



Convention Committee on Rules and Charter Report to the National Convention on the Permanent Rules for the 2021 National Convention

**Wednesday, August 11, 2021
Cincinnati, OH**

Chair McFadden:

In accordance with Bylaws Section 350(a), the Convention Committee on Rules and Charter has met to recommend rules to govern the conduct of the 2021 Young Democrats of America National Convention.

After due consideration, the Convention Committee on Rules and Charter reports to the National Convention the following permanent rules to govern this National Convention.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matthew R. Kochevar (IN) – Chair

Tanner Hale (NV) – Vice Chair

Michael Hemminger (VA) – Secretary

Permanent Rules

of the 2021

Young Democrats of America National Convention

Adopted pursuant to the Charter and Bylaws of the Young Democrats of America by the Delegates of the National Convention meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Sec. 1. Location and Date. The National Convention of the Young Democrats of America (the Convention) shall be held in Cincinnati, Ohio, on August 11-14, 2021.

Sec. 2. Virtual Component Authorized. The National Convention shall be an in-person convention with a virtual component where a delegate can attend physically, in-person, and a limited number of delegates may attend virtually, by means of electronic communication as permitted in the Charter and Bylaws.

Sec. 3. Definitions. The following definitions apply to the Permanent Rules of the National Convention:

“Live Streamed.” Livestream means when audio and video footage from a meeting is captured and streamed live via the Internet, such that the content being streamed is not pre-recorded, but filmed and streamed on the Internet when it is happening.

“Virtual Delegate.” A chartered unit delegate that attends the general session of the National Convention by using a Virtual Lobby.

“Virtual Lobby.” Virtual Lobby means the use of teleconferencing or video conferencing software that allows for remote participation in proceedings of an in-person meeting by Virtual Delegates. Virtual lobbies may limit the use of some software features like participant audio and in-meeting chat.

Sec. 4. Convention Chair. The Convention Chair shall be responsible for conducting and expediting the business of the Convention, for preserving order and decorum in the proceedings, and for performing any such lawful action as may be necessary and appropriate to carry out their duties, provided they shall not violate the Charter, Bylaws, Standing Rules, or Convention Rules.

The Convention Chair shall direct the Convention Sergeant-at-Arms or their designee to compel Delegates who have left General Session to return to General Session as necessary to ensure the presence of a quorum during the proceedings, including officer elections.

The Convention Chair shall direct the Convention Sergeant-at-Arms or their designee to compel Delegates to keep order when their actions prevent the election of officers.

The Convention Chair shall direct the Convention Sergeant-at-Arms or their designee to ensure that all Delegates, Alternates, or other individuals present at the Convention are abiding by all health and safety protocols as deemed necessary by a governmental authority, designated health care provider, or the Committee on Convention Procedures. Protocols shall include, but is not limited to, individuals properly wearing masks or face shields and ensuring proper social distancing. The Sergeant-at-Arms or their designee may remove individuals from the Convention who refuse to follow health and safety protocols.

Sec. 5. Replacement of Convention Officer. In the event that any Convention Officer resigns from their position less than sixty (60) days prior to the opening session of the Convention, the President shall appoint a temporary officer. In such a case, the first order of business and vote taken up in the first General Session shall be a voice vote to approve the temporary officer as a permanent convention officer for the position so appointed. The vote to approve the temporary officer as a permanent convention officer shall be a non-debatable motion. Any temporary officer shall have full rights and privileges as if they were the permanent convention officer. If the voice vote fails, then any properly credentialed delegate may nominate an individual to serve as the permanent convention officer. A vote among all properly nominated individuals shall then be held using the same method as electing National Officers. No individual may be nominated or elected by the Convention if they are either running for a National Officer position or have endorsed any candidate for National Officer.

Nothing in this section shall prevent any welcoming remarks, introductions, or similar prior to the voice vote on approving the temporary officer.

Sec. 6. Committee on Convention Procedures. Pursuant to Bylaws Section 310, the Committee on Convention Procedures (Procedures Committee) shall be responsible for establishing and publishing the Convention Schedule and ensuring adequate administrative, legal, and clerical facilities are provided for Delegations and Committees. The Procedures Committee shall supervise the operation of the Convention and advise the Convention Chair accordingly.

