



The College Democrats of South Carolina

Constitution and Bylaws

Preamble

In order to promote a just and strong society in which equality, opportunity, and freedom thrive, we dedicate ourselves to organizing the participation of Democratic college students of the state of South Carolina. In this mission, we call for the participation of all Democrats attending colleges and universities in South Carolina regardless of gender identity, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, ability status, socioeconomic status, or sexual orientation.

Due to the importance of participation in the Democratic Party to the preservation of our values and principles, we, Democratic college students, do hereby associate and adopt this constitution as the College Democrats of South Carolina.

Article I: Name and Purpose

Section 1. NAME — The name of this organization shall be the College Democrats of South Carolina, hereinafter referred to in this document as CDSC.

Section 2. PURPOSE — CDSC pledges itself to support the philosophy and candidates of the Democratic Party at the local, state, and national levels. Furthermore, CDSC declares its intention to support all efforts to increase the participation of college students in the Democratic Party. To these ends, CDSC shall educate and train members so that they may be better able to:

1. Educate students about the philosophy of the Democratic Party,

2. Work to elect local, state, and national Democratic candidates,
3. Affect positive political change on the local, state, and national levels,
4. Work with all Democrats across the State of South Carolina to promote the agenda of the Democratic Party,
5. Make Strategic Partnerships in the community to further build trust and participation in the Democratic Party.

Article II. Chartered Chapters

Section 1: CHARTERED CHAPTERS — The CDSC shall be composed of local, autonomous chapters, representing post-secondary educational institutions recognized by the State of South Carolina. Only one chartered chapter shall represent each institution at a time.

Section 2: CHARTER APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS — Charters shall be granted to chapters who have provided the following to the Membership Director:

1. The name of the chapter; and,
2. A roster which includes the names of chapter officers and their respective emails

Section 3: GRANTING PERMANENT CHARTERS — Chapters may receive an interim charter by submitting an application to the Membership Director. The Membership Director shall report granted interim charters to the State Council (hereinafter referred to as “the Council”) at its next meeting. The Council shall grant chapters a permanent charter by a majority vote.

Section 4: UPDATING OF A CHARTER — Each chartered chapter shall submit updated information to the Membership Director, which includes any updates to their governing documents and membership roster, on September 30 and March 1 of each year. A chapter that fails to submit this information in two (2) consecutive years shall lose its charter.

Section 5: SUBMISSION OF CHAPTER OFFICERS — Each chartered chapter shall submit an updated officer roster to the Membership Director when any new officers are elected or appointed.

Section 6: FEES — The CDSC shall not charge membership or chartering fees to individuals or chapters.

Section 7. REVOKING A CHARTER — Petitions to revoke a charter shall be received by the Vice President, which may or may not report the petition to the State Council. The State Council may revoke a charter by two-thirds (2/3) vote only if it has received a report from the Vice President on the petition.

Article III: Membership

Section 1: ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENT — Membership in CDSC shall be open to any Democrats who are enrolled in a postsecondary educational institution recognized by the State of South Carolina and who have the best interests of the College Democrats and the Democratic Party at heart, regardless of gender identity, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, ability status, socioeconomic status, or sexual orientation.

Section 2: ACTIVE MEMBER STATUS — An active member will be considered any college student who attends two or more College Democrats meetings or sponsored events.

Section 3: MEMBERSHIP WHILE IN CDSC OFFICE — Any member that holds an elected or appointed office in the CDSC shall remain a member of the CDSC for the remainder of their term regardless of the enrollment requirements, and will retain any voting rights applicable to their office during that period.

Article IV: The Executive Board:

Section 1: COMPOSITION: The Executive Board shall be composed of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Political Director, Communications Director, Membership Director, Treasurer, I.D.E.A Director, Upstate Regional Director, Midlands Regional Director, and Lowcountry Regional Director.

Section 2: The President, Vice President, Treasurer, Political Director, Communications Director, Membership Director, and I.D.E.A Director will be elected annually at the General Election, to be held at the convention.

Section 3: The Upstate Regional Director, Midlands Regional Director, and Lowcountry Regional Director will be elected by the members of their region annually at the General Election.

Section 4: The Executive Officers may be assisted by Subordinate Officers, to be appointed by the Executive Officer under which they serve. Subordinate Offices may be created or eliminated at any time with the majority consent of the executive board.

Section 5: The Executive Board shall determine the agenda and policy of CDSC, taking into account the constitution, bylaws, and code of conduct of the College Democrats of America (CDA).

Section 6: The Executive Board members shall, at the start of the 2019 Convention, structure federation leadership, so that no more than two students from the same chapter can serve simultaneously on the executive board. If there is not sufficient diversity among candidates for office, this rule may be overridden by a two-thirds majority of convention attendees.

Article V: Duties of the Executive Board

Section 1: All Executive Board members must maintain active involvement in CDSC activities, as well the activities of their own chapters.

Section 2: All Executive Board members must participate in the designated meeting, to be held at least once a month. Failure to participate in 3 or more meetings per term with no notification will result in an investigation and possible impeachment.

