

Constitution of the Indian River County Young Democrats

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Prepared by Laura Gaffney, Interim Secretary

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The Indian River County Young Democrats is an Organization dedicated to increasing political awareness and activism among Democrats between the ages of 16 to 40 in Indian River County. The Indian River County Young Democrats helps its members develop leadership techniques, promote Democratic Party principles, obtain elected offices and work on issues that are important to the citizens of Indian River County.

Article I – Name

The name of the organization shall be the Indian River County Young Democrats. It may hereinafter be referred to as the Indian River County Young Democrats or IRCYD.

Article II

Section 1 –

The IRCYD shall support the nominees of the Democratic Party in national, state and local campaigns. The organization shall promote the ideology of the Democratic Party and work to continuously shape the issues and message of the Democratic Party.

Section 2 –

The IRCYD shall develop leadership among people aged 16 to 40. The organization shall encourage members to become city, county board members, candidates for office, or participants in the election process.

Section 3 –

The IRCYD shall make every reasonable effort to maintain and promote harmony within the ranks of the Democratic National Committee, the FDP, and the local Democratic Executive Committees, which may hereinafter be referred to as DEC.

Section 4 –

The IRCYD shall encourage members to join their local Democratic Executive Committees.

Section 5 –

This organization shall maintain permanent records including credentials, financial records, minutes of IRCYD meetings, reports of the Executive Committees, official correspondence and other pertinent materials.

- A. IRCYD committee officers shall retain all of the above materials generated during their respective terms of office until the completion of their terms.
- B. Upon completion of the term of office, each Executive Committee member shall deposit accumulated records with the incoming Chair, who shall

maintain such files for the information of the succeeding Executive Committee officers.

- C. Records shall be open to review by any member of the IRCYD upon written request. Members must be advised that their contact information may be shared. All records must be kept in, or transferred to, a digital format.

Article III – Affiliation

The Organization shall affiliate with and become part of the Florida Young Democrats (hereinafter may be referred to as FYD). It shall operate under the auspices of the FYD Constitution and By-Laws. The Organization may also affiliate and participate in the Indian River County Democrats Executive Committee and the Florida Democratic Party.

Article IV – Membership

Section 1-

Anyone who professes and demonstrates allegiance to the Democratic Party shall be eligible for membership. Membership requires the candidate to be between the ages of 16 and 40 and must be a resident of Indian River County. Eligible voters must be registered as democrats & provide contact information to include name, address and date of birth. This information must be provided via photographic identification, i.e. Student ID/Drivers License. Phone numbers and email addresses are required. If you do not have an email address, one shall be provided. Once meeting new membership requirements, a new member may not vote or participate in any club election until after a 45 day waiting period.

Section 2 – Active/Inactive Membership

- A. Active Membership – Shall consist of those between the ages of 16 and 40 whom remain active in the organization. ‘Active’ consists of attendance of at least 1 meeting every 6 months and communication via either telephone, email or snail mail with an elected officer of the executive committee and is current on dues paid. An active member has voting privileges.
- B. Inactive Membership- Shall consist of those whom do not remain active as defined in part A. These members shall not have voting privileges and not have influence on quorum numbers.

Section 3 – Purging of Active Membership

Membership shall be purged upon not meeting active membership requirements as stated in Section 2. Membership can be purged by a 75% vote of the executive committee, which must include the president (or vice president should the president be unavailable) and the secretary. The member will be notified by the executive committee at least 14 days before the meeting occurs to encourage active membership to prevent the purging from occurring.

Section 4 – Reinstatement of Active Membership (Inactive to Active)

Active membership shall be reinstated upon the member meeting the requirements of active membership. Membership can be reinstated by a 75% vote of the executive committee (which must include the president or vice president and the secretary).

Section 5 – Expulsion of Members

Members may be expelled by a 75% vote of the active membership for disloyalty to the Democratic Party, or for conduct, either criminal or degrading in character, at a special meeting called for this purpose. Such a meeting may be called by: the President, majority vote of the Executive Committee or by a petition signed by the majority of the active membership. Prior to such meeting, the member shall be sent notice in writing. Such notice shall be sent 14 days prior to the expulsion meeting, via certified mail to the address on file with the Secretary. The member shall have the opportunity to appear before the active membership and address the charges against them. Failure by the member to appear shall not prevent such a vote from taking place providing the member has been given sufficient notice.

Section 6 – Anti-discrimination Policy

Determination of membership in the IRCYD may not be based on grounds of race, color, creed, sex, national origin, physical disability, religion, or sexual orientation.

