

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COLLEGE DEMOCRATS OF NORTH CAROLINA

PREAMBLE

In order to promote a better America, with equality, opportunity, and freedom within a just and strong society, we dedicate ourselves to organizing the participation of Democratic college students in North Carolina. In this mission, we call for full participation of all North Carolina students, regardless of gender identity, age, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, disability, socioeconomic status, or sexual orientation.

Understanding the importance of participation in the Democratic Party to the preservation of our values and principles, we, Democratic college students, do hereby associate ourselves and adopt this Constitution as the College Democrats of North Carolina.

ARTICLE I

Name, Purpose, Associations, and Definitions

Section 1: Name. The name of this organization shall be the College Democrats of North Carolina, hereafter referred to as “The CDNC.”

Section 2: Purpose. The CDNC pledges itself to support the philosophy and candidates of the Democratic Party. The primary mission of the CDNC is the promotion of the Democratic Party, the Democratic Party’s nominees for elective office, and the Democratic Party’s elected officials. Furthermore, The CDNC declares its intention to support all efforts to increase the participation of college students in Democratic affairs. To these ends, The CDNC shall educate and train its members so that they may be better able to:

- (a) Educate students about the philosophy of the Democratic Party.
- (b) Assist in the election of local, state, and national Democratic candidates.
- (c) Affect political change on the local, state, and national level.

Section 3: Associations. The CDNC will be considered the official college outreach arm of the North Carolina Democratic Party. In addition, the CDNC will be an official member organization of the College Democrats of America and, therein, the Democratic National Committee. The message and mission of the CDNC must not contradict the platforms of the North Carolina Democratic Party and the Democratic National Committee.

- (a) The CDNC, and every member therein, is required to comply with North Carolina Election Law.
- (b) To facilitate communication between organizations and the state party, The CDNC shall submit and update the names, addresses, phone numbers, and contact information for officers and/or representatives chosen to represent the chapters of each college and university to the NCDP executive director. Such data shall also be entered into the NCDP database.

Section 4: Definitions. The following definitions shall apply to this Constitution:

- (a) A “majority” shall be defined as fifty percent (rounded up) plus one of the number of voting members of a body.
- (b) A “tied vote” is a vote in which the number of votes in favor of the question are equal to the number of votes against the action.

ARTICLE II

Membership

Section 1: Eligibility. Membership in The CDNC shall be open to any student currently enrolled in a North Carolina college or university that has a chartered chapter of The CDNC who wishes to be known as a College Democrat and who has the best interests of The CDNC and the Democratic Party at heart.

(a) In the specific case of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) that have administrative barriers to form and be recognized as an official club on their respective campus, The CDNC retains the right to acknowledge the students as a coalition of College Democrats with the same rights and privileges as a chartered Chapter.

(b) In the specific case where one finds difficulty in garnering enough support and members to charter a College Democrats chapter, that person shall be granted at-large membership which allows them all the rights and privileges of membership with the exception of voting at the state convention.

Section 2: Non-Discrimination Policy. Membership in The CDNC shall not be contingent on or in any way amended due to gender identification, age, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, disability, socioeconomic status, or sexual orientation.

Section 3: Registration Policy. The CDNC shall be comprised of registered Democrats who share inherent and/or immutable traits which define the auxiliary, not a concern about an issue or cause.

ARTICLE III

Executive Board

Section 1: Composition. The Executive Board of The CDNC shall be composed of eleven permanent members:

- (a) President of The CDNC.
- (b) Vice President of The CDNC.
- (c) State Council Chair of The CDNC.
- (d) State Council Vice Chair of The CDNC.
- (e) State Council Secretary of The CDNC.
- (f) Director of Political Affairs of The CDNC.

- (g) Director of Communications of The CDNC.
- (h) Director of Development of The CDNC.
- (i) Director of Programming of The CDNC.
- (j) Director of Membership of The CDNC.
- (k) Director of Compliance of The CDNC.
- (l) Director of Inclusivity Diversity Equity and Accessibility of The CDNC.

