

Rhode Island Young Republicans

Bylaws

Adopted in Warwick, Rhode Island
March 6th, 2018

ARTICLE I – Membership

SECTION 1. Membership Status:

Officially chartered Rhode Island Young Republican clubs may have the following types of memberships, with the noted restrictions and qualifications. At no time will the number of non-active members exceed the number of active members.

a) Active Member:

I. Rights: All rights and privileges of membership including, but not limited to; attending meetings, voting, holding office, and serving as delegate/alternate delegate to conventions.

II. Limitations: None.

III. Qualifications: Be between 18 to 40 years of age (inclusive), be a registered Republican voter of the state of Rhode Island, pay all dues required in a timely manner, and attend one meeting per 12 consecutive month period.

IV. Fees or Dues: Dues are to be paid no less than 30 days prior to the Rhode Island YR State Convention and be renewed annually thereafter. Member Dues are to be no less than \$25.00 with the exception of full-time student status whereas the Dues are to be no greater than \$10.00.

Associate Members Dues are to be no less than \$100.00 annually.

V. Termination of Membership: By violation of any of the qualification requirements, or by a two-thirds vote of the membership, local Executive Board, or Rhode Island YR Executive Board (after a duly convened hearing).

b) Associate Member:

I. Rights: All rights and privileges of membership, except as noted in limitations.

II. Limitations: The member shall not be entitled to vote, hold office, or serve as delegate/alternate delegate to Rhode Island YR State conventions.

III. Qualifications: Any person not meeting the qualifications of an Active Member other than paying all dues required in a timely manner or attending one meeting per 12 consecutive month period.

IV. Fees or Dues: No less than \$100.00 annually, to be decided by the YR Executive Board in accordance with the YR Constitution and Bylaws.

V. Termination of Membership: By violation of any of the qualification requirements, or by a two-thirds vote of the membership, local Executive Board, or Rhode Island YR Executive Board (after a duly convened hearing).

c) Associate Member:

I. Rights: All rights and privileges available except as noted in limitation.

II. Limitations: The member shall not be entitled to vote, hold office, or serve as delegate/alternate delegate to the Rhode Island YR convention.

III. Qualifications: Associate Membership will require a two-thirds vote of the membership or governing Executive Board. It may be bestowed upon any of the membership types.

IV. Fees or Dues: Annual fee is no less than \$100.00 for the Associate membership status.
V. Termination of Membership: By a two-thirds vote of the membership, local Executive Board or Rhode Island YR Executive Board (after a duly convened hearing).

e) Dual Member :

I. Rights: All rights and privileges available except as noted in limitations. May change membership status as long as all clubs are notified.

II. Limitations: Allowed one state chapter for Active Member status. Memberships in additional chapters take on the title of Dual Member. Dual Members shall not vote, hold office, or serve as delegate/alternate delegate to the Rhode Island YR convention.

III. Qualifications: Any person meeting the qualifications of an Active member and as stated in all governing local chapter's Constitution or Bylaws.

V. Termination of Membership: In violation of any of the qualification requirements, or by a two-thirds vote of the membership, locale Executive Board or Rhode Island YR Executive Board (after a duly convened hearing).

SECTION 2. Expulsion of Members:

The Rhode Island YR Executive Board may by a two-thirds vote at any called meeting, expel an individual for good cause. The Chair or any two elected officers may, by written notice, place the expulsion of any member on the agenda for a future meeting. If such expulsion is placed on the agenda, the Secretary shall send a written notice to the entire board and the member involved so as to reach said parties at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting where the expulsion will be considered. The notice shall include: a) notice of the proposed expulsion; b) the grounds for the expulsion; and c) the time, date and location of the meeting. The member subject to expulsion shall have the opportunity to address the charges during the meeting. A member who has been expelled is not eligible for any type of membership. Said member may be reinstated by a two-thirds vote of the Rhode Island YR Executive Board during any meeting. If a member is reinstated, they shall not be a candidate for double jeopardy.

ARTICLE II - Officers

SECTION 1. No person shall have more than one (1) vote.