Sec. 7. Convention Standing Committees. The Convention Standing Committees (Committees) shall be the Committee on Credentials (Credentials Committee), the Committee on Rules and Charter (Rules Committee), and the Committee on Platform (Platform Committee).

Chairs of Committees (Committee Chairs) shall be responsible for conducting the business of their respective Committees. If a Committee Chair is unable to perform any duty for any reason, the Vice Chair of the Committee shall perform the duty instead.

Committee Chairs shall establish a seating arrangement within their respective committees and designate areas for Committee members and other attendees. Participation in Committee meetings shall be restricted to Committee members.

If a unit fails to designate and certify a Committee Delegate or Committee Alternate to serve on a Committee in accordance with Charter Section 350(d), the first Delegate or Alternate of the unit to attend a Committee Meeting and register as a Committee Member with the Committee Chair shall represent their unit until their unit's Delegation Chair designates and certifies a different Delegate or Alternate to represent their unit on the Committee. When serving as Committee Members, Delegates and Alternates may only represent the unit of which they are a Delegate or Alternate.

Sec. 8. Standing Committee Meetings. Committee Meetings shall be announced in the Convention Schedule. Committee Chairs or the Convention Chair may call Committee Meetings not announced in the Convention Schedule by notifying the Convention Secretary in writing. The Convention Chair shall announce the time and place of the meeting at the beginning of the subsequent General Session. The meeting may convene not less than one (1) hour after the announcement.

Sec. 9. Remote Participation of Virtual Delegates at Convention Committees. In accordance with Section 350(f) of the Bylaws, the Convention Procedures Committee may, in its sole discretion, determine that any number of attendees, up to and including all Committee Delegates and Alternates, may participate in any meeting of Convention Standing Committees by means of remote communication using a Virtual Lobby. Participation in a meeting held by remote communication shall constitute presence in-person at the meeting for all purposes, including quorum and voting.

Sec. 10. Standing Committee Reports. Committees shall prepare reports of their proceedings and submit them to the Convention Secretary as soon as practicable after the adjournment of the Committee Meeting. Each Committee Chair shall present and seek adoption of their Committee's report to the Convention during the subsequent General Session.

The Credentials Committee shall submit an initial report to the Convention Secretary and the other Committee Chairs no later than 5:00 PM ET on Wednesday, August 11, 2021, so the Committees may conduct business in accordance with Charter Section 350(c). The Credentials Committee shall submit a final report to the Convention Secretary no later than the opening of the final General Session.

The Rules Committee shall submit Permanent Convention Rules to the Convention Secretary no later than 5:00 PM ET on Thursday, August 12, 2021. The Rules Committee shall submit favorable Charter and Bylaws amendments no later than 5:00 PM ET on Friday, August 13, 2021. The Rules Committee shall submit approved Caucus charter applications to the Convention Secretary no later than the opening of the final General Session.

The Platform Committee shall submit the biennial Platform and any resolutions to the Convention Secretary no later than 5:00 PM ET on Friday, August 13, 2021.

All Committee reports, minority reports, and other Committee submissions shall be made available to Delegates and Alternates through electronic means before they may be considered in General Session.

Sec. 11. Standing Committee Minority Reports. Minority reports of Committees shall be accepted by the Committee Chair upon the filing of a written petition signed or electronically signed by twenty-five percent (25%) of the membership of the Committee. A Committee Member participating in the drafting of a minority report must notify the Committee Chair, in writing, not later than ten (10) minutes after the adjournment or recess of the Committee that a minority report is being drafted. The minority report shall be filed with the Committee Chair not later than thirty (30) minutes after the adjournment or recess of the Committee. The Committee Chair shall remain present in the Committee Meeting room, or an alternative location announced before the adjournment or recess of the Committee, until all minority reports are filed. The Committee Chair shall be permitted to correct formatting and grammatical or typographical errors in a draft minority report with supervision by a Committee Member who participated in the drafting of the minority report. If the minority report is signed by the requisite number of Committee Members and does not contain language in violation of the Charter, Bylaws, Standing Rules, or Convention Rules, the Committee Chair shall certify that the minority report is valid. After the Committee report has been read to the Convention, minority reports shall be read and voted upon in the General Session in order of submission to the Committee Chair. Minority reports approved by the Convention shall be published with the Committee report.

