

Orange County Young Republicans

CONSTITUTION

Amended: February 9th, 2016

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of the organization shall be the Orange County Young Republican Club hereinafter referred to as the “Club.”

ARTICLE II: OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Club shall be:

- A. To develop and maintain a county-wide Young Republican organization;
- B. To bring young people into the Republican Party, to provide an opportunity for political expression and recognition, to train them as political workers, and to provide a practical means by which they may contribute to the development and betterment of the Republican Party as a service to the United States of America, the State of Florida and Orange County, and its political subdivisions;
- C. To support the principles, objectives, and platform of the Republican Party and to work for the election of all duly nominated Republican candidates; and
- D. To collect, analyze, discuss, and disseminate information concerning pertinent political affairs.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Active:

Any American citizen between eighteen (18) and forty (40) years of age, inclusive, and is a resident of the State of Florida, is eligible for Active membership in the Club. Active members in good standing may vote on any business at Regular meetings. No member may vote on Club business, however, if that member currently has voting rights in any other Young Republican club in Florida or if that member has voted at another club's meeting within the last ninety (90) days.

Section 2. Associate:

Any resident of the State of Florida who does not meet the requirements of Active member status, including a non-citizen who has made application for American citizenship, and paying annual dues may be an Associate member and shall have all the rights and privileges of Active members, except that he or she may not vote on Club business or hold Club office.

Section 3. Honorary:

Honorary members shall be those people designated for special recognition by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of those Active members present at any Regular meeting of the Club. Honorary members shall have all the rights and privileges of Associate members, but shall not be required to pay annual dues.

Section 4. Dues:

- (a) Annual dues for Active and Associate members shall be decided by the Executive Board at the first Executive Board meeting following the annual election of Club officers. Annual dues for Active and Associate members shall be announced at the next Regular Club meeting. Membership dues shall be submitted to the Treasurer or any other person the President authorizes to accept dues and whose authorization is announced at a Regular Club meeting.
- (b) Annual dues for Active and Associate members are due on or before April 1st of any given year. Membership shall expire on March 31st of the following calendar year.

Section 5. New Members:

Upon the authorized officer's receipt of the applicant's dues, the applicant shall become a member of the Club. Membership shall expire on March 31st of the year following the payment of dues. If an applicant becomes a member after November 1st of any given calendar year, the applicant shall only pay a pro-rata share of the membership dues, equivalent to one-half (1/2) of the annual dues.

Section 6. Expulsion of Membership:

The membership may, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those members present at a Regular meeting, expel from the Club, any member for any act or conduct deemed unfriendly or hostile to the best interest of the Club. Notice of the charges against the member and recommendation of the Executive Board must be included in the call of the Regular meeting, and must be received by the membership at least seventy-two (72) hours before the beginning of the meeting. At the option of the member facing expulsion, that member may waive the right to receive a vote by the membership on his/her recommendation of expulsion and instead submit to a vote by the Executive Board; upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those members of the Executive Board, said member shall be expelled from the Club. No vote for expulsion shall be valid unless the following conditions are met: the Executive Board has reviewed such proposed action and has made a recommendation of expulsion of said member, that such member shall be notified by certified mail of the recommendation of the Executive Board at least one (1) week prior to the vote for expulsion, and that such member shall have the right to appear in person or by a representative in his or her defense. Nothing herein shall otherwise limit the Club from adopting other disciplinary procedures or Bylaws that do not involved the expulsion of a member.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS

Section 1. Number and Term:

The officers of the Club shall be President, Vice-President, Associate Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Immediate Past President. All officers shall hold office from the Annual meeting until their duly elected successors take office at the Annual meeting of the following year. No officer may serve more than two (2) consecutive terms in the same office. Officers shall serve without

compensation. Officers must have been Active members of the Club in good standing for at least one-hundred eighty (180) days prior to standing for election. Officers must be registered members of the Republican Party before standing election, and must maintain membership in the Republican Party in order to hold office.