SECTION 2. Elected Officers:

a) Chair: The Chair shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Rhode Island YR. The Chair shall be deemed to be a co-chairman of all committees including the convention committees. The powers and duties of the Chair shall include, but not be limited to:

- 1) Representing the Rhode Island YR at all state party events so long as the RI Republican Party invites such.
- 2) Representing the Rhode Island YR at the State Chair and National Committee meetings of the YRNF.
- 3) Appointing committees and members of those committees.
- 4) Creating or terminating official non-elected offices and appointing persons to such positions.
- 5) Setting the initial agenda for meetings and presiding over all meetings of the Executive Board and the State Convention.
- 6) Bestowing honors, subject to the powers and duties of the Awards Committee.
- 7) Issuing the Call to the State Convention.
- 8) Calling, giving notice of, setting the agenda for, and presiding at not fewer than fifty percent

(50%) of the Executive Board meetings each year.

9) Proposing a budget no later than 100 days following the Rhode Island YR State Convention.

10) Setting the tone for the statewide press, including:

a) Directing the periodic publication of the statewide Rhode Island YR newsletter.

b) Designing and implementing Letters to the Editor.

c) Creating and Updating the Rhode Island YR Website and Social Media Information.

d) Fostering communication with other statewide organizations.

b) Vice Chair: The Vice Chair shall be second in charge of the Rhode Island YR. The powers and duties of the Vice Chair shall include, but not be limited to:

1) Performing such duties as the Chair shall designate.

2) Assuming the responsibility of the Chair in their absence.

c) National Committee Persons: These positions are the official representational positions to the YRNF.

1) The Committee Persons will hold the Executive Board ranking of third and fourth, rotating respectively each year in office.

2) The Committee Persons are expected to make at least two National Board meeting per year and communicate information between the national and state level.

d) Secretary: The Secretary is the official recorder for the Rhode Island YR and holds the ranking of fifth on the Rhode Island YR Executive Board. The powers and duties of the Secretary shall include but not be limited to:

1) Recording the votes and minutes of all official meetings of the Rhode Island YR.

2) Sending notice to the Executive Board of all meetings and Conventions.

e) Treasurer: The Treasurer is the official custodian of the finances and fundraising for the Rhode Island YR and holds the ranking of sixth on the Rhode Island YR Executive Board. The powers and duties of the Treasurer shall include, but not be limited to:

1) Receiving, expending and accounting for the funds of the Rhode Island YR under the supervision and control of the Executive Board.

2) Establishing and maintaining checking accounts as needed. Said accounts shall require the signature of the Treasurer or the Chair of the Rhode Island YR.

3) Maintaining financial records of the Rhode Island.

4) Submitting a written report to the State Convention prior to the election of officers.

5) Appointing assistants as necessary for the efficient performance of the duties of the office.

6) Raising and requesting funds for the Rhode Island YR.

7) Collecting Dues from all members, excluding Associate members.

f) Membership Liaison: The powers and duties of the Membership Liaison shall include, but not be limited to:

1) Following up with prospective members within one week of initial contact to further introduced the mission of the Rhode Island YR and explain opportunities for future involvement.

2) Developing a Membership committee comprised of (at least) one (1) person from each existing local club. Said council shall meet periodically to discuss ways to promote and increase

membership.

- 3) Appointing assistants as necessary in order to ensure the efficient performance of the duties of the office.
- 4) Maintain a list of registered members along with Dues status as a voting body.

SECTION 3. Procedures for Elections:

The following apply to Statewide Elections:

a) Nominations: The following are the only means to nominate a person for an office in the Rhode Island YR. Any office that fails to attract a nomination during the convention shall be filled pursuant to Section 5 herein.

1) Petition: The Secretary must receive a petition for a given elected office no later than 10 days prior to the date of the election for that office. Said petition must include the full name of the candidate, desired elected office and must include the signatures of ten (10) active members. Candidates running for multiple offices must submit separate petitions for each office. Members who satisfy the above requirements need not be present during the election.

