



Constitution of the Texas College Democrats

Ratified on November 14, 2020

Article I. Name

The name of this Federation shall be Texas College Democrats, (herein referred to as "the Federation").

Article II. Purpose

The purpose of the Federation shall be to charter chapters in colleges and universities across Texas, to promote awareness of issues affecting students, to bring more college students into the political process, to further the interests of the Democratic Party, to elect Democrats across the state, and to educate college students about the philosophy of the Democratic Party.

Article III. Chartered Chapters

1. **Chartered Chapters.** The Federation shall be composed of local, autonomous chapters, representing post-secondary educational institutions recognized by the State of Texas. Only one chartered chapter shall represent each institution at a time.
2. **Charter Application Requirements.** Charters shall be granted to chapters who have provided the following to the Director of Membership:
 - a. The name of the chapter; and,
 - b. A Constitution; and,
 - c. A membership roster which includes the names of chapter officers, chapter members, their emails; and,
 - d. The classification of each member.
3. **Granting Permanent Charters.** Chapters may receive an interim charter by submitting an application to the Director of Membership. The Director of Membership shall report granted interim charters to the Council of the Federation at its next meeting. The Council shall grant chapters a permanent charter by a majority vote.
4. **Updating of a Charter.** Each chartered chapter shall submit updated information to the Director of Membership, which includes any updates to their governing documents and membership roster, between November 1 and December 31 of each year. A chapter that fails to

submit this information in two (2) consecutive years shall lose its charter.

5. **Submission of Chapter Officers.** Each chartered chapter shall submit an updated officer roster to the Director of Membership when any new officers are elected or appointed.
6. **Fees.** The Federation shall not charge membership or chartering fees to individuals or chapters.
7. **Revoking a Charter.** Petitions to revoke a charter shall be received by the Committee on Rules, which may or may not report the petition to the Council. The Council may revoke a charter by two-thirds vote only if it has received a report from the Committee on Rules on the petition. The Council may not discharge the Committee on Rules from consideration of a petition to revoke a charter.
8. **Dual Charters.** Chartered chapters shall be allowed to dual charter with the Federation and the Texas Young Democrats simultaneously.

Article IV. Members

1. **Enrollment Requirement.** Democrats who are enrolled in a post-secondary educational institution recognized by the State of Texas are eligible for membership in the Federation. Any member that holds an elected or appointed office in the Federation shall remain a member of the Federation for the remainder of their term regardless of the enrollment requirements, and will retain any voting rights applicable to their office during that period.
2. **Members.** Regular membership in the Federation shall be granted to individuals who meet all membership requirements in the governing documents of the Federation and either:
 1. Are members of chartered chapters of the Federation; or,
 2. Are granted at-large membership by providing the following to the Director of Membership:
 1. Their name; and,
 2. Their email address; and,

3. The name of the school they attend; and,
 4. Their classification; and,
 5. Verification of enrollment.
3. **Special Types of Membership.** Special types of membership may be established that do not meet the standard criteria for membership, as defined in the Bylaws. Special memberships shall not be granted voting privileges or be eligible for election as an officer of the Federation.

Article V. Officers

1. **Elected Officers.** The Elected Officers of the Federation shall be the President, Vice President, Director of Communications, Director of Membership, Director of Equity and Inclusion, Director of Finance, Director of Political Affairs, Director of Programs, and Secretary.
2. **Eligibility.** The Elected and Appointed Officers of the Federation must be members of the Federation as stated in Article IV Section 2.
3. **Elections.** All Elected Officers shall be elected at the State Convention. Candidates for office may notify the Secretary and the Committee on Rules of their intention to run for office; such candidates are considered to have been nominated. The Secretary or the Committee on Rules shall distribute the names of candidates. Candidate nominations from the floor are in order.
4. **Ballots.** The Elected Officers shall be elected by signed ballot, which is simple and easy to understand, and shall include all eligible candidates.
5. **Ranked Choice Voting.** Elected Officers shall be elected using a system of ranked choice voting (also known as instant runoff voting) under which each voter shall rank the candidates for the office in the order of the voter's preference.
6. **Joint Election of the President and Vice President.**
 1. The President and Vice President shall be elected on the same ballot.