Section 2. Vacancies:

A vacancy in an elective office shall be filled by means of an election by the Active membership if ninety (90) days or more of the unexpired term remain. If less than ninety (90) days of the unexpired term remain, the vacancy shall be filled by an election of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE V: POWERS AND DUTIES

Section 1. President:

The President shall act as Chief Executive Officer, preside at all meetings of the Club and the Executive Board, appoint committees, appoint a Parliamentarian, supervise the activities of the Club, and perform all other duties incidental to the office of President. The President is the legal custodian of all Club property and, as such, is responsible for conveying to the incoming President all property received at the beginning of the term of office. The President shall appoint chairperson and members of any committees. IN the absence of any elected officer at any Executive Board or Regular Meeting, the President may appoint any other elected officer to fulfill the duties of the absent elected officer during the course of the Executive Board or Regular Meeting.

Section 2. Vice-President:

The Vice-President shall act as Chief Administrative Officer, perform the duties of the President in the absence of the President, and perform such other duties as designated by the President.

Section 3. Associate Vice-President:

The Associate Vice-President shall assist the Vice-President, perform the duties of the President in the absence of the President and Vice-President, and perform such other duties as designated by the President. If there is a vacancy in the office of Treasurer or Secretary, the Associate Vice-President shall, in addition to his or her duties as Associate Vice-President, assume the duties and title of the vacant office.

Section 4. Treasurer:

The Treasurer shall collect and pay out all Club funds as directed by the Executive Board, deposit such funds in a depository designated by the Executive Board and keep accounts of Club funds open at all times for inspection. The Treasurer shall render accounts of all transactions and of the financial status of the Club at each Regular meeting and shall submit an annual written report at the January meeting. The Treasurer shall be bonded for such sums as may be required by the Executive Board, the cost of such bond to be borne by the Club. The Treasurer shall be Chairperson of any Finance committee, and perform such other duties as designated by the President.

Section 5. Secretary:

The Secretary shall take minutes at all Club meetings and Executive Board meetings and shall submit a copy of said minutes to the Executive Board at the next Board meeting. The Secretary shall prepare the Florida Federation of Young Republicans (FFYR) credentials reports and perform such other duties as designated by the President.

Section 6. Immediate Past President:

The Immediate Past President, as a member in good standing, shall serve as an advisory to the Executive Board and perform such other duties as designated by the President.

ARTICLE VI: EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1. Duties:

The Executive Board shall consist of the elected Officers of the Club, including the Immediate Past President, an Executive Director and three (3) Directors at-large to be appointed by the President. The Executive Board shall be responsible for the management of all Club activities. Decisions of the Executive Board may be overridden by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Active members present at a Regular Club meeting, provided that a quorum of the Active membership is present. The Executive Board may establish committees as needed to carry out Club activities.

Section 2. Meetings:

The Executive Board meetings shall be held at such times and places as the Board shall decide, and each Board members shall receive at least three (3) days notice from the President, unless said notice is waived by a majority of the Board members. A majority of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3. Attendance:

Any member of the Executive Board who misses three (3) meetings of the Board, and does not show good cause for the absence within a period of fifteen (15) days after the third missed meeting, shall be considered to have resigned his or her office.

Section 4. Bylaws:

Through a majority vote, the Executive Board may adopt Bylaws consistent with this Constitution, establish procedures for conducting Club events or achieving other Club goals.

ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular:

Regular meetings of the Club shall be held monthly as directed in the Bylaws at such place as designated by the Executive Board, unless otherwise directed by the President. Contrary direction by the President requires notice to the membership at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to said meeting.

No Regular meeting shall be held on a primary or general election day for any Federal or State office that includes part of Orange County.

Section 2. Special:

Special meetings of the Club may be called at any time by the President, the Executive Board, or by signed petition of ten percent (10%) of the Active members. Written notice must be given to the membership of the Club at least one (1) week in advance of such special meeting. Such written notice shall contain a summary of the matters to be considered and only such matters shall be discussed.

Section 3. Annual:

The Annual meeting of the Club shall be the Regular meeting in January of each year.

Section 4. Quorum:

A quorum shall consist of five percent (5%) of the Active membership.

ARTICLE IIX: ELECTIONS

Section 1. Annual Elections:

Elections for all Officers shall take place at the Annual meeting. The newly elected Officers shall take office as the last order of business at the Annual meeting.

