

# **Constitution for the Chicago Young Republicans**

*(In effect as of December 6, 2009)*

## **Preamble**

The now and present Members of the Chicago Young Republicans, comprising of and serving the Republican citizens of the whole and incorporated City of Chicago, in order to better serve our Party, City, State and Nation, through educating the general citizenry about the Republican Party, and support the candidates running for office as Republicans, and develop the younger members of the party to be its eventual leaders, do hereby declare that this document will serve as the Constitution for the Chicago Young Republicans

## **Article I**

The organization governed under this Constitution shall be forever known as the Chicago Young Republicans and shall be referred to in this document as such or as the "CYRs."

## **Article II**

Section 1. Membership in the Chicago Young Republicans may be that of a Regular Member or Associate Member.

Section 2. Regular Members shall consist of any persons, aged 18 to 40 inclusive, who have paid their dues in full, according to the Treasurer, herein defined, and must, at the time of application for membership, either reside or be employed in the City of Chicago. Regular Members shall be considered Voting Members and constitute the Voting Membership.

Section 3. Associate Members shall be dues-paying Members that do not otherwise meet the requirements of Section 2. Associate Members may not, unless granted special permission by the Executive Board, cast any vote on any matter at any meeting.

Section 4. All applications for membership shall be approved by the Membership Committee, per the By-Laws. Such approved memberships may be overturned by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Executive Board.

## **Article III**

Section 1. All powers granted within this Article concern the decision-making authority of the Membership of the Chicago Young Republicans.

Section 2. Unless otherwise stated or generally accepted, all meetings of the CYRs and procedural motions made during such meetings shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 3. All subjects made explicitly the province of the Membership shall be decided by a simple majority of the Voting Membership unless otherwise specified.

Each Voting Member, regardless of title, shall have one vote, unless otherwise stated.

Section 4. There shall be at least ten (10) meetings of the Membership during each calendar year. Meetings of the Membership shall be held not less than twenty (20) days from the most recent meeting held, with the time, place, and manner of holding such meetings set by the Executive Board, herein defined.

Section 5. Minutes for all meetings of the Membership shall be kept by the Secretary, herein defined, or, if the Secretary is not available, by a designee chosen by the Executive Board.

Section 6. All votes concerning the payment of dues shall be decided by the Voting Membership present.

Section 7. The Voting Membership shall also entertain all votes concerning:  
Expending CYR resources on political campaigns of Members and non-members;  
Disciplining Members (except expulsion);  
Amending the By-Laws or rules of meetings;  
Memberships in other organizations; and  
Elections of Executive Board Members at regular elections and for permanent replacements to the Executive Board as necessary.

Section 8. All votes concerning memberships and affiliations with other organizations shall pass with a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Voting Membership present.

Section 9. Any vetoes of the Executive Board, herein defined, may be overturned by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Voting Membership present.

Section 10. Elections for Executive Board Members will be decided by a plurality of the Voting Membership present, whether at the regular time or in a special election for a permanent replacement to the Executive Board.

Section 11. Articles of Impeachment brought to the floor by motion can be passed only by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of all Voting Members, including those Members present.

Section 12. Attendance of five percent (5%) of the total Voting Membership at any meeting of the Membership shall constitute a Quorum.

## Article IV

Section 1. The Executive authority shall reside in the Executive Board, consisting of the President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. Only Voting Members, at the time of any election, may hold office as a member of the Executive Board. To qualify for election to the Executive Board, a candidate must be a Regular Member for at least one year. No member shall be a candidate for, or hold at any one time, multiple elected offices within the CYRs. A candidate for President must be a Regular Member for a minimum of two years. No member of the Executive Board

may hold an elected position in any other county-based Young Republican Organization.

Section 2. The Executive Board has authority over all subjects not explicitly granted to the Voting Membership, including the interpretation of this Constitution and any By-Laws enacted under it, and may temporarily fill any vacancies on the Executive Board, in accordance with the other principles herein outlined, until the next General Meeting. The Executive Board may, by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the entire Executive Board, veto any decision of the Voting Membership.

Section 3. The President shall serve as the Chief Executive Officer and leader of the Chicago Young Republicans. in all matters, public or private. The President shall, with the advice and consent of the Executive Board, select the Chairpersons of the Committees installed by the Executive Board, and select a General Counsel. The President shall set the agenda for each meeting with the advice of the Executive Board and act as Chief Parliamentarian for all meetings. In the President's role of Chief Parliamentarian, the President shall have no vote on matters before the Membership, except in the event of a tie, in which the vote of the President shall decide all ties.

Section 4. The Vice President serves as the Chief Operations Officer for the Chicago Young Republicans. The Vice President shall serve as President when the President is unable to perform such duties. The Vice President shall also perform any other duties as assigned by the President.