2. Any two people elected President and Vice President must be of different gender identities or have at least one identifying as Black, Indigenous, or a Person of Color.
3. This section does not apply when filling a vacancy.
7. **Length of a Term.** The term of Elected Officers shall begin at 12:01 a.m. Central Time (11:01 p.m. Mountain Time) on the third day after the last day of the State Convention. They shall serve until the terms of their successors begin, and until their successors are elected. Elected Officers may be removed from office as provided by Section 18 of this article.
8. **Term Limits.** No member shall serve more than two terms in the same office.
9. **Duties.** The officers of the Federation shall execute the duties assigned to them by the governing documents of the Federation, the President, the Executive Board, and the parliamentary authority of the Federation.
10. **College Democrats of America National Council.** The President shall represent the Federation on the College Democrats of America National Council. The Executive Board shall appoint by majority vote as many other representatives to the National Council as the College Democrats of America permit.
11. **State Democratic Executive Committee.** The Executive Board shall appoint by majority vote representatives to the State Democratic Executive Committee as the Texas Democratic Party permits.
12. **Political Action Committee (P.A.C.) Treasurer.** The Director of Finance is the P.A.C. Treasurer and is personally liable for penalties that arise from improper performance of their duties as such.
13. **Vacancy in the Office of President.** When a vacancy occurs in the Office of President, the Vice President shall become President. If there is a vacancy in the Office of President and Vice President, the Elected Officer who is highest on the list in Section 1 of this Article shall become President. Any officer that ascends to the Office of President under this section shall vacate their original offices.

14. **Vacancies in Other Elected Offices.** When a vacancy occurs in the Elected Offices other than the Office of President, the President shall appoint a member who shall exercise the powers and duties of that office and act as such until the Council of the Federation meets to appoint their successor by majority vote.
15. **Appointed Officers.** Each Elected Officer may appoint such officers as are needed to aid in the operation of the Federation, with majority approval of the Executive Board. For officers appointed by the Elected Officers, the Elected Officer who appointed them shall have full power to remove the appointed individual.
16. **President Emeritus.** The outgoing President of the Federation may be granted the title of President Emeritus by the incoming Executive Board.
17. **The Speaker.**
 1. **Appointment of the Speaker.** The Executive Board shall appoint by majority vote the Speaker who shall preside over the Council of the Federation and serve as parliamentarian of the Federation.
 2. **Qualifications of the Speaker.** The Speaker shall not be the President, the Vice President, president of a chapter, or the chair of a caucus, and may not represent a chapter or a caucus on the Council. The Speaker shall be learned in parliamentary law and the procedures of the Federation.
 3. **Speaker pro tempore and Clerk.** The Speaker shall, at the first meeting of the Council, appoint a Speaker pro tempore and a Clerk from the membership of the Council.
 4. **Inability to Preside.** If the Speaker declines or is unable to preside over a motion, the presiding officer shall be the Speaker pro tempore, an appointed chair pro tempore, or an elected chair pro tempore as prescribed by the parliamentary authority of the Federation.
 5. **Prohibited Conduct of the Speaker.** The Speaker shall not have a vote on the Council. The Speaker shall not publicly support or oppose candidates for office in the Federation.

18. **Removal from Office.**

1. **Removal by the Council.** An Elected Officer of the Federation may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the Council.
2. **Impeachment by the Executive Board and Removal by the Council.** An Elected Officer of the Federation may be impeached by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Board. Impeached officers may not discharge the duties of their office. The Council shall meet within one (1) week following the impeachment of an officer to vote to remove the officer by a two-thirds vote of the Council. If the Council does not meet within two (2) weeks following the impeachment of an officer, the impeached officer shall be removed from office. This question may only be referred to a committee by a two-thirds vote, may not be dismissed, and the Council may not adjourn until the question has been decided.
3. **Subject to Removal.** All Elected and Appointed Officers of the Federation shall be subject to removal from office for tending to injure the good name of the Federation, disturb its well-being, or hamper it in its work; or, for misfeasance, malfeasance or nonfeasance of assigned duties as per these governing documents; or, for violations of any law or rule of the Federation; or, for committing a felony under the laws of the State of Texas or the United States of America while in office; or, for failure to maintain decorum while acting in a capacity as an officer of the Federation.