2) Once the petition is received and the signatures are validated, the person(s) running for elected positions are to receive the most current and updated membership list. This will allow for the Rhode Island YR to hold a transparent and fair election process.

b) Order of Election: All elected officers shall be elected at the Rhode Island YR State Convention in the order in which they are listed in this Article.

c) Voting:

1) Shall be conducted alphabetically by the local chapter, with the senior elected official from each presenting the breakdown of their chapters votes. NOTE: The unit rule may only be invoked if so decided by a majority vote of the chapter during a previously regularly held meeting. The unit rule must have been declared during the Convention Delegate registration period.

2) Each election shall be by a majority of all the delegates present. There is no requirement for a quorum for elections. If a majority is not reached on the first vote, an immediate run-off election shall be held between the remaining candidates after removing the candidate receiving the least number of votes. This process will continue until a majority vote is attained.

3) Any candidate that is unopposed may be elected by acclamation. With a petition resulting in only one (1) person for each office, the slate may be elected by acclamation.

d) Campaign Speeches:

1) Prior to voting in any election, the Chair shall set a time limit for all campaign speeches for that office and shall inform the convention of the limit.

2) During this campaign speech time, the Chair (or a duly person appointed) has merely yielded the floor for the specified time.

e) Tellers: The Chair shall appoint at least three (3) tellers (from separate local chapters, where possible) who shall tabulate all votes.

SECTION 4. Limitations on Holding Elected Office:

Subject to the other provisions in the Bylaws, any active member of a chartered local organization may run for office. The following limitations shall apply to any person holding elected office in the Rhode Island YR:

- a) Elected officers may succeed themselves in the same office once.
- b) After a period of two years away from a position, a person may be re-nominated for that same position, and be allowed to hold it for a period of no more than two additional terms.
- c) Any member holding office who reaches their forty-first (41) birthday may complete the current term of office.
- d) No member shall serve as Rhode Island YR Chair and local chapter Chair/Chair. Should a local chapter Chair/ Chair be appointed as Rhode Island YR Chair (by election or succession), they shall resign their local chapter position within 30 days of said appointment.

SECTION 5. Non-Elected Officers:

- a) The Chair of the duly chartered Young Republican County Organization and the Communications Director(s) if applicable.
- b) The Rhode Island YR Chair shall make all non-elected officer appointments. The Appointees shall hold temporary title to the office until duly ratified by the Rhode Island YR Executive Board.

SECTION 6. Vacancies.

- a) Declaration of Vacancy
 - i) An office shall be declared vacant if it is not filled during a Convention's elections.
 - ii) An office may be declared vacant by the Rhode Island YR Chair if the officer holding the position is absent (without proxy) from three (3) or more consecutive meetings of the Executive Committee during a twelve-month period.
- b) An officer losing their position due to (ii) above, they may be reinstated if they receive the favorable vote of $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Rhode Island YR Executive Board at the next scheduled meeting.
- c) Filling Vacancies.
 - i) The Chair may fill any vacancy by appointment and is subject to ratification of the Executive Board by majority vote.
 - ii) Should a position be vacant for three (3) consecutive months, any Executive Board member may nominate (by presenting a written notice of acceptance by the nominated person) a qualified person for the position. The Executive Board shall conduct a vote during the same meeting where the nomination is offered. A majority vote is needed for ratification.
 - iii) If a vacancy is filled by either (i) or (ii) above, the newly appointed officer will serve for the remainder of the term.

iv) If the office of Chair becomes vacant for any reason, the Vice Chair shall assume the office of Chair and fill the position of Vice Chair subject to ratification by a majority vote of the Rhode Island YR Executive Board.

SECTION 7. Removal of Elected Officers:

a) The Executive Board, at any meeting, may by a two-thirds (2/3) vote remove an elected official from office for good cause.

b) Good cause shall include but is not limited to, failing or ceasing to perform the duties of the office, or ceasing to be a member of the state organization.

c) The Chair, or any three (3) Rhode Island YR elected officials, may by a written notice place the removal of any elected officer on the agenda for a future meeting.

d) Once on the agenda, the Chair shall notify the Secretary to send a written notice to the officer whose removal is on the agenda. The notice shall be sent certified mail at least 10 days prior to the meeting. The notice shall include a) grounds for removal, b) the time and place for the meeting, and c) the person(s) placing it on the agenda.

e) The officer subject to removal shall have the opportunity to be heard at the meeting at which their removal is to be considered.

f) Removal of Non-Elected Officers: The Chair may remove any appointed officer from office at any time with or without reason.