Section 2: Authority of Members. Only permanent members specifically mentioned in Article 3, Section 1 of this document shall retain voting authority on the Executive Board.

Section 3: Authority of the Board. The Executive Board shall determine the agenda and policy of The CDNC and coordinate all activities and events.

ARTICLE IV

Officers

Section 1: Eligibility. Any individual eligible to be a member of The CDNC is eligible to be an officer of The CDNC.

Section 2: Elected Positions.

- (a) The following positions are elected in accordance with this Constitution:
 - (1) President of The CDNC.
 - (2) Vice-President of The CDNC.
 - (3) State Council Chair of The CDNC.
 - (4) State Council Vice Chair of The CDNC.
 - (5) State Council Secretary of The CDNC.
 - (6) Director of Political Affairs of The CDNC.
 - (7) Director of Communications of The CDNC.
 - (8) Director of Development of The CDNC.
 - (9) Director of Programming of The CDNC.
 - (10) Director of Membership of The CDNC.
 - (11) Director of Inclusivity Diversity Equity and Accessibility of The CDNC.

- (b) The following position is appointed in accordance with this Constitution:
 - (1) Director of Compliance of The CNDC.

Section 3: Responsibilities. All Executive Board members must:

- (a) Maintain active involvement in all of The CDNC activities and endeavors.
- (b) Meet at least once a month via conference call. Additional board meetings shall be convened at the President's discretion.
- (c) Abide by the duties prescribed to their position as outlined in this constitution, and other special projects assigned by the President.

Section 4: The President of the CDNC

- (a) The following authority shall be vested in the President of The CDNC:
 - (1) To preside over and call meetings of the Executive Board of The CDNC.
 - (2) To determine the goals, direction, and stance on any issue of The CDNC.
 - (3) To sign with authority all financial documents of The CDNC.
 - (4) With a majority approval of the permanent members of the Executive Board, to appoint ex-officio members to the Executive Board.
 - (5) With a majority approval of the Executive Board, to appoint a successor to any position vacated by its officer in the current President's term.
 - (6) To specifically represent The CDNC with the following organizations:
 - (A) The College Democrats of America.
 - (B) The North Carolina Democratic Party.
 - (7) To delegate any authority specifically expressed to him or her by this Constitution to any member of the Executive Board.
- (b) The President of The CDNC shall not vote on any question or matter brought before the Executive Board except in two cases:
 - (1) The event of a tied vote as defined by this Constitution.
 - (2) A Vote of No Confidence of the President of The CDNC.

Section 5: The Vice President of The CDNC.

- (a) The Vice President of The CDNC shall assist the President in the performance of his or her duties.
- (b) The Vice President of The CDNC shall act as President when the President is unable to perform his or her duties.
- (c) The Vice President of The CDNC shall assume the office of the President upon the President's death, removal, or resignation.

Section 6: The State Council Chair of The CDNC.

- (a) The State Council Chair of The CDNC shall be responsible for working in conjunction with the Director of Membership for outreach to individual campus chapters.
- (b) The State Council Chair of The CDNC shall be responsible for the development of chartering new individual campus chapters.
- (c) The State Council Chair of The CDNC shall recommend members to serve as Regional Directors and oversee their operations.

Section 7: The State Council Vice Chair of The CDNC.

- (a) The State Council Vice Chair of The CDNC shall assist the State Council Chair of The CDNC in the performance of his or her duties.
- (b) The State Council Vice Chair of The CDNC shall act as State Council Chair when the State Council Chair of The CDNC is unable to perform his or her duties.
- (c) The State Council Vice Chair of The CDNC shall assume the office of the State Council Chair of The CDNC upon the President's death, removal, or resignation.

Section 8: The State Council Secretary of The CDNC.

(a) The State Council Secretary of The CDNC shall be responsible for the recording of minutes for all official meetings and conference calls of The CDNC.