Section 5. The Treasurer is the Chief Financial Officer and accountant for the CYRs. The Treasurer shall collect all dues and other sums due to the CYRs, maintain a bank account for holding such funds, pay all bills, arrange for the filing of taxes where necessary and otherwise handle the day-to-day monetary arrangements of the CYRs. The Treasurer shall also, at the beginning of each fiscal year, submit a budget to the Board of Governors, herein defined, for approval.

Section 6. The Secretary shall have charge of all record-keeping relating to the operation on the CYRs outside of fiscal matters and shall keep a file of all committee reports, a copy of all minutes of that year's meetings, a copy of the By-Laws, including any and all amendments and shall record and draw up the meeting minutes of the meetings of the Membership, Executive Board and Board of Governors. The Secretary shall notify all Members of any actions taken by the Board affecting them and shall perform other additional responsibilities as are assigned by the President.

Section 7. It shall be the responsibility of the Executive Board Members to deliver a report at each meeting detailing the status of the CYRs.

Section 8. Any member of the Executive Board herein defined, shall, for criminal, unethical, or other behavior unbecoming a member of the Chicago Young Republicans, be removed from office upon impeachment.

## Article V

Section 1. The Board of Governors shall be comprised of all Executive Board Members and the Chairpersons of each Permanent Standing Committee.

Section 2. The Board of Governors shall be charged with the management responsibilities for the entirety of the CYRs, and shall, subject to the powers and limitations granted in this Constitution and any By-Laws enacted under it, have all powers necessary to carry out this responsibility.

Section 3. The following Standing Committees are deemed permanent and their status may not be altered by the Executive Board: Advisory, Political Action, Events, Communications and Membership.

Section 4. The Elections Committee shall be deemed a Permanent Committee, insofar as the Executive Board may not alter the status of such committee and that a Chairperson of the Elections Committee must be appointed, as per this Constitution and any relevant By-Laws. This status as a Permanent Committee shall not be interpreted as requiring maintenance of an Elections Committee after the Annual Meeting and Election of Officers.

Section 5. The creation of Special and ad hoc Committees and the processes for appointment and termination shall be performed in a method detailed in the By-Laws.

## Article VI

Section 1. The President, with the advice and consent of the Board of Governors, shall appoint a Comptroller, who shall have authority to review, audit or otherwise monitor the financial status of the CYRs. A Comptroller must be a member of the CYRs for at least one year prior to the appointment.

Section 2. The Comptroller shall perform the functions described in Section 1 of this Article in a manner as directed by the Board of Governors, but in no event less than twice per year.

Section 3. The Comptroller shall also be responsible for any and all administrative filings for and on behalf of the CYRs, and shall assist the Treasurer in the preparation of tax filings.

Section 4. The Comptroller shall not be a member of the Executive Board, the Board of Governors, the Advisory Committee or serve as a Committee Chairperson while serving as Comptroller. The Comptroller may not vote on CYR business except for those matters brought before the Voting Membership.

Section 5. Nothing in the preceding Sections shall preclude the Comptroller from serving on any standing, special or ad hoc committee.

## Article VII

Section 1. Each year in the month of April, the Board of Governors shall call an Annual Meeting and Election of Officers ("Annual Meeting") to discuss the business and direction of the CYRs.

Section 2. The Executive Board must distribute an Agenda and List of Items for Consideration, including election of Executive Board Members, if applicable to the Membership no later than twenty (20) days prior to the Annual Meeting.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of the Executive Board to accept votes on such Considered Items by Voting Members in-person at the Annual Meeting.

## Article VIII

Whenever a majority of the Voting Membership deems it necessary, motions to amend this Constitution shall be entertained by the Voting Membership. In such a case, after due deliberation on the Amendment, constituting one month's time, the Voting Membership, having been duly notified by the Executive Board of the pending Amendment, shall vote on the Amendment. The Amendment to this Constitution shall pass upon a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Voting Membership. Such votes on the Amendment should be taken in accordance with the guidelines prescribed for the Annual Meeting.

## Article IX

Nothing in this Constitution or any By-Laws enacted under it shall be read in a manner so as to discriminate against any Member or applicant for membership based on race, physical or mental disability, religious creed, ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation. Further, the right of any person to be a member of the CYRs shall not be abridged on account of any of these factors.

## Article X

Chicago Young Republicans, Inc. an Illinois-domiciled Not-For-profit Corporation, exists and operates under the General Not For Profit Corporation Act of the State of Illinois. This Constitution and any By-Laws enacted shall not be read in any manner so as to conflict with any Illinois Law.

Drafted and approved by Member of the Chicago Young Republicans on December 6, 2009.

Jeremy Rose, President  
Laura Kotelman, Vice President  
Arthur Gollwitzer, Treasurer  
Rachel Moguel, Secretary