Section 3: All Executive Board members must be sworn in after they are elected using the following oath: “I swear to fulfill my duties as outlined in the College Democrats of South Carolina Constitution, follow the guidelines as found in the CDSC Constitution, and serve on behalf of all College Democrats of South Carolina members and the Democratic Party.

Section 4: THE PRESIDENT SHALL:

- (1)** Be the Chief Executive Officer of the College Democrats
- (2)** Direct the agenda of the College Democrats during their tenure
- (3)** Act as the official representative of the College Democrats to other groups and the media
- (4)** Carry out the mandates, policies, and directives of the Executive Board
- (5)** Preside over all meetings of the College Democrats
- (6)** Maintain a relationship with the South Carolina Democratic Party, South Carolina Democratic Women’s Council, Young Democrats of South Carolina, Senate and House Democratic Caucuses, and other democratic affiliated groups
- (7)** Maintain communication between the College Democrats, College Democrats of America, and neighboring state chapters

(8) Act as the primary representative to the National Council

Section 5: THE VICE PRESIDENT SHALL:

(1) Assist the President in the performance of his or her duties, including developing new initiatives and furthering the progress of the Executive Board and organization as a whole

(2) Perform duties as the President may assign

(3) Assume the position of President in the event the current President is unable to do his or her duties

(5) Act as a representative to the National Council

(6) Act as Chair of the State Council

Section 6: THE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR SHALL:

(1) Publicize all CDSC events to ensure visibility

(2) Update all current forms of social media, including but not limited to Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram

(3) Perform such duties as the President may assign

(4) Maintain the CDSC Website along with the Treasurer at the direction of the President

(5) Help the President with media requests and organize involvement in Press Conferences at the direction of the President

Section 7: THE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR SHALL:

(1) Keep an accurate record of all chapters and members

- (2) Keep an accurate record of all CDSC activities
- (3) Record attendance at all Executive Board meetings
- (4) Assist chapter Presidents in planning events to boost and maintain membership
- (5) Perform duties as the President may assign
- (6) Manage all activities regarding membership of CDSC including, but not limited to assisting in the creation of new campus chapters, increasing membership, re-certifying campus chapters, and managing distribution of necessary credentials for College Democrats.

Section 8: THE TREASURER SHALL:

- (1) Oversee all direct fundraising activities and prepare all grants
- (2) Manage the bank account and budget along with the President
- (3) Submit a budget proposal each semester for deliberation and approval by the Executive Board
- (4) Oversee, uphold, and log the fundraising platform of each chapter
- (5) Attend all College Democrats budget meetings and workshops
- (6) Perform such duties as the President may assign
- (7) Be responsible for raising \$250 a semester
- (8) Maintain the College Democrats Website along with the Communications Director at the direction of the President
- (9) Act as a representative to the National Council

Section 9: THE POLITICAL DIRECTOR SHALL:

- (1) Oversee the caucus system in the state at the direction of the president

- (2) Track and coordinate the canvassing and phone banking activities of each chapter
- (3) Aid the President in coordinating with statewide campaigns and candidates for higher office
- (4) Coordinate with other State Federations for College Democrat invasion weekends; ensure reciprocal help from said activities between State Federations
- (5) Aid the President in maintaining and coordinating political internships in South Carolina for College Democrats
- (6) Act as a representative to the National Council
- (7) maintain knowledge of legislation that is passed within South Carolina's house and senate to ensure all members of CDSC are educated on said bills and can act as true legislative advocates within the state.

Section 10: THE INCLUSIVITY, DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND ACCESSIBILITY (I.D.E.A) DIRECTOR SHALL:

- (1.) Attend Executive Board meetings, assist in determining the direction and goals of CDSC;
- (2.) Along with the President, be responsible for the implementation of Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility of the organization;
- (3.) Manage all activities regarding Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility including, but not limited to, promoting I.D.E.A in CDSC, mandatory I.D.E.A training for leadership within the organization, I.D.E.A audits from chapters, consistently work with the Executive Board to ensure the implementation of I.D.E.A throughout the organization;
- (4.) All duties shall be subject to the supervision of the President; and perform all other duties specified in the CDSC constitution and these Bylaws or any special task assigned by the Executive Board.

Section 11: THE REGIONAL DIRECTORS SHALL:

- (1)** Be the direct line of communication between chapters in their region and the Executive Board
- (2)** Represent the concerns and needs of the chapters within their designated regions on the Executive Board
- (3)** Be responsible for aiding in the planning of chapter and multi-chapter events. This includes, but is not limited to, arranging guest speakers, requesting financial support, and cross chapter communication
- (4)** Assist in the creation of new chapters in their region
- (5)** Must be a CDSC member within the region in which you represent

Article VI: Regions

Section 1: Regional Directors will be elected based on region, by members from that region.

Section 2: The regions will be Upstate, Midlands, and Lowcountry.

Section 3: Colleges and universities within each region will be defined at the beginning of each academic year by the Executive Board.

Article VII: Elections

Section 1: Elections will be held annually at the state convention.