ARTICLE III - Rhode Island YR Executive Board

SECTION 1. Function: The Rhode Island YR Executive Board (also referred to as the Executive Board) shall be the governing body of the Rhode Island YR except when the Convention is in session.

SECTION 2. Voting Members: The voting members of the Executive Board shall be the elected and appointed officers of the Rhode Island YR and the Chairs of all Rhode Island YR chartered clubs. No person will cast more than one vote on the Executive Board.

SECTION 3. Powers: The Executive Board powers shall include, but not be limited to:

a) Being responsible for the management of all activities of the Rhode Island YR, subject to the other requirements of these Bylaws and the Rhode Island YR Constitution.

b) Having all the powers necessary to carry out these duties.

c) Having the power to authorize an independent audit at any time.

SECTION 4. Open Meetings: The meetings of the Executive Board shall be open to all current Executive Members and invited guests of any member of the Executive Board.

SECTION 5. Quorum:

a) A quorum for meetings of the Executive Board shall be fifty percent (50%) of the voting members.

b) Vacant offices shall not count toward the numbers for a quorum.

SECTION 6. Call and Notice: Regularly scheduled meetings shall be held every other month at the call of the Chair. The Chair shall have the right to call a special meeting of the Committee by

providing not less than 10 days notice thereof to all voting members of the Executive Board. Such notice may be waived by consent of each voting member who did not receive such notice in the time required. Notice may be provided by electronic or postal mail.

SECTION 7. Proxies: Voting members of the Rhode Island YR Executive Board may be represented by proxy provided:

- a) The proxy is a member of the same local Rhode Island YR club and not currently a member of the Rhode Island YR Executive Board.
- b) The proxy is provided in writing and notice is given to the Secretary or Chair of the Rhode Island YR Executive Board prior to the roll call of the meeting.
- c) An individual may not serve as a proxy for more than one (1) person at one time.

SECTION 8: Electronic Meetings: The Rhode Island YR Executive Board may hold any Regular or Special Meeting by Electronic or Telephonic Device at the discretion of the Chair.

ARTICLE IV - STATE CONVENTION

SECTION 1. Date and Site: The Executive Board shall:

- a) Schedule the State Convention to be held each year.
- b) Make appointments for relevant committee Chairs prior to sending out notification of the State Convention.
- c) Notify all chartered Rhode Island YR clubs no later than 60 days prior to the scheduled State Convention. Notifications include the date, place and shall include a copy of Article IV Section 3 and Article IV Section 6.

SECTION 2. Logistics: Other matters or procedures pertaining to the State Convention, such as sponsorship, registration fees, procedures, logistics, record keeping, etc., shall be determined by the Executive Board.

SECTION 3. Delegates: Each local Rhode Island YR club shall submit a membership roster to the Secretary at least 30 days prior to the State Convention. Each membership roster shall contain only the names of members who are members in good standing and will be used to ascertain the number of delegates authorized for each club. Each list shall contain the following information for each individual:

- Full Name
- Legal home address
- Home telephone number
- Date of Birth and Age
- Offices held
- Email address (if available)

SECTION 4. Voting: No voting member shall be seated until such Delegate or Alternate Delegate has properly registered at the State Convention.

SECTION 5. Quorum: A quorum for the State Convention shall be those Members present.