(b) The State Council Secretary of The CDNC shall be responsible for following up with board members on their assigned or special tasks.

Section 9: The Director of Political Affairs of The CDNC.

(a) The Director of Political Affairs shall be responsible for providing statewide and local political initiatives.

(b) The Director of Political Affairs shall be responsible for updating the executive board on all major legislative movements in the NC General Assembly and Congress, and organizing all campaign plans for The CDNC.

(c) The Director of Political Affairs of The CDNC shall recommend members to serve as Caucus Chairs and Vice Chairs and oversee their operations.

Section 10: The Director of Communications of The CDNC.

(a) The Director of Communications of The CDNC shall be responsible for organizing a communications plan including social media and traditional media, maintaining an active website for The CDNC, and regularly updating The CDNC social networking Sites.

(b) The Director of Communications of The CDNC shall be responsible for creating press packages and strategies for The CDNC programs and events.

(c) The Director of Communications of The CDNC shall recommend members to serve as members of the Communications Committee and oversee the operations of the committee.

Section 11: The Director of Development of The CDNC.

(a) The Director of Development of The CDNC shall be responsible for the implementation of all major fundraising activities of The CDNC as set by the Executive Board.

(b) The Director of Development of The CDNC shall be responsible for managing CDNC finances and creating budgets for CDNC programs and events.

(c) The Director of Development of The CDNC shall recommend members to serve as members of the Fundraising Committee and oversee the operations of the committee.

Section 12: The Director of Programming of The CDNC.

(a) The Director of Programming of The CDNC shall be responsible for the implementation of the programming initiatives of The CDNC.

Section 13: The Director of Membership of The CDNC.

(a) The Director of Membership of The CDNC shall be responsible for updating current contact information of chapter officers for each chapter of The CDNC, maintain relationships with chapter leaders, and organizing plans to maintain statewide membership.

(b) The Director of Membership shall implement and oversee the yearly chapter chartering process prior to the annual convention.

Section 14: Director of Inclusivity Diversity Equity and Accessibility of The CDNC.

(a) The Director of Inclusivity Diversity Equity and Accessibility of The CDNC shall be responsible for ensuring that all events, programs, and initiatives of The CDNC are inclusive, diverse, equitable, and accessible. The Director of Inclusivity Diversity Equity and Accessibility of The CDNC shall also be responsible for planning and hosting a training seminar with the express purpose of instructing and encouraging inclusivity, diversity, equitability, and accessibility. The officer will also be responsible for overseeing the progress of the Caucus Chairs in cooperation with The Director of Political Affairs of The CDNC. In addition, the officer will be required to maintain and enact a biyearly census of The CDNC in the spring of every odd numbered year.

Section 15: The Director of Compliance of The CDNC.

(a) The Director of Compliance of The CDNC shall be responsible for keeping The CDNC in good standing with the Federal Elections Commission and the North Carolina State Board of Elections at all times. This person shall be appointed by the President with majority approval of the executive board.

Section 16: Vacancy of an Officer Position.

(a) The position of an officer may be vacated only one of two ways: by written resignation to the Executive Board, or by a Vote of No Confidence by the Executive Board.

(b) The procedure for a Vote of No Confidence shall be as follows:

(1) A permanent member of the Executive Board must charge the officer with the reasons for his or her removal publicly at a meeting of the Executive Board.

(2) The officer in question must be offered an opportunity to defend him or herself at that meeting or, in the case of their absence from that meeting, at the next regular meeting.

(3) After a period of two weeks the issue shall be put to a vote. Three-fourths of the permanent members of the Executive Board must vote for removal for an officer to be removed.

(c) The President of The CDNC shall be ineligible to vote in a Vote of No Confidence except in the case of a tied vote (as determined by this Constitution) or if the Vote is brought up against that individual. Should the Vote of No Confidence be against the President of The CDNC, that portion of the meeting shall be chaired by the Vice-President of The CDNC (making this individual ineligible to vote except in the case of a tied vote as determined by this Constitution) and the President of the CDNC shall be eligible to vote in the matter.