Section 2: Voting will be done via secret ballot unless article six; section eight is invoked.

Section 3: Chapter presidents and will be required to confirm that each person voting is an active member and is in good standing. If approved by the chapter president, each member will receive one vote.

Section 5: Any member is eligible to run for office, and must register to do so at the convention.

Section 6: The elections shall be overseen and chaired, and the ballots counted by an impartial party to be determined by the executive board in consultation with the chapters. A two-thirds majority vote is required to approve the convention chair.

Section 7: Any amendments affecting the elections process shall not affect elections leading up to that year's state convention. Only after that state conventions completion will new amendments pertaining take effect.

Section 8: For candidates running unopposed, a voice vote may take the place of the secret ballot with the majority approval of voting members of the convention.

Article VIII: Impeachment

Section 1: A two-thirds majority vote of the Executive Board can impeach any sitting Executive Officer who is shown to be negligent, maleficent, derelict in their duties, violated the code of conduct or have committed a crime.

Section 2: The impeached officer must be notified of the outcome of the vote immediately after the vote. The impeached officer has a three day period to prepare a defense.

Section 3: After the three day period elapses the State Council is called to try the impeached officer. The State Council shall be presided over by a party chosen by members of the State Council. The State Council shall consist of all chapter presidents and vice presidents. Two votes shall be allotted to each chapter in the vote. No member of the state executive board shall preside over another's impeachment trial.

Section 4: Removal from office requires a three-fourths vote by the State Council.

Article IX: Vacancies

Section 1: A vacancy shall be declared when a member of the Executive Board dies, resigns, is removed from office, or is not filled at convention.

Section 2: In the case of a vacancy, the President shall submit their nominee to fill the vacant position to the Executive Board, and allow one week for objections or recommendations from other Executive Officers. During that week, any one Executive Officer may call for a vote of the Executive Board to approve the nominee by a simple majority. Should no Executive Officer request a vote during the specified period, then the nominee is automatically appointed to the vacant position. Any nominees must fill the requirements of being a member of a chartered chapter and any requirements of the position the nominee will assume. The nominee must also be in line with chapter diversity requirements set to take effect after the 2019 convention.

Section 3: The newly approved member will serve out the duration of the term, until the next state convention.

Article X: Amendments

Section 1: Amendments may be posed by any member of the Executive Board or submitted to the Executive board by chapters.

Section 2: Amendments will be voted on by the Executive Board and State Council or on the floor of the state convention.

Section 3: To be ratified at convention, Amendments require a majority vote by the members of College Democrats present at the state convention.

Section 4: To be ratified outside of convention, Amendments require a two-thirds majority vote by the executive board and a two-thirds majority by the State Council.

Article XI: Chapter Certification

Section 1: DEFINITION – The chartered campus chapters shall be the most basic and fundamental unit within College Democrats and serve to achieve the goals of College Democrats on the local level. There may be only one chartered chapter per college campus.

Section 2: CERTIFICATION OF A CHARTER – The President, Membership Director or Regional Directors may nominate a chapter to be chartered at an Executive Board meeting. Members of the Executive Board shall vote on this charter at the same meeting the nomination is introduced. Certification of a chapter shall require said chapter is a recognized organization on their campus, that the organization has sent in a Constitution and list of officers for organization. Once chartered a chapter must renew its charter with College Democrats on an annual basis two weeks after the state convention. A simple majority vote by the executive board charters a chapter.

Section 3: REVOCATION OF A CHARTER– The same procedure as outlined in Section 2 of Article X shall apply to the revocation of a charter, but will require a two-thirds majority vote.

Article XII: State Council

Section 1: The State Council shall be composed of chapter Presidents and Vice Presidents or their Representatives (Alternates). Each Chapter can have no more than two members of State Council.

Section 2: The State Council shall be chaired by the Vice President, except in the case of impeachment. Refer back to Article XII. The Vice President sets the meeting schedule for

the state council, and is required to set a meeting at least once a month. The Vice President may only vote to break a tie.

Section 3: The State Council will advise and give consent to any plans for convention made by the executive board.

Section 4: The State Council is the final body to approve or reject any proposed amendment, unless a convention is held.

Section 5: The State Council approves any budget proposed by the Treasurer.

Section 6: The State Council members are the chapter representatives to the executive board and should report all CDSC and or CDA updates to the chapter they represent.

Section 7: Any rules or procedures for meetings shall be set by the State Council.

1. A rules committee shall be designated with no more than three members and shall set the rules for the State Council of said year.
2. The committee shall report them to the rest of the body and a vote of approval will be held.
3. Rules shall be passed by simple majority

Section 8: On the first annual meeting of the State Council, the council shall elect from the body a vice chair to preside in the absence of the Vice President and a Secretary to consistently take meeting minutes during the Council's meetings.

Article XIII: Endorsements

Section 1: The Executive Board shall be responsible for the creation and maintaining of a process through which candidates running for office can apply for the endorsement of CDSC.

Section 2: All endorsements must be voted upon and approved by a majority of both the Executive Board and State Council.