SECTION 6. Convention Committees: The Convention Committees shall include, but are not limited to, the following committees: Credentials, Rules, Awards, Resolutions, and Constitution

& Bylaws. All Convention Committees shall meet immediately prior to the State Convention. The voting members of the Committee shall be the Committee Chairman, Committee Co-Chairman (if appointed), and one active member appointed to the committee by the Chair of each local Rhode Island YR club (that wishes to make such an appointment). Club Chairs must submit names for appointment forty-five (45) day prior to the State Convention. Each member of the committee shall be entitled to one vote and the Committee Chair may only vote to break a tie. A quorum of the committees shall be fifty percent (50%) of the committee members based on its composition as determined by the Rhode Island YR Executive Board meeting held prior to the Convention.

a) Credentials Committee: The Credentials Committee shall:

1) Review the membership list of each chartered club and approve members numbers as prescribed in Article III Section III.

2) Issue a written report to each Rhode Island YR local club Chair sent either by postal or electronic mail no later than seven (7) days prior to the Convention. Said report shall outline the delegate strength for each respective club, the names that were disqualified, and the basis for disqualification.

3) Accept any corrected information from a club Chair that clarifies a disqualification that arrives prior to the Call to Order of the State Convention. No new names shall be submitted with a Chairs corrected report.

b) Rules Committee: The rules committee shall propose the rules for the State Convention.

c) Awards Committee: The Awards Committee shall recognize outstanding accomplishments on the part of members and local Rhode Island YR clubs. The specific awards given, as well as the qualifications and requirements for the awards, shall be established by the Awards Committee and communicated to all club Chairs no less than 30 days prior to the State Convention.

d) Resolution Committee: The Resolution Committee shall consider proposed resolutions and recommend the adoption of any resolutions by the State Convention.

1. All resolution submittals must be received by the Resolution Committee 30 days prior to the State Convention.

2. A list of recommended resolutions by the committees shall be distributed to the local Rhode Island YR Chairs no later than seven (7) days prior to the State Convention.

3. A resolution may be offered on the floor in accordance with the rules of the State Convention.

e) Constitution & Bylaws Committee: The Constitution & Bylaws Committee shall consider proposed amendments to the Rhode Island YR Constitution & Bylaws and make recommendations with respect to the same.

1. All Amendment submittals must be received by the Constitution & Bylaws Committee 30 days prior to the State Convention.

2. A list of the committee's recommendations shall be distributed to the local Rhode Island YR Chairs no later than seven (7) days prior to the State Convention.

ARTICLE V - National Federation

SECTION 1. National Affiliation: The Rhode Island YR organization shall be and remain an affiliated organization of the Young Republican National Federation, or YRNF.

SECTION 2. National Convention: The Chair shall appoint, with the approval of the Executive Board, the Delegates and the Alternates Delegates to the National Convention of the YRNF. The Chair shall select the Delegation from lists provided by the chartered Rhode Island YR clubs. Said lists shall only contain members in good standing who desire to be Delegates and are committed to attending the National Convention.

SECTION 3. National Convention Awards Committee: At the Fall Rhode Island YR Executive Board meeting in each even-numbered year, the Chair shall appoint a National Convention Awards Committee of no less than five (5) members, subject to the approval of the Rhode Island YR Executive Board. The National Convention Awards Committee may select individual members and clubs to be nominated by the Rhode Island YR for National Awards in accordance with the requirements of the Young Republican National Federation. The Rhode Island YR Executive Board prior to their submission to the YRNF must approve such nominations. Nothing in this section shall prevent any member from submitting a nomination he or she would otherwise be entitled to make.

SECTION 4. The Unit Rule: The Delegation shall not invoke the unit rule unless authorized by the Rhode Island YR Executive Board.

ARTICLE VI - REPUBLICAN PARTY AFFILIATION

Upon the approval of the Rhode Island State Republican Executive Committee, The Rhode Island YR shall be an official auxiliary organization of the Republican Party of Rhode Island.

ARTICLE VII - INTERACTION WITH PUBLIC

SECTION 1. Roster: The roster or any mailing list shall not be furnished to any other person or entity, for any purpose. Only the executive board shall send out official correspondence, and when electronic, all emails must be hidden via blind copying them in all formats. (BCC)

SECTION 2. Marketing During Rhode Island YR Functions: No product shall be marketed at any Rhode Island YR function without prior approval of the Executive Board.