Sec. 12. Constituency Caucuses, Provisional Constituency Caucuses, and Constituency Caucus Working Groups. Constituency Caucuses (Caucuses) shall be the Women, Black, Hispanic, Asian American and Pacific Islander, Muslim, Native American, Labor, Environmental, Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-Transgender-Questioning, Disability Issues, Jewish, Veterans and Military Affairs, Rural, College, and High School Caucuses, in accordance with Bylaws Section 1005(a).

Additional Caucuses may be established by vote of the National Convention, following approval by the Rules Committee, in accordance with Bylaws Section 1005(b). Additional Caucuses shall only be established in place of an existing Provisional Constituency Caucus.

Provisional Constituency Caucuses (Provisional Caucuses) and Constituency Caucus Working Groups (Working Groups) created during the past biennium shall cease to exist at the conclusion of the Convention, in accordance with Bylaws Section 1010(b) and 1015(b).

Sec. 13. Constituency Caucus, Provisional Constituency Caucus and Constituency Caucus Working Group Meetings. Caucuses, Provisional Caucuses, and Working Groups shall meet at

times designated in the official Convention Schedule but may not conduct officer elections before 10:00 AM ET on Thursday, August 12, 2021.

The Convention Chair or the presiding officer of a Caucus, Provisional Caucus, or Working Group may call meetings not announced in the Convention Schedule by notifying the Convention Secretary in writing. The Convention Chair shall announce the time and place of the meeting at the beginning of the subsequent General Session. The meeting shall convene not less than two (2) hours after the announcement.

The presiding officer of Caucus meetings, including the election of officers, shall be the Caucus chair, or, in the absence of the chair, the highest-ranking Caucus officer. In the absence of any Caucus officers, the Convention Chair shall appoint a member of the Caucus as presiding officer of the Caucus.

The presiding officer of Provisional Caucus meetings, including the election of officers, shall be the Provisional Caucus chair, or, in the absence of the chair, the highest-ranking Provisional Caucus officer. In the absence of any Provisional Caucus officers, the Convention Chair shall appoint a member of the Provisional Caucus as presiding officer of the Provisional Caucus.

The presiding officer of Working Group meetings, including the election of officers, shall be the Working Group chair, or, in the absence of the chair, the highest-ranking Working Group officer. In the absence of any Working Group officers, the Convention Chair shall appoint a member of the Working Group as presiding officer of the Working Group.

Sec. 14. Constituency Caucus Charter Applications. Newly elected Caucus chairs shall submit applications to re-charter their Caucus to the Rules Committee for initial review and approval, in accordance with Charter Section 1030, subsequent to their elections but no later than 8:00 PM ET on Friday, August 13, 2021.

Applications shall include the Caucus's plan to guide their activities in accordance with Charter Section 1030 and Bylaws Section 1005, as well as a copy of the Caucus's bylaws and rules in accordance with Charter Section 1020 and Bylaws Section 1020.

Applications shall be initially approved by the Rules Committee unless the Caucus chair fails to submit bylaws and rules in accordance with the Charter and Bylaws.

Provisional Caucus Chairs shall submit applications to be duly recognized and established as a Caucus to the Rules Committee for initial review and approval, in accordance with Bylaws Section 1005(b), no later than 8:00 PM ET on Friday, August 13, 2021. The Provisional Caucus Chair shall also submit a proposed amendment to the list of recognized Caucuses specified in Bylaws Section 1005(a), which shall be considered simultaneously with the charter application.

Sec. 15. Selection of Unit Delegates and Alternate Delegates. Units shall select Delegates and Alternate Delegates (Alternates) in accordance with Charter Section 380.

Delegates and Alternates may be required to demonstrate residency by providing documentation, such as a driver's license, state-issued identification, student identification, voter registration card, or other document deemed appropriate by the Chair of the Credentials Committee.