ARTICLE V

Election of Officers

Section 1: Occurrence. Officers of The CDNC are elected annually at The CDNC State Convention.

Section 2: Eligibility. In addition to meeting the eligibility requirements detailed in Article 4, Section 1 of this Constitution, individuals must meet the following criteria to be elected at The CDNC State Convention:

- (a) Must submit an email to the Elections Chair of The CDNC no later than seven calendar days prior to the first event of the Convention giving notice of the position or positions the individual intends on running for.
- (b) The Elections Chair shall be the highest ranking member of the Executive Board, in accordance with Article III, Section 1 of this document, not seeking re-election and shall be tasked with presiding over elections of The CDNC officers at the annual convention.
- (c) Candidates for office must be present at the Convention during the election of the position with the exception of those with military or civil service, illness, or a death in the family.
- (d) In the case that no one declares candidacy for a position, nominations will be brought up on the floor.
- (e) Any potential candidate may request to open nominations from the floor. They must receive two-thirds vote of CDNC members present to open nominations.

Section 3: Procedure. The procedure of elections shall be held in the following manner:

- (a) At the meeting, the Elections Chair of The CDNC shall announce the position and the names of the candidates running for the position.
- (b) In alphabetical order, each candidate will give a speech not to exceed five minutes to the members of the meeting.
- (c) Upon the conclusion of the speeches, a five minutes recess will be held.
- (d) After the five minute recess, the Elections Chair of The CDNC will tally the votes by chapter.
 - (1) The Elections Chair of The CDNC will announce the chapter's name in alphabetical order.
 - (2) The President of the chartered chapter (or his or her delegate leader, in their absence) will announce the total number of votes for their chapter for each Candidate.
- (e) When all chapters have voted, the votes will be tallied by the Elections Chair of the CDNC and the winner will be announced.
- (f) Elections shall be held in the following order:
 - (1) President of The CDNC.
 - (2) Vice-President of The CDNC.

- (3) State Council Chair of The CDNC.
- (4) State Council Vice Chair of The CDNC.
- (5) State Council Secretary of The CDNC.
- (6) Director of Political Affairs of The CDNC.
- (7) Director of Communications of The CDNC.
- (8) Director of Development of The CDNC.
- (9) Director of Programming of The CDNC.
- (10) Director of Membership of The CDNC.
- (11) Director of Inclusivity Diversity Equity and Accessibility of The CDNC.

(g) The number of votes per chapter will be equal to 10 votes. Each chapter can allocate those votes to candidates however they choose by the division of whole numbers.

(h) In the event that a chapter may not be present at convention, the chapter may be presented with an absentee ballot, by the beginning of formal convention proceedings, in the form of a Google Form, to cast votes for all positions among declared candidates. The absentee ballot (Google Form) will include the option to select a designated college democrat to proxy their vote to in the event the chapter is not able to be present at convention; the chapter president will decide whether the proxy is instructed in their votes, or the proxy will have the power to designate votes as they choose. In the event of nominations being taken on the floor, the vote cast for that position on the absentee ballot will be discarded unless the proxy was designated for a candidate who is still in the race. All absentee ballots must be received by one hour previous to the official start of the College Democrats of North Carolina election session on the Sunday of Convention.

ARTICLE VI

Grievance Committee

Section 1. Formation.

- (a) The President, with the approval of the Executive Committee, shall appoint the Chair of the Grievance Committee and three (3) other members to serve as the committee.
- (b) The State Council Secretary shall serve on the committee.
- (c) The appointments shall be made in odd-number years and the members shall serve for a term of two (2) years.

Section 2. Grievance Committee. The conduct of the Grievance Committee shall be executed in the following manner:

- (a) The Chair shall
 - (i) Chair the meetings of the Grievance Committee.
 - (ii) Receive grievances in writing.
 - (iii) Notify committee and President of receipt of the grievance.