Article VI. The State Convention

1. **Authority.** The State Convention shall be the highest authority of the Federation, subject to the provisions of the Federation's governing documents.
2. **Delegations.** All chartered chapters in compliance with Article III shall be considered delegations for purposes of the State Convention; all at-large members, per the requirements specified in Article IV, shall be considered one delegation. All votes at the State Convention are

weighted equally, except as this section otherwise provides. If fewer than three members from a given delegation vote on a question, that delegation's voting members shall have the combined voting strength of three ordinary voters, split equally amongst them. If more than nine members from a given delegation vote on a question, that delegation's voting members shall be limited to a voting strength of nine ordinary voters, split equally amongst them. When calculating voting strength under this section, the presiding officer is counted as if they were a member of their delegation who voted on the question.

3. **Time and Place.** The Council of the Federation shall determine, by majority vote, the place and time of the State Convention with the consent of the host chapter. The State Convention shall be between March 15 and April 15 every year, unless this requirement is suspended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Council.

4. **Meetings Held Electronically.**

1. At a meeting of the State Convention held in person, members who are not present in person shall have the right to participate by telephone or through the use of Internet meeting services designated by the Director of Programs, Director of Communications, and President that support simultaneous aural communication, subject to any limitations established in rules adopted by the Council of the Federation to govern such participation.
2. By a majority vote of the Council of the Federation, meetings of the State Convention may be conducted through use of Internet meeting services designated by the Director of Programs, Director of Communications, and President that support voting and support visible displays identifying those participating, identifying those seeking recognition to speak, showing (or permitting the retrieval of) the text of pending motions, and showing the results of votes. These electronic meetings of the State Convention shall be subject to all rules adopted by the Council to govern them, which may include any reasonable limitations on, and requirements for,

participation. Any such rules adopted by the Council shall supersede any conflicting rules in the parliamentary authority, but may not otherwise conflict with or alter any rule or decision of the Federation. A vote conducted through the designated Internet service subject to applicable rules in the Bylaws shall be deemed a ballot vote, fulfilling any requirement in the governing documents or rules that a vote be conducted by ballot.

5. **Call.** The Call for the State Convention shall be issued by the President no later than two months prior to the selected convention date to all chartered chapters and such affiliated groups as the President may be able to contact.
6. **Convention Officers.** The Director of Programs shall be responsible for planning the convention, and may designate whatever such assistants as may be necessary to plan, to arrange, and to conduct the work of the Convention. The President shall appoint the Convention Chair, who shall call to order and preside over the State Convention and shall, with the Director of Programs, appoint the Convention Vice Chair and Convention Secretary.

Article VII. The Council of the Federation

1. **Authority.** The Council of the Federation shall have full power and authority between State Conventions, except for that which is reserved for the State Convention, subject to the provisions of the Federation's governing documents.
2. **Members.** The Council shall be made up of one (1) representative per chartered chapter who shall be the president of the chartered chapter, unless the governing documents of the chapter otherwise provide, and one (1) representative of each of the identity caucuses as stated in the Bylaws who shall be the chair of the caucus, unless the governing documents of the caucus otherwise provide. Members of the Executive Board may not represent chapters or caucuses on the Council. The representative shall be able to proxy their vote to another member of the

chapter. One-fourth (1/4) of the members of the Council shall constitute a quorum.