If a unit's Delegation list is not filed in accordance with Charter Section 380(c), any member from a chartered unit who are present at the National Convention may register as Delegates or Alternates. Delegates and Alternates shall be registered in the order listed on the unit's Delegation list or, in the absence of a complete Delegation list, in order of registration.

Sec. 16. Reporting Virtual Delegates. Each chartered unit shall report which of their delegates are designated as a Virtual Delegate in reporting the names and contact information of each delegate and alternate to the Convention Secretary according to Section 380(c) of the Charter not later than seven (7) days before the first meeting of the general session of the National Convention.

Sec. 17. Restriction on Amount of Virtual Delegates. According to Section 382(a) of the Charter and Section 382 of the Bylaws, a chartered unit may only permit for up to twenty-five percent (25%) of their voting delegates to an in-person meeting of the National Convention to be designated as Virtual Delegates and entitled to attend the National Convention virtually. The number of Virtual Delegates a chartered unit may designate shall be rounded to the nearest whole number.

According to Section 382(h) of the Charter, chartered units must have at least one (1) in-person delegate present at the National Convention to designate Virtual Delegates. The delegation chair for the chartered unit may not be designated a Virtual Delegate.

For purposes of this rule, 25% means either 25% of the minimum number of delegates needed to receive full participation votes or 25% of all registered delegates from a chartered unit, whichever number is greater.

Sec. 18. Hardship Waiver. Registration fees may be waived for financial hardship by the Credentials Committee. Fee waiver requests must be submitted in writing to the Convention Secretary no later than 12:00 PM ET on Wednesday, August 11, 2021.

Sec. 19. Registration Deadline. Registration for Delegates and Alternates shall close at 8:00 PM ET on Friday, August 13, 2021. Registration for non-voting attendees shall close at 5:00 PM ET on Friday, August 13, 2021. The Convention Registration Desk shall remain open a minimum of ten (10) hours per day on Wednesday, August 11 and Thursday, August 12 and a minimum of

twelve (12) hours on Friday, August 13, with registration hours provided in the Convention Schedule and posted in a prominent location.

A Delegate or Alternate shall be considered registered when they have signed in at the Convention Registration Desk, presented identification, provided proof of COVID-19 vaccination or provided a medical exemption from a licensed medical provider, and paid their registration fee or received a fee waiver.

Sec. 20. Virtual Delegate Registration. The Convention Management Committee shall establish a procedure for each delegate designated as a Virtual Delegate by a chartered unit to register and check-in at the National Convention. This procedure shall be reported to the Convention Procedures Committee and shall be shared with each Virtual Delegate by the Young Democrats of America Secretary in the most expeditious manner possible.

Registration for Virtual Delegates shall close at 5:00 PM PT/8:00 PM ET on Friday, August 13, 2021.

A Virtual Delegate shall be considered registered when they have completed the registration and check-in process established by the Convention Management Committee, received a confirmation receipt, and paid their registration fee or received a fee waiver.

The Delegation Chair for the chartered unit shall personally collect the credentials for each Virtual Delegate from the Convention Registration Desk during registration hours according to Section 19 and 21 of the Permanent Rules of the National Convention.

At any time prior to the close of registration, a Delegation Chair may replace a Virtual Delegate with an alternate, who shall be permitted to attend in-person or virtually, if the Virtual Delegate will not be present for the remainder of the Convention and the alternate fulfills the qualifications to be a delegate in accordance with the Charter and Bylaws and their chartered unit's delegate selection rules.

Sec. 21. Credentials. Each Delegate and Alternate shall personally collect their credentials from the Convention Registration Desk during registration hours.

No Delegate or Alternate shall collect a credential until the Credentials Committee approves their unit's charter application and determines the member is eligible to serve as a Delegate or Alternate in accordance with the Charter and Bylaws and their unit's Delegate selection rules. A Delegate or Alternate shall return their credential if the Convention fails to seat the member as a Delegate or Alternate. At any time prior to the close of registration, a Delegation Chair may replace a Delegate with an Alternate if the Delegate will not be present for the remainder of the Convention and the Alternate fulfills the qualifications to be a Delegate in accordance with the Charter and Bylaws and their unit's Delegate selection rules.

