governing document of the North Carolina Association of Teen Democrats and fully dismisses the governing authority of all previous constitutions and bylaws adopted by this organization.

Section 2. Adoption.

This Plan of Organization has been adopted by the full Executive Board of the North Carolina Association of Teen Democrats on July 25, 2017.

This Plan of Organization was revised and re-ratified by the full Executive Board of the North Carolina Association of Teen Democrats and the North Carolina Democratic Party on February 28, 2021.