

GENERAL INFORMATION

**YOUNG
DEMOCRATS
OF AMERICA**

**PROGRESS
CAN'T WAIT**

YDA.ORG

Who We Are

Founded in 1932, the Young Democrats of America (YDA) is the largest youth-led, partisan political organization in the nation and serves as the national federation for all state and territorial Young Democrat chapters.

As a completely volunteer-led organization, the Young Democrats of America mobilizes young people under the age of 36 to participate in the electoral process to elect Democrats, influence the ideals of the Democratic Party, advocate for progressive issues, and train the next generation of progressive leaders.

Our membership reflects the broad diversity of our nation and the Democratic Party. Participation in the Young Democrats of America allows members to network with their peers from across the nation and the opportunity to sharpen their political skills.

Our Mission and Vision

"The mission of this organization is to engage young people across the country to train the next generation of Democratic leaders, elect Democrats, and advocate for progressive issues. The vision of this organization is to be the hub for Democratic youth engagement that cultivates the party leaders of today and tomorrow."

What We Do

YDA holds at least two in-person and virtual conferences yearly and other programming opportunities regularly. Through YDA, members can receive a broad array of training, participate in skill-building seminars, connect with prominent progressive leaders, listen to panel discussions regarding the day's important issues, and engage in member-to-member networking.

Our Officers and National Committee

YDA is led by twelve national officers who manage the organization on a day-to-day basis in conjunction with various appointed and administrative officers. The National Committee is the governing body of YDA during our biennial convention. Each state or territory gets three members to the YDA National Committee; the president of their state or territorial Young Democrat chapter and two additional National Committee Representatives. The National Committee meets during YDA's in-person or virtual conferences to approve resolutions, receive various updates from YDA internal committees, consider bylaw changes, and provide perspective on important matters brought before it.

Our National Convention

Every two years, YDA hosts a national convention that brings together hundreds of young democrats for trainings, programming, strategic planning, networking, and the election of the YDA officers for the next biennium. The national convention is the preeminent event of YDA, and many prominent party officials, candidates, and elected leaders often participate in the convention as speakers or panelists.

Our Members and Chapters

YDA has over 24,000 members nationwide in 49 states and U.S. territories – including high school, college students, young workers, young professionals, and young families.

One of the core roles of YDA is to serve as the national coordinating body for state and territorial chapters. State and territorial level chapters have the option to officially charter with YDA every two years during our National Convention. State and territorial participation in YDA is completely voluntary.

WHAT DOES OUR WORK LOOK LIKE?



HIGHLIGHT ISSUES IMPORTANT TO YOUNG VOTERS

YDA works to actively highlight issues important in mobilizing young voters through social media and traditional earned media. YDA creates digital petitions, hosts issue-based conversations, and holds both in-person and digital rallies to advance our policy priorities and priorities important to our chartered units.



IN-PERSON CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

At least twice a year, YDA brings together around two hundred Democratic activists from around the country to participate in trainings, workshops, hear from elected leaders, and conduct organizational business. These conferences are also opportunities to share and learn from one another as we build a national community of Democratic activists committed to change.



COORDINATE WITH YOUNG DEMOCRATS ACROSS THE NATION

Outside in-person and virtual conferences, there are numerous other opportunities for chartered unit members to collaborate with each other through the work of YDA's various national constituency caucuses and auxiliary bodies like the chartered unit president association and also opportunities to connect via conference calls and digital workshops. YDA also works with chartered units to help amplify, plan, and coordinate in-person and virtual direct voter contact events to help elect Democrats who champion young people's issues.

HOW CAN I START GETTING INVOLVED?

The best way to get involved in the Young Democrats of America is to engage with your local, state, or territorial chapter because the critical work of Young Democrats always begins at the local level. For those already active in your local, state, or territorial chapter, some easy ways to engage with YDA include signing up on our website for emails, attending our digital events, and attending our national conferences, which take place in both in-person and digital formats. If you are signed up for YDA emails, there are often opportunities offered to serve in appointed roles through our various constituency caucuses, committees, and even the broader national organization.

For New National Committee Representatives

For new National Committee Representatives, finding ways to engage, or at least be knowledgeable, about all the ongoing work, projects, and programs that YDA has going on will be your success. National Committee Representatives should also be thinking about what information they are bringing from their organization to YDA and what avenues (in-person events, national conference calls, one-to-ones with National Officers, etc.) they have available to share the work and progress of their chartered units.