Delegate and Alternate credentials shall be prominently displayed at all times during General Session and Committee Meetings.

Sec. 22. Quorum. The quorum for General Session shall be one-third (1/3) of registered Delegates, as determined by the most recent Credentials report, present both in-person and virtually within the Virtual Lobby. This section may not be suspended under any circumstances.

Sec. 23. Convention Hall Arrangements. The Convention Hall shall be arranged so that only Delegates, Alternates, and individuals authorized by the Convention Chair may be admitted to the floor. Areas for observers, including all other Convention attendees, shall be designated by the Procedures Committee. The Convention Sergeant-at-Arms shall appoint a minimum of four (4) Assistant Sergeants-at-Arms to assist with maintaining order.

The Convention Sergeant-at-Arms shall remove any Delegate, Alternate, or observer who is disruptive to the Convention, but may not restrict participation in voting except in cases of perceived or actual threat of physical harm to a person.

The Convention Hall shall be arranged so that at a minimum a Virtual Delegate can see in the Virtual Lobby the Convention Chair's rostrum and hear any and all speech and debate given on the floor.

Sec. 24. Livestreaming Convention General Session. The National Convention general sessions shall be Live Streamed and be available for viewing by all members of the Young Democrats of America who request to access it. In the event the general session must go into closed session or otherwise may not be observed by any person who is not a delegate, according to the Charter, Bylaws, Standing Rules, or Robert's Rules of Order, the livestream may not be available for viewing by members who are not delegates to the National Convention and a banner shall be placed informing the member that the general session is in closed session.

The Convention Chair may delay proceedings of the general session when a technical issue is reported that may interrupt or delegate the ability of members to view the livestream of the general session. No intervening motion from floor is required to place the Convention at ease when a technical issue is reported to the Chair.

The livestreaming of the general session shall be on a feed that is separate from the Virtual Lobby used by a Virtual Delegate to attend the general session.

Sec. 25. Virtual Delegates Participation. Virtual Delegates shall be entitled to participate in the general session proceedings of the National Convention by accessing a Virtual Lobby that is to be determined by the Convention Procedures Committee. The Convention Procedures Committee shall coordinate with the Convention Management Committee in selecting the Virtual

Lobby to ensure all necessary resources are available to allow for Virtual Delegates to attend the general sessions of the National Convention.

Information and access to the virtual lobby shall be emailed to Virtual Delegates at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the first general session of the National Convention by the Convention Secretary or their designee.

Except as provided in Section 28 of the Permanent Rules of the National Convention, the Virtual Lobby must allow a Virtual Delegate to be able to vote on any and all matters that come before the National Convention in accordance with Section 26 of the Permanent Rules of the National Convention, with the exception of the election of officers, through utilizing the nonverbal feedback tools of the Virtual Lobby to make their final vote known to the Convention Secretary or their designee.

Sec. 26. Voting. Except for voting under Section 27 of the Convention Rules, voting shall be conducted by voice vote or in any other manner determined by the Convention Chair or presiding officer and permitted by Robert's Rules of Order.

In accordance with Charter Section 370(a), the total votes that a unit is entitled to cast shall be equally divided among registered Delegates of the unit who are present in person. The final votes by a chartered unit shall be cast in whole numbers rounded as closely as possible to the expressed votes of its individual Delegates. No Delegate may cast more votes than permitted by the unit's votes-per-delegate ratio established under Charter Section 370(b).

Sec. 27. Roll Call Votes. Roll call votes shall be conducted when the Convention Chair is in doubt of the outcome of a vote or upon a request from the floor supported by twenty-five percent (25%) of the registered Delegates of the Convention as determined by a show of hands. When a roll call vote is ordered, the Convention Chair shall open the roll, at which time the doors shall be sealed, and ten (10) minutes shall be provided for Delegation Chairs to collect the voting preference of each Delegate present on a tally sheet which shall be provided by the Convention Secretary for this purpose. Prior to the close of the vote, each Delegation Chair shall sign the tally sheet for their unit and submit the tally sheet to the Convention Secretary.

