

High Desert Young Democrats
BYLAWS

ARTICLE 1 - Name, purpose, and guiding principles

Section 1 - Name

The name of this organization will be the High Desert Young Democrats (HDYD)

Section 2 - Mission

The mission of this organization is to bring together young democrats in the high desert to promote and enact a progressive democratic agenda.

Section 3 - Guiding principles

- We believe in inclusiveness as a guiding principle and aim to work alongside others toward positive social change.
- We believe that social justice is a function of economic equity, and that one cannot exist without the other.
- We believe that transparency and a community-driven process are central to an empowered and engaged democracy.
- We believe that empowerment is grounded in awareness, therefore we aim to create an environment of co-learning and co-teaching.

ARTICLE 2 - Organization and membership

Section 1 - Chaptering

High Desert Young Democrats will be chartered and affiliated with the California Young Democrats (CYD), and by and through the CYD, will be affiliated with the Young Democrats of America (YDA)

Section 2 - Membership

1. Membership will not be affected by any silly, undemocratic nonsense (race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, disability, gender, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, religion, ambidextrousness, halitosis, or even a generally disagreeable nature).
2. A Member in Good Standing (MGS) with the HDYD is expected to:
 - a. Pay the annual membership fee (\$25 for those currently able to pay, \$10 for those currently less able to pay, or altogether waived by the executive board);
 - b. Register with full name, address, email, phone number, date of birth, and employer and occupation in accordance with State of California campaign finance laws.
3. A MGS has the right to:
 - a. Attend and participate in all General Body meetings;

- b. Participate and serve on committees;
 - c. Oversee the creation of an ad-hoc committee;
 - d. Hold HDYD officer positions;
 - e. Vote in all General Meetings.
 - f. Be elected as the HDYD representative to the CYD Executive Board Meetings.
4. Honorary Membership is available to anyone not eligible for regular membership due to age, voter registration status, documentation status, etc. Dues are \$25 (waivers available). An Honorary Member:
- a. Has full voting powers in the General Meeting;
 - b. May not hold leadership positions within HDYD, or on its committees;
 - c. May not vote to endorse candidates.

Section 3 - Finance

- 1. The HDYD's bank account will be managed by a credit union.
- 2. The HDYD's bank account must be co-signed by two people of at least eighteen years of age.
 - a. Account signatories must not live in the same household or be otherwise related.
- 3. Expenses of \$100 or more require both signatures.
- 4. Executive board members have a discretionary expenditure limit of \$15.
- 5. All expenditures must be undertaken in pursuit of the goals of the HDYD.
- 6. Donations:

ARTICLE 3 - Officers

Section 1 - Elected Officers

- 1. The General Elected Officers are the voting members of the Executive Board.
 - a. A person may only hold one GEO position at a time.
- 2. The General Elected Officers are.
 - a. Chair
 - b. Co-Chair
 - c. Secretary
 - d. Treasurer
 - e. Parliamentarian

Section 2 - Standing Committee Chairs

- 1. The Standing Committee Chairs will be ex-officio, voting members of the executive board.

Section 3 - Duties of Officers

1. Chair
 - a. The Chair will be the chief executive officer of the organization.
 - b. The Chair will have the following duties:
 - i. Be at least 18 years of age;
 - ii. Co-sign the HDYD's bank account;
 - iii. Chair the Executive Board;
 - iv. Vote in the Executive Board meetings;
 - v. Coordinate with the General Elected Officers and Standing Committee Chairs to set an agenda for General Meetings;
 - vi. Ensure the members of the Executive Board execute their respective duties;
 - vii. Be an ex-officio member of the Elections Standing Committee;
 - viii. Preside over general meetings.
2. Co-Chair
 - a. The Co-Chair will have the following duties:
 - i. Co-Chair the Executive Board;
 - ii. Act as liaison between Executive Board and Committees with the intention of facilitating committees to fulfill their responsibilities;
 - iii. Vote in Executive Board meetings;
 - iv. Be an ex-officio member of the Membership Standing Committee;
 - v. Preside over general meetings in the absence of the Chair.
3. Secretary
 - a. The Secretary will have the following duties:
 - i. Vote in Executive Board meetings;
 - ii. Keep minutes for the Executive Board meetings;
 - iii. Assist the Chair in setting an agenda for General Meetings;
 - iv. Ensure minutes are kept for the General meetings;
 - v. Provide agendas to full membership prior to General Meetings;
 - vi. Provide agendas to Executive Board prior to Executive Board Meetings;
 - vii. Maintain an accurate mailing list and phone directory of all members;
 - viii. Be an ex-officio member of the Direct Action Standing Committee.
4. Treasurer