Article V – Officers

Section 1- Elected Officers

The elected officers of the Organization shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Public Relations Officer and Liaison.

Section 2 – Duties of Officers

The duties of the officers shall be outlined in the Bylaws of the organization.

Section 3 – Election of Officers

- A. The officers shall be elected annually by majority vote of all active members present and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting of the club and shall hold office until the election and qualification of their successors.
- B. In the event a position becomes vacant, excluding the Office of President, prior to the Annual Meeting, an election for a new office holder shall be held at the next regularly scheduled meeting. The President shall administer this election.
 - a. In the event the Office of President becomes vacant prior to the Annual Meeting, the Vice President shall become President and fulfill the remainder of the term.
 - b. Should an executive position become vacant due to an officer changing position during a meeting, said vacant office can be filled immediately.

Article VI – Executive Committee

Section 1 – Composition

There shall be an Executive Committee composed of elected and appointed officers. Voting members of the Executive Committee shall include: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Public Relations Officer and Liaison.

Section 2 – Function

The Executive Committee shall constitute the governing body of the IRCYD. It shall also act as the general managing, supervisory and administrative body for the IRCYD between meetings.

Section 3 – Meetings

Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held at such times and places and upon such occasion as the Executive Committee may decide, or as the President may specify upon at least two days notice.

- A. The Executive Committee may choose to meet and vote electronically.

Article VII – Meetings

Section 1 – Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Organization is to be held in the month of March in each calendar year. Election of Officers will take place at the Annual Meeting.

Section 2 – Membership Meetings

Membership meetings shall be held no less than once a month. The Annual Meeting shall constitute as the regular meeting in the month of March.

Section 3 – Special Meetings

Special Meetings of the Organization shall be held upon such time, place, and date as the President or a majority of the Executive Committee decides.

Article VIII – Dues

Section 1 – Annual Dues

Each active or associate member of the Organization shall pay annual dues. Dues are good through one year from payment. The Treasurer shall be responsible for collection of dues.

Section 2 – Special Fees

Special fees may be charged from the time to time when the Executive Committee or the organization shall direct, but such special fees shall be discouraged except when deemed necessary for the proper and effective functioning of the Organization or its essential activities.

Article IX – Voting

Section 1 – Eligibility

Upon the consideration of any matter or question put to vote, only active members whose dues are not delinquent shall be entitled to vote.

Section 2 – Elections

Only active members who have paid dues by the close of the regular meeting prior to the Annual Meeting and are in good standing can vote on election of officers. When any election occurs, qualification of voting shall constitute having paid the Organization dues seven days prior to the meeting at which the election is to be performed.

Section 3 – Secret Ballot

During an election for officers of this organization the election shall be run by secret ballot.

Section 4 – Proxy Voting

Proxy voting is prohibited.

Article X – Endorsement Policy

Section 1 – Endorsement of Candidates for Public Office

This organization may officially endorse or support candidacy of any Democrat for public office or any initiative (constitutional amendment, charter amendment, etc). An endorsement by this Organization requires two-thirds (2/3) vote of the active membership present.

Section 2 – Restrictions on Endorsement

This organization shall is prohibited of endorsement of any candidate in primary elections. This organization may only endorse the democratic nominee in general elections.

Article XI – Bylaws

Section 1 – Adoption and Amendments

The organization may adopt such bylaws, as from time to time, it shall deem necessary. Bylaws shall be adopted and amended by a majority vote of active members in good standing present and voting at a regular meeting provided that the changes were presented at the last regular meeting of the organization. Seven (7) people or 20% of active members, whichever is greater, must be present to be deemed majority vote.

Article XII – Amendments to the Constitution

Section 1 – Procedure

This constitution may be amended by majority vote of active members present and eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting of the Organization or at a special meeting called

for this purpose of amending the Constitution; provided that the exact amendment was presented in writing, electronically or otherwise, to the active members at least 15 days in advance. Seven (7) people or 20% of active members, whichever is greater, must be present to be deemed majority vote.

Section 2 –

No article, section or portion of the IRCYD Constitution or the IRCYD Bylaws may be waived or set-aside except by amendment as provided in this article.

Section 3 –

An amendment to the IRCYD Constitution or the IRCYD Bylaws shall become effective immediately upon its adoption

Section 4 –

All amendments shall be provided in writing to all delegates prior to voting on said amendments.

Article XIII – Parliamentary Authority

Section 1 –

The president shall decide on formality of the meeting. If the president requires the meeting to be formal, Roberts Rules of Order, newly revised edition shall govern.