Upon receiving each Delegation's tally sheet, the Convention Secretary shall enter the number of Delegates present and the number of votes cast, by unit, into a tally board which shall be visible to all Delegates. The tally board shall display each unit's vote as it is reported but shall not display the total of all reported unit votes until the Convention Chair or presiding officer announces that the vote is closed. Any Delegation that has not submitted their tally sheet to the Convention Secretary or their designee by the close of the vote shall be counted as not voting. After the vote has been closed, the Convention Chair or presiding officer shall ask if any votes displayed on the tally board for a unit are incorrect or should be challenged.

After any corrections or challenges, the Convention Chair or presiding officer shall declare the vote final, announce the result, and order the final vote totals to be displayed on the tally board and recorded in the minutes.

In lieu of tally sheets, the Procedures Committee may provide for an electronic voting system that otherwise satisfies the requirements of this section.

Sec. 28. Roll Call Votes by Virtual Delegates. When a roll call vote is ordered, including voting for the election of a candidate to a national office that is contested, the Convention Chair shall open the roll, at which time no more Virtual Delegates may be admitted to the virtual Convention, until such time as the vote total is announced. Ten (10) minutes shall be provided for each Virtual Delegate to report their vote to their chartered unit's delegation chair using the electronic methods of communication established by the chartered unit under Section 31 of these rules. The delegation chair shall record the vote of each Virtual Delegate on the voting tally sheet used by the chartered unit's delegation to report the votes of their delegation to the Convention Secretary. The tally sheet shall indicate how in-person delegates are voting and how Virtual Delegates are voting.

Upon the vote being closed, the Convention Secretary, or their designee shall enter the number of delegates present, both in-person and virtually, and the number of votes cast, by unit, into a tally board which shall be visible to all delegates. The tally board shall display each unit's vote as it is reported but shall not display the total of all reported unit votes until the Convention Chair announces that the vote is closed. Any delegate who has not submitted their vote by the close of the vote shall be counted as not voting. After all votes are counted the Convention Chair shall declare the vote final, announce the result, and order the final vote totals to be displayed on the tally board and recorded in the minutes.

The Virtual Delegate shall have the right to request photographic verification that their vote is being accurately recorded by the person recording the vote of the Virtual Delegate.

Sec. 29. Votes May Not Be Interrupted. When a main motion has been submitted to the Convention for a vote, the vote may not be interrupted for any purpose other than a Point of Information, Point of Order, Point of Parliamentary Inquiry, Appeal, Division of the Question, Request for a Roll Call Vote, Correction of a Vote, or Challenge to a Vote.

Sec. 30. Challenges. No Delegate shall be required to cast a vote contrary to their expressed preference, in accordance with Charter Section 370(c). Any Virtual Delegate may challenge their unit's vote if the Virtual Delegate believes that their vote has been incorrectly recorded and cast by the chartered unit's delegation chair.

The challenging Virtual Delegate shall immediately inform the Convention Secretary of the challenge and first attempt to work with their respective delegation chair to resolve the challenge

informally with the Convention Parliamentarian or their designee. If informal mediation is unsuccessful, the Convention may order the unit's vote changed to reflect the challenging Delegate's expressed preference or may direct the Convention Chair to have the Convention Secretary or their designee re-collect the voting preferences of the unit in lieu of the delegation chair.

Corrective actions taken by the Convention shall be recorded in the minutes, but the names of the challenging Virtual Delegate, delegation chair, or designees of the Convention Parliamentarian and/or Secretary shall not be included unless the Convention orders them printed.

Motions under this section shall not be subject to amendment or debate and may be adopted by a majority vote as determined by a non-roll call vote method.

Sec. 31. Debate and Speaking Time Limit. Debate on any question that is debatable according to Robert's Rules of Order shall not exceed ten (10) minutes. Speaking shall be limited to one (1) minute per speaker, per question. The time shall be equally divided between proponents and opponents of the motion being debated. The Convention Chair shall only entertain one (1) motion to extend limits of debate per question debated by the Convention Delegates.

A Virtual Delegate may seek recognition on the floor during the general session through the Virtual Lobby.