- a. The Treasurer will have the following duties:
 - i. Be at least 18 years of age;
 - ii. Setup and maintain a club bank account in accordance with the law;
 - iii. Co-sign the HDYD's bank account;
 - iv. Vote in Executive Board meetings;
 - v. Renew the FPPC ID number with the California Secretary of State;
 - vi. Keep accurate records of the HDYD's financial transactions;
 - vii. Prepare and deliver a financial report at both General Meetings and Executive Board meetings;
 - viii. Be an ex-officio member of the Fundraising Standing Committee.
5. Parliamentarian
 - a. The Parliamentarian will have the following duties:
 - i. Vote in Executive Board meetings;
 - ii. Update and maintain the HDYD Bylaws in accordance with its stated mission;
 - iii. Propose special rules and amendments to the bylaws to be approved by the Rules committee;
 - iv. To provide final interpretation (unless overruled by a special vote by other members of the Rules Committee) of rules and/or bylaws in the event of procedural disagreement;
 - v. Inform and remind members and Officers of procedural requirements during meetings and voting sessions, therefore maintaining order;
 - vi. Oversee balloting and voting mechanics during General and Executive Board Meetings;
 - vii. Moderate club Social Media Platforms on behalf of the Executive Board;
 - viii. Oversee the removal of Committee Chairs and the impeachment process of Elected Officers.
6. Standing Committee Chairs
 - a. Each Standing Committee Chair has the following duties;
 - i. Vote in Executive Board meetings;
 1. In the case that the Standing Committee Chair is also an Officer elected to the Executive Board, the Chair will appoint a member of the Standing Committee to serve as the Committee's voting Executive Board member.

- ii. Schedule Standing Committee meetings (at least one per month);
- iii. Report on the activities of their committee at General Meetings.

Section 4 - Election of Officers

1. Elections of officers will be held at the first General Body meeting of each calendar year.
2. All contested elections must be held by secret ballot.
3. Contested candidates may choose to give a speech prior to the casting of secret ballots.
4. Officers are elected by simple majority; if no candidate receives a majority the two candidates with the most votes will have an instant runoff election.
5. The out-going Parliamentarian and one MGS not standing for any elected positions will count the votes. In the case of the out-going Parliamentarian contesting an election, the out-going Secretary shall count the votes. In the case of the Secretary contesting the same election, the Treasurer shall count the votes. In the case that all three are running, another MGS not running will count the votes.

Section 5 - Election of Standing Committee Chairs

1. Election of Standing Committee Chairs will occur during the first meeting of that Standing Committee within each calendar year.
2. All members of each Committee will have a vote.
3. In the event of a contested election, procedures will follow, as closely as possible, the mechanisms of Elected Officer positions.

Section 6 - Term of Office and Vacancies

1. The term of office shall be the calendar year, or until a successor is elected.
2. A vacancy shall be filled with an interim officer appointed by the Chair until an election can be held at the next general election.
3. There are no term limits.

Section 7 - Executive Board

1. The HDYD Executive Board will be the chief policy and rules making chapter.
 - a. The Executive Board will make all effort to ensure any potentially contentious decisions are made in General Meetings.
2. The Generally Elected Officers of the Executive Board will have all the powers necessary for the proper and legal execution of all duties of the HDYD.
3. The Generally Elected Officers of the Executive Board will have authority to post information to social media on behalf of the HDYD pending approval by either the Chair or Co-Chair.

4. Any voting member of the Executive Board may refer any item to the General Meeting for resolution if they feel the Executive Board cannot speak for the club as a whole.
5. The Executive board will meet once per month.
6. Each Executive Board member is entitled to speak on a motion at least once prior to a motion to close debate being passed by the body.
7. Standing Committee Chairs are ex-officio members of the Executive Board and must make every effort to attend Executive Board meetings.
8. It is the overriding responsibility of the Executive Board to foster an environment wherein their presence at General Meetings is a facilitating rather than dictatorial one.
9. In the event the Chair is not available to preside over a meeting/carry out their duties, that responsibility falls first to the Co-chair, then Parliamentarian, then Secretary, then Treasurer.
10. Any MGS may attend, but not vote, in Executive Board meetings.

Article 4 - Committees

Section 1 - Standing Committees

1. The Standing Committees are: Membership, Direct Action, Rules, Elections, and Fundraising.
 - a. The specific policies/actions of each committee are theirs to establish, so long as they elect a Chair to represent them on the Executive Board.
2. The Standing Committees shall endeavor to meet monthly, but at least every two months.
3. Each Standing Committee, excepting the Rules Committee, is expected to present on a relevant topic to their work at each General Meeting.