3. **Time and Place.** The Council shall have regular meetings once (1) in every even numbered month and shall meet during Convention if the Convention is scheduled in an even numbered month.
4. **Public Session.** Meetings of the Council shall be held in public session. The Council may vote to move into executive session as prescribed by the parliamentary authority of the Federation.
5. **Meetings Held Electronically.** Except as otherwise provided in the governing documents, meetings of the Council may be conducted through use of Internet meeting services designated by the Speaker, Director of Communications, and President that support voting and support visible displays identifying those participating, identifying those seeking recognition to speak, showing (or permitting the retrieval of) the text of pending motions, and showing the results of votes. These electronic meetings of the Council shall be subject to all rules adopted by the Council to govern them, which may include any reasonable limitations on, and requirements for, participation. Any such rules adopted by the Council shall supersede any conflicting rules in the parliamentary authority, but may not otherwise conflict with or alter any rule or decision of the Federation. A vote conducted through the designated Internet service subject to applicable rules in the Bylaws shall be deemed a ballot vote, fulfilling any requirement in the governing documents or rules that a vote be conducted by ballot.
6. **Call.** The Call for the Council shall be issued by the Speaker no later than two weeks prior to the selected meeting date to all members of the Council.
7. **Special Meetings.** A special meeting of the Council may be called by one-fifth of the members of the Council, the Speaker, or the President no later than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the selected meeting time.

Article VIII: Executive Board

1. **Authority.** The Executive Board shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Federation.
2. **Members.** All Elected Officers shall be members of the Executive Board. A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.
3. **Time and Place.** The Executive Board shall have regular meetings at least once (1) a month.
4. **Public Session.** Meetings of the Board shall be held in public session. The Board may vote to move into executive session as prescribed by the parliamentary authority of the Federation.
5. **Meetings Held Electronically.** Except as otherwise provided in the governing documents, meetings of the Executive Board shall be conducted through use of Internet meeting services designated by the Director of Communications and President that support voting and support visible displays identifying those participating, identifying those seeking recognition to speak, showing (or permitting the retrieval of) the text of pending motions, and showing the results of votes. These electronic meetings of the Executive Board shall be subject to all rules adopted by the Board to govern them, which may include any reasonable limitations on, and requirements for, participation. Any such rules adopted by the Board shall supersede any conflicting rules in the parliamentary authority, but may not otherwise conflict with or alter any rule or decision of the Federation. Any vote conducted through the designated Internet service subject to applicable rules in the Bylaws shall be deemed a ballot vote, fulfilling any requirement in the governing documents or rules that a vote be conducted by ballot.
6. **Call.** The President shall call meetings of the Executive Board no later than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the selected meeting time.
7. **Special Meetings.** A special meeting of the Executive Board may be called by three Elected or Appointed Officers, or the President no later than forty-eight hours prior to the selected meeting date.

Article IX: Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* shall govern the Federation in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Constitution, Bylaws, and any special rules of order the Federation may adopt.

Article X: Non-Discrimination Clause

The Federation does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), national origin, sex, gender identity, gender expression, age, marital status, sexual orientation, disability (accessibility), or military status in any of its activities or operations.

Article X: Amending of the Constitution

This Constitution may be amended at the State Convention by a two-thirds vote, provided that the amendment has been submitted to the Committee on Rules and to the Secretary at least thirty (30) days prior to the State Convention. The Secretary or the Committee on Rules shall distribute the text of the amendment to each chapter at least twenty-eight (28) days prior to the State Convention. The amendment shall be amendable by the State Convention.

Provisos.

1. The Diversity and Inclusion Liaison at the time of adoption shall become the Director of Equity and Inclusion and shall have all of the privileges and duties of an Elected Officer until the end of the term.
2. At the Executive Board meeting following the time of adoption, the Board shall appoint a Speaker.
3. The Council shall not be required to meet in the month this Constitution is adopted.

Committee on Rules

J.J. Martinez, Chair
Tyra Allen
McKenzie McPherson
Alex Meed
Johnny Ruffier

Executive Board

Joe Cascino, President
Brennan Munson, Vice President
J.J. Martinez, Communications Director
Sam Dennehy, Political Affairs Director
Moses Glickman, Development Director
Miranda De La Garza, Programs Director
Larissa Charles, Membership Director
Tyra Allen, Secretary
Gabrielle Harris, President Emeritus