The Convention Secretary or their designee shall have a method in place for Virtual Delegates to seek floor recognition and be able to fully participate in debate and make motions. The Convention Secretary or their designee shall ensure that the Convention Chair is aware when a Virtual Delegate wishes to participate in debate.

Alternatively, the Virtual Delegate may choose to work through and authorize their chartered unit's delegation chair to speak on behalf of the Virtual Delegate on any issue being considered by the National Convention. Each chartered unit shall be responsible for developing and utilizing electronic methods of communication for the Virtual Delegate to engage in debate and express their vote preference through the delegation chair. Such communication must be sent in a timely manner during the appropriate portion of the General Session. The delegation chair shall indicate that they are speaking for the Virtual Delegate. The delegation chair is prohibited from ignoring, editing, or otherwise denying a Virtual Delegates request to speak on the floor through the delegation chair based on the content of what the Virtual Delegate wants stated on the floor.

When a delegation chair speaks on behalf of the Virtual Delegate, they shall be limited to one (1) minute during debate on any question before the National Convention.

Sec. 32. Amendments. Amendments from the floor of the Convention to Committee reports, minority reports, the Convention Rules, the Platform, and any Resolutions shall be presented in writing to the Convention Chair accompanied by the signatures or electronic signatures of no less

than twenty-five percent (25%) of registered Delegates, as determined by the Convention Secretary. No amendment shall be in order that is not germane to the subject under consideration. The Convention Chair shall allow two (2) minutes of explanation to the author of an amendment and then allow two (2) speakers in favor of and two (2) speakers against the amendment to speak, for one (1) minute each. When debate has expired, the Convention shall vote on the amendment immediately. No second degree amendments shall be accepted at any time.

Sec. 33. Parliamentary Authority. When a parliamentary question arises and the Charter, Bylaws, and Convention Rules of the Young Democrats of America are inapplicable to the question, the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the actions of the Convention. All questions of parliamentary procedure and interpretations of the Charter, Bylaws, and Convention Rules shall be decided by the Convention Chair on the advice of the Convention Parliamentarian.

Sec. 34. Virtual Delegate Responsibilities. Each Virtual Delegate shall rename their display name to their full name followed by the two-letter initials of their state or territory within parentheses. Within parentheses a Virtual Delegate may also display their gender identity pronouns in their display name if they so choose.

If a participant cannot change their name or does not know how to change it, the Virtual Delegate shall immediately inform the Convention Secretary or their designee to assist the Virtual Delegate in renaming their display name in the Virtual Lobby.

Each Virtual Delegate shall be responsible for their own connection to the Internet and teleconferencing software. It shall be the duty of each Virtual Delegate to inform their chartered unit's delegation chair of any connection issues. If the connection issue originates from the Virtual Delegate's equipment and Internet services, then the delegation chair may name an alternate to replace the Virtual Delegate until such a time as the connection issue is resolved.

No action of the convention will be invalidated on the grounds that the loss of, or poor quality of, a delegate's individual connection prevented them from participating in the General Session.

Sec. 35. Temporary Disconnection from Virtual Lobby. The Convention Chair or their designee may cause or direct the temporary disconnection of any individual Virtual Delegate's connection to the Virtual Lobby if the Virtual Delegate is found to be causing continual undue interference with the business of the convention. The decision to do so will be announced during the meeting and is subject to an appeal of the chair that may be made by any delegate physically present.

Sec. 36. Duties of Sergeant-at-Arms in Virtual Lobby. The Convention Sergeant-at-Arms shall name a designee to assist the Sergeant-at-Arms and the Convention Chair in keeping order among the Virtual Delegates in the Virtual Lobby.

The Convention Chair shall direct the Convention Sergeant-at-Arms or their designee to compel Virtual Delegates to keep order in the Virtual Lobby when their actions prevent the business of the Convention from being achieved, particularly for the election of officers.

Sec. 37. Declarations of Candidacy. Persons seeking election to a National Officer position must complete and personally file a 2021 Convention Declaration of Candidacy and Campaign Finance Disclosure with the Convention Secretary no later than 12:00 PM ET on Thursday, August 12, 2021. Forms shall be made available electronically and at the Convention Registration Desk no later than 4:00 PM ET on Wednesday, August 11, 2021. A candidate who will be nominated for multiple positions shall only file a single copy of each form.