- (iv) Call a timely meeting, per policies and procedures, of the committee upon receipt of the grievance.
- (b) The Committee shall:
 - (i) Before a formal hearing, every effort shall be made by the Committee to resolve the grievance to the satisfaction of the aggrieved.
 - (ii) To conduct all hearings of a grievance properly brought to the committee by a member, members or county organization by following the agenda in the Policy and Procedure manual.

ARTICLE VII

Amendments

Section 1: General. The Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the Executive Board and by a majority vote of chartered chapter presidents.

Section 2: Procedure. The following procedure shall be used to amend the Constitution: (a) A permanent member of the Executive Board shall propose the amendment to the Executive Board at a regular meeting.

(b) The amendment will be discussed, and all members of the Executive Board and all Chapter Presidents will be notified of the amendment.

(c) At the next regular meeting, a second debate will be held over the amendment. This meeting shall be open to all Chapter Presidents, who will be allowed to participate. At the conclusion of the debate, the President of The CDNC will call a vote of the Executive Board and – should the amendment pass – the President of The CDNC will call a vote of the present Chapter Presidents. Should a majority of present Chapter Presidents vote in favor of the amendment, the amendment shall pass and be enacted immediately.

ARTICLE VIII

Citation of the Constitution

Section 1: General. This document shall be cited using the Article-Section-Subsection-NumberLetter-Roman Numeral format.

(a) For instance, Article IV, Section 1, subsection (a) shall be cited as “CDNC IV §1(a).”

(b) Additionally, Article IV, Section 3, subsection (b), number “2,” letter (A), roman numeral “iv” shall be cited as “CDNC IV §3(b)2(A)iv.”

Section 2: Multiple Citations. Multiple numbers or subsections shall be cited using the hyphen.

(a) For instance, Article IV, Section 1, subsections (a) and (b) shall be cited as “CDNC IV §1(a)-(b).”

(b) Additionally, Article IV, Section 3, subsection (b), number “2,” letter (A), roman numerals “ii” through “vi” shall be cited as “CDNC IV §3(b)2(A)ii-vi.”

ARTICLE IX

Disbursement of the Constitution and By-Laws

Section 1: General. The current by-laws of the CDNC are available for inspection by any registered Democrat.

Section 2: The CDNC is required to send a copy of the current by-laws when amended to the NCDP Executive Director for reposting on the state party website.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COLLEGE DEMOCRATS OF NORTH CAROLINA (SUMMARY OF CHANGES)

1. Adopted 29 March 2009.
2. Revised 05 January 2010:
 - a. Changed the reference of the College Democrats of North Carolina to “The CDNC.”
 - b. Removed the duties of the officer positions.
 - c. Added election of officers.
 - d. Added procedures to amend the constitution.
 - e. Added the authority of the President of The CDNC and the Vice-President of The CDNC.
 - f. Added the Director of Administration as a permanent member of the Executive Board.
3. Revised 20 March 2014:
 - a. Added age, disability, and gender identity discrimination protections.
 - b. Added the State Council Chair and Vice Chair as permanent members of the Executive Board.
 - c. Changed the Director of Administration to the State Council Secretary.
 - d. Changed the Director of Finances to the Director of Development.
 - e. Added the Director of Compliance as the only permanent appointed member of the Executive Board.
 - f. Added duties for the Vice President, State Council Chair, State Council Vice Chair, State Council Secretary, Director of Political Affairs, Director of Communications, Director of Development, Director of Membership, and Director of Compliance.
 - g. Added the Elections Chair
4. Revised 30 August 2020:
 - a. Added the Director of Inclusivity Diversity Equity and Accessibility of The CDNC.
5. Revised 27 February 2021:
 - a. Added Section IX concerning the disbursement of the Constitution and By-Laws
 - b. Changed Article VI to VII and VII to VIII
 - c. Added Article VI concerning internal dispute management and resolution.

6. Revised 11 March 2021:

a. Struck Article IV, Section 4, Subsection A, Subsection C: “(C) The Young Democrats of North Carolina.”