Section 2 - Ad-Hoc Committees

1. A MGS may propose the creation of an Ad-Hoc Committee at any General Meeting, or, a member of the Executive Board may propose the same at an Executive Board meeting.
2. An Ad-Hoc Committee is formed by simple majority vote from the body to which it is proposed.
3. The Committee will follow the same procedures as a Standing Committee for the election of a Chair and the establishment of a specific approach.
4. At the Ad-Hoc Committee's creation, the General Body or Executive Board may vote, by simple majority, to empower the Ad-Hoc Committee Chair to vote on the Executive Board. In the event the Executive Board votes to deny that power, that no-vote must be ratified by the

General Body at the next General Meeting.

Article 5 - Caucuses

Section 1 - Rules

1. Any member may make a motion to create a caucus.
2. A caucus shall:
 - a. Have no less than 5 members, and must contain a Chair and Treasurer;
 - b. Meet at least once every two months;
 - c. Have one vote on the Executive Board (to be held by the Caucus's most senior representative not already in possession of a vote on the Executive Board).

Section 2 - Membership

1. Members of the caucus must be MGS of the HDYD

ARTICLE 6 - Procedure

Section 1 - Meetings

1. General Meetings (GM):
 - a. All General Meetings shall be open to any and everybody, and shall be governed by the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, unless other procedures are specified by these bylaws;
 - b. The General Body, members of the HDYD, shall meet once per month;
 - c. An agenda will be sent to members, or published in an accessible place, at least three days prior to a GM;
 - d. Minutes of the GM will be distributed or published in an accessible place within seven days of a GM.

Section 2 - Quorum

1. A quorum is defined as one-half of the members in good standing, up to and including a total HDYD membership of 20. Once general membership exceeds 20 members, a quorum is defined as one-third of the members in good standing.
2. A quorum is necessary for the election of Officers, candidate endorsement, amendments to bylaws, and any binding resolutions.
3. A MGS may empower another MGS to vote for them by proxy at any GM by communicating

that to the presiding officer prior to the GM. Proxy votes count towards meeting a quorum.

4. Quorum at E-board meetings is considered all members of the e-board.
 - a. If a member is absent, they will have 72 hours to vote via Google Forms.
 - b. If the vote of the absent members could not possibly affect the outcome of the vote (*i.e. there are 10 voters, 2 are absent, but there are 8 yeas, so the 2 cannot affect the outcome*) then the motion may carry without the absent members' votes.

Section 3 - Amendments to Bylaws

1. Amendments to these bylaws must be submitted in writing to the Parliamentarian at least prior to the rules committee preceding the general meeting at which the amendment will be considered. The Parliamentarian must then call into session the rules Committee and ask the Secretary to alert the General Body of the proposed amendment.
2. The amendment will be introduced to the General Body if approved by a simple majority in the Rules Committee. If the amendment fails, the Secretary will communicate that to the General Body. If the amendment passes, the Chair shall include the amendment in the agenda for the next GM.
3. Two-thirds of the General Body (in attendance, and if quorum is met) must vote in favor of the amendment for it to be adopted.
4. If the amendment is adopted, it goes into effect immediately, and the Parliamentarian shall make appropriate changes to the bylaws within seven days.
5. A link to proposed rules changes should be posted 72 hours prior to the general meeting so that there can be discussion or opinion forming prior to the general meeting.

Section 4 - Removal, Impeachment, and Expulsion

1. The Officers of the Executive Board elected by the General Body may remove anyone from an elected position by unanimous decision (excluding the Officer being voted on).
2. Elected Officers may be impeached on the following grounds:
 - a. Violating, or failing to fulfill the responsibilities set out in these bylaws, or the bylaws of the California Young Democrats;
 - b. Causing harm to the reputation or financial standing of the HDYD;
 - c. Engaging in conduct that would cause embarrassment or damage to the reputation of the HDYD (but let's watch out for conformist thinking here, and open ourselves up to the possibility of righteous embarrassment).