The Declaration of Candidacy shall include the candidate's name, signature, address, phone number, email address, unit, position or positions sought, short biography to be used for media purposes, and the names of the Delegate nominating the candidate and the Delegate seconding the nomination for each position sought.

The Campaign Finance Disclosure shall include information about monetary and in-kind contributions and expenditures in the following aggregate categories: phone calls and text messages, postage, printing, travel, accommodations, advertisements, Convention paraphernalia, and miscellaneous. The disclosure form shall include an estimate of expenditures for the period of August 10-14, 2021. The candidate shall initial each page of the campaign finance report to acknowledge review and accuracy of the information contained on the page. The disclosure must contain the following certification and must be signed by the candidate and attested pursuant to Charter Section 1180: "I certify the correctness of and bear the responsibility for the accuracy and veracity of this report." A candidate who will be nominated for multiple positions shall include on their Campaign Finance Disclosure all contributions and expenditures for all positions sought.

Sec. 38. Notice of Candidates to Delegation Chairs. The Convention Secretary shall make all Declarations of Candidacy and Campaign Finance Disclosures available to each Delegation Chair electronically and at the Registration Desk no later than 12:00 PM ET on Friday, August 13, 2021.

Sec. 39. Candidate Nominations. Candidates for National Officer positions shall be formally nominated no later than the adjournment of General Session on Friday, August 13, 2021. Nominations shall be conducted in the reverse order of election listed in Charter Section 605, beginning with nominations for Treasurer, followed by Secretary, Third Vice President, Second Vice President, First Vice President, and Executive Vice President, and concluding with

nominations for President. Candidates for the same office shall be nominated in reverse order of filing for office, with the last candidate to file speaking first. Nominators shall each be entitled to three (3) minutes for a nominating speech. Seconding speeches shall not be in order. Candidates shall each be entitled to five (5) minutes for acceptance speeches immediately following their nomination. A candidate who will be nominated for multiple positions shall be entitled to only a single nominating speech and acceptance speech, which they may allocate to any single position for which they are nominated.

Sec. 40. National Officer Elections. Elections shall be conducted in the order in which the National Officer positions are listed in Charter Section 605, excluding Democratic National Committee Members, in accordance with Bylaws Section 315. No nominations shall be accepted from the floor during General Session unless no candidate has filed for the National Officer position.

Elections shall be conducted by roll call vote, except those elections in which a candidate is unopposed, which shall be conducted by voice vote. National Officers shall be elected by a majority of votes cast.

If no candidate receives a majority in an election between three (3) or more candidates, candidates shall be dropped from subsequent ballots using the following procedure: If a candidate gets less than fifteen percent (15%) of the votes on the first ballot, or less than twenty-five percent (25%) of the votes on the second ballot, or less than thirty-five percent (35%) of the votes on the third ballot, or less than one-third (1/3) of the votes on the fourth or any later ballot, as long as the two candidates with the most votes or, in the case of a tie for the second most votes, the candidates with the most and second-most votes are not dropped.

Sec. 41. Presidential Election. During the first round of balloting for the election of the President, Delegation Chairs or their designees shall have thirty (30) seconds each to deliver remarks about their unit and announce their Delegation's votes. Delegation Chairs shall submit the tally sheets for their Delegation to the Convention Secretary prior to their remarks and vote announcement.

Sec. 42. Time Limits on Inaugural Speeches. The newly elected President of the Young Democrats of America shall be entitled to a ten (10) minute inaugural speech after all elections have concluded. Each other newly elected National Officer shall be entitled to a five (5) minute speech following the President's speech.

Sec. 43. Terms of Office. The election of National Officers shall take effect upon adjournment sine die of the Convention.

Sec. 44. Suspension of Rules. No provision of the Charter or Bylaws may be suspended. Except for Convention Rule Section 5, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, 40, 44 and 45, which may not

be suspended, a motion to suspend the Convention Rules shall be decided without debate and may be adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Convention.

Sec. 45. Amendment of Rules. The Permanent Convention Rules may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Convention.