Section 2. Eligibility for Office and Voting:

Only individuals who meet the requirements of Article IV, Section 1 may stand for election as Officers. Only individuals who are Active members in good standing may vote in the elections for Officers. A member who is delinquent in paying dues may not vote or stand election. A member who is the subject of a recommendation of expulsion from the Executive Board under Article III, Section 6, may not vote or stand for election until said recommendation is resolved by the general membership. An individual must have been a continuous members of the Club as of the November Regular meeting preceding the election in order to vote for Officers. Candidates whose Active membership lapses prior to the November meeting shall be allowed a sixty (60) day grace period to become eligible to vote and stand for office.

Section 3. Slating and Nominations:

At the December Regular meeting, the Immediate Past President may present a slate of candidates for election as Officers at the Annual meeting. Other candidates may be nominated from the floor. Nominations for the election of Officers at the Annual meeting shall open no later than the December Regular meeting, and shall close at the December Regular meeting.

Section 4. Order of Elections:

Election of Officers shall take place in the following order: (1) President; (2) Vice-President; (3) Associate Vice-President; (4) Treasurer; and (5) Secretary.

Section 5. Ballots:

Voting in all contested races shall be by secret ballot. No proxy voting shall be allowed. A plurality of the votes cast shall be sufficient for election to all offices and directorships, except for the office of President. If an absolute majority is not obtained on the first ballot for the office of President, the candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall participate in a run-off election with the candidate receiving the next highest number of votes. The candidate who receives the most votes in the run-off election shall be the winner, regardless of whether any candidate receives a majority in the run-off election. Any candidate has the right to inspect the ballots for fifteen (15) minutes after the results are announced for his or her race, but may waive the right at any time during the fifteen (15) minutes period.

Section 6. Tellers:

The Immediate Past President shall appoint no less than two (2) tellers who shall distribute, collect, and tabulate the ballots. Candidates for office cannot be tellers. In the absence of the Immediate Past President, the outgoing President shall appoint the tellers. The tellers shall be the custodians of the ballots during the fifteen (15) minute periods in which candidates may demand inspection of the ballots.

ARTICLE IX: CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT

Section 1. General:

Neither the Club, nor the Executive Board as a whole, nor any Officers or directors, in his or her official capacities, shall in any way endorse or oppose the candidacy of any Republican prior to any Primary election or during a non-partisan race.

Section 2. Penalty:

Violation of Section 1 of this Article by the Executive Board as a whole, or any Officer or director, shall constitute grounds for a vote of censure and/or removal from office by the Club membership following the voting and notification procedures of Article III, Section 6.

ARTICLE X: STATE AFFILIATION

Section 1. State Affiliate:

This Club is a member of the Florida Federation of Young Professional Republicans, and shall be subject to the Constitution and Bylaws of said Federation.

Section 2. State Convention Delegation:

The President shall select delegates and/or alternates to fill any vacancies in said position for the State Convention pursuant to the guidelines and requirements of the Florida Federation of Young Professional Republicans.

ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Submitting:

A proposed amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary at any Regular meeting, at which time it shall be read to the members. The Secretary will then submit the proposed amendment to the Constitutional Committee for review and recommendation. In the absence of the Secretary, the proposed amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws may be submitted to the President.

Section 2. Announcement and Vote:

The call of the next Regular meeting, which is sent to the entire Club membership, shall include a copy of the proposed amendment and the Constitutional Committee's recommendation if it is available. The proposed amendment, and any alternative offered by the Constitutional Committee, shall be voted upon at the next Regular meeting immediately following the Regular meeting at which the proposed amendment was submitted and read. The Constitutional Committee, however, shall have the right to postpone a vote on the proposed amendment by one (1) month if additional time is needed for review and recommendation.

Section 3. Constitutional Amendments:

The Constitution may not be amended more than once during any time between two Annual meetings. An affirmative vote of at least three-fifths (3/5) majority of Active members present shall be sufficient to adopt any amendment, so long as a quorum of the Active members is present. No proxy voting shall be allowed.

Section 4. Bylaw Amendments:

The Bylaws may not be amended more than once during any one-hundred eighty (180) day period. An affirmative vote of a majority of the Active members present shall be sufficient to adopt any amendment, so long as a quorum of the Active members is present. No proxy voting shall be allowed.

ARTICLE XII: ADOPTION

This Constitution shall take effect immediately upon the close of the first subsequent Regular meeting following the Annual meeting proceeding the calendar year in which it is amended or adopted, and shall supersede any Constitution and/or Bylaws previously adopted by the Club.



President