3. Impeachment procedures are as follows:
 - a. The written charge must be brought by no fewer than five members of the HDYD, or by a minimum of three of the Elected Officers of the Executive Board, to the Parliamentarian;
 - i. In the event the Parliamentarian is charged, the written charge must be brought to another Elected Officer of the Executive Board.
 - b. The Parliamentarian must then notify the accused Officer and all members of the Executive Board no less than three days prior to the meeting in which impeachment will be discussed;
 - i. In the event the Parliamentarian is charged, the Elected Officer in receipt of the charges is responsible for notifications
 - c. Elected members of the Executive Board who are not charged and the Rules Committee shall temporarily merge to form the Judicial Action Committee (JAC), chaired by the Parliamentarian, to hear the testimony of the person or persons charged;
 - i. In the event the Parliamentarian is charged, another member of the rules Committee shall chair the JAC.
 - d. If the JAC finds that the evidence is insufficient to warrant proceedings, the charge shall be dismissed;
 - e. If the JAC finds there is sufficient evidence to warrant proceedings against the accused Officer, the JAC shall hold a hearing, after due and timely notice (seven days), to conduct fact-finding and hear the response of the accused.
 - i. Witnesses for both the accuser and the accused may give testimony at the hearing;
 - ii. After submission of all the evidence the committee shall make ultimate resolution of the dispute;
 - iii. Guilty verdicts require three-fifths majority of the JAC;
 - iv. The findings of the committee shall be final upon confirmation by the General Body at the next GM. A four-fifths majority vote against the verdict is required to overturn the decision of the JAC.
4. A member may be expelled from the HDYD if:
 - a. She/he engaged in work contrary to the HDYD's mission or has caused damaged to HDYD's organization or reputation;
 - b. Hershel ceases to be a registered democrat;

- i. Exceptions shall be made for undocumented Americans.
- c. She/he has an outstanding balance for dues;
- d. Hershel has four unexplained absences.
 - i. For purposes of determining absence, the Executive Board must be notified at least two days prior to a meeting;
 - ii. Four consecutive unexcused absences from schedules GM shall be considered voluntary resignation and constitute automatic removal from the organization;
 - iii. To voting Officers of the Executive Board may choose whether or not to enforce the attendance policy on a case-by-case basis.

Article 7 - Endorsements

Section 1- Endorsements

- 1. The HDYD, as a body chartered with the California Young Democrats and subject to its bylaws, may endorse or support the candidacy of any registered Democrat provided that the chartered chapter uses only its official name in conjunction with the endorsement and not the name of the California Young Democrats.
- 2. The HDYD may choose to endorse non-democrats.

Article 8 - Social Media

Section 1 - Account establishment, administration, and management.

- 1. Social media accounts shall:
 - a. Be established with simple majority approval by MGS in a general meeting;
 - b. Have logins documented clearly and without delay in the established shared document for administrators/moderators;
 - c. Be voluntarily managed by no less than 1 vol MGS and 1 executive board member, both to be approved by a simple majority vote ;
 - d. Be made available to all MGS;
 - e. Not bear the name High Desert Young Democrats if these conditions are not met.

Section 2 - Content

- 1. HDYD will share and publish only information which is:
 - a. Well-sourced, vetted, and fact-checked, if purporting to be factual;
 - b. Unbiased, or honest about its biases;
 - c. Intended to prompt constructive discussions about relevant issues;

- d. Relevant to the mission of this organization.
2. HDYD shared content shall be:
 - a. Events, activities, and action announcements;
 - b. Articles on relevant events, government actions, and Democratic Party announcements, platform changes, or pending actions;
 - c. Published only upon moderator approval.
3. HDYD moderators have the authority to delete comments & interactions or turn off commenting when:
 - a. Inflammatory, abusive, derogatory, or diminutive language is used;
 - b. Arguments have devolved to a series of logical fallacies;
 - c. Statements are made counter to the mission of, or bringing disrepute upon, the HDYD.

Section 2 - Platforms

4. The HDYD Facebook Page shall:
 - a. Be the open and public-facing connection point for club communication;
 - b. Be used to make public-facing announcements, events, and activities, as well as sharing platform-supported content from vetted news sources;
 - c. Be administrated by no less than 1 MGS and 1 Executive Board member. Additional users may be moderators or administrators pending nomination by an Executive Board member or MGS and majority confirmation by the Executive Board.
5. The HDYD Facebook Group shall:
 - a. Be open only to MGS and prospective members;
 - b. Be an internal connection point for club members to share and discuss information in between meetings;
 - c. Be administrated by no less than 1 MGS and 1 Executive Board member. Additional users may be moderators or administrators pending nomination by an Executive Board member or MGS and majority confirmation by the Executive Board;
 - d. Require new member approval by administrators.
6. Other Social Media Platforms shall:
 - a. Be proposed by any MGS;
 - b. Be approved by the general body by a simple majority vote;
 - c. Be the open and public-facing connection point for club communication;
 - d. Be used to make public-facing announcements, events, and activities, as well as sharing

platform-supported content from vetted news sources;

- e. Be administrated by no less than 1 MGS and 1 Executive Board member. Additional users may be moderators or administrators pending nomination by an Executive Board member or MGS and majority confirmation by the Executive Board.