SECTION 3. Use of the Rhode Island YR Name: Any person or entity employing the name of the Rhode Island YR organization must have prior approval of the Rhode Island YR Chairman.

SECTION 4. Prohibited Endorsements: Neither the Rhode Island YR Executive Board, nor any chartered club, nor any officer of a chartered club or the Rhode Island YR Executive Board in their official capacity shall endorse a candidate in any race in which more than one (1) Republican runs unless only one candidate is the Republican candidate and is 40 years of age or under. The only other exception to this rule is for those races for which the Republican Party has selected an official Republican nominee. Nothing in these Bylaws shall prevent any officer of a club or of the Rhode Island YR Executive Board from endorsing a candidate in their individual capacity.

SECTION 5. Political Action Committee: The Rhode Island YR Executive Board shall have

the power to create a Political Action Committee (PAC) for the purpose of soliciting and distributing funds to benefit the Republican Party and Republican candidates in general elections.

SECTION 6. Soliciting Donations: Any person sending any written communication soliciting donations for the Rhode Island YR shall include the following disclosure on all such materials: “Contributions or gifts to the Rhode Island YR are not tax deductible for federal income tax purposes.”

ARTICLE VIII - Amendments

SECTION 1. Amendments to these Bylaws are used to mold this living document into a better managing tool. Care should be given that amendments are not offered so as to benefit a select person or persons, or time period.

SECTION 2. Any proposed amendment to these Bylaws may be approved either by the Rhode Island YR Executive Board or by the Voting Members at the State Convention.

a) Amendments submitted for consideration by the Rhode Island YR Executive Board shall be submitted in writing to all Rhode Island YR Executive Board members at 30 days prior to the next meeting of the Executive Board. Any proposed amendment shall be considered at the next regularly scheduled Executive Board meeting and will require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the present board for adoption.

b) Amendments submitted for consideration before the State Convention shall follow the rules outlined in Article IV Section 6 Subsection (e). Amendments brought before the State Convention require a two thirds (2/3) supermajority to pass.

SECTION 3. Any changes to the Rhode Island YR Constitution or Bylaws must contain a clause that explains how and when the changes affect both the Rhode Island YR and the local chapters. The clause shall stipulate the time frame for review and compliance with the local Constitutions and/or Bylaws. Also, any changes to a local Constitution or Bylaws shall require the local club to submit the new document to the Rhode Island YR Executive Board no later than 30 days after the changes are approved.

ARTICLE IX – Miscellaneous

SECTION 1. Vote Required: Whenever any action or decision, governed by the Rhode Island YR Constitution and Bylaws, requires approval by the Executive Board, the Membership, or any other body, then that approval shall require a majority vote unless otherwise stated.

SECTION 2. Non-Discrimination: The Rhode Island YR oppose any type of discrimination based on race, color, sex, national origin, or religious belief. The right of any person to be a member of the Rhode Island YR shall not be abridged on account of any of these factors.

SECTION 3. Interpretation: The Rhode Island YR Executive Board shall determine any dispute or question concerning the interpretation or meaning of this Constitution. The Executive Board should consult the opinions of the Chair and a General Counsel regarding any such question.

SECTION 4. Parliamentary Procedures: Except where inconsistent with the Rhode Island YR Constitution and Bylaws, all meetings shall be governed by the most recently revised edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

SECTION 5. Copy of Constitution: Upon request, the Executive Board shall provide a copy of the Rhode Island YR Constitution and Bylaws to any member of the Rhode Island YR. The Rhode Island YR Executive Board and all local Clubs must take all measures to make visible their Constitution and Bylaws. This would include posting to any operating manuals and official club websites.

SECTION 6. Fiscal Year: The fiscal year of the Rhode Island YR shall be from January 1st to December 31st.

SECTION 7. Indemnification and Insurance: The Rhode Island YR may provide indemnification to any of its officers or members, and may purchase and maintain insurance as needed or desired.

SECTION 8. Communications: Unless otherwise stated in these Bylaws, all notifications shall be by postal or electronic mail.