

Bylaws  
Article I  
Name

Section 1 Name.

This organization shall be known as Michigan High School Democrats of America and may be shortened to the abbreviated MIHSDA.

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Article II  
Policy

Section 2 Mission Statement.

The mission of the Michigan High School Democrats of America, a state chapter affiliated with the national parent HSDA organization, is to identify, train, and recruit Democratic activists in High School and embrace the Democratic message.

Section 3 Organizational Functions.

- a. MIHSDA shall engage our fellow students to be active in the Democratic process and connect youth with politics in Lansing.
- a. MIHSDA shall actively support and campaign for local and federal politicians in the state of Michigan
  - i. Endorsements of candidates are full and welcome, but:
    1. The candidate must be uncontested in their primary or the nominee following convention
    2. The candidate must be approved for endorsement through a simple majority vote of the executive board
- b. MIHSDA shall educate and inform youth on different opportunities to get hands-on experience in campaigns
- c. MIHSDA will initiate and engage with local chapters to ensure our principle mission is fulfilled

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Article III

Organization

Section 4 Organizational Structure.

- a. The MIHSDA shall be composed of the Executive Board of which will include the titles:
  - i. Chairperson
  - ii. Vice Chairperson
  - iii. Chief of Staff
  - iv. Communications Director
  - v. Political Director
  - vi. Development and Outreach Director
  - vii. Diversity and Inclusivity Director
- b. During election season, an election commission composed of the following:
  - i. Chairperson
  - ii. Vice Chairperson
  - iii. Chief of Staff
- c. High School and Community based chapters

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Article IV

Membership

Section 5 General Membership.

- a. Any Democrat in a United States' High School or any Democrat, being a high school student or home schooled, shall be eligible for active membership in this organization. Persons eligible shall remain eligible until two (2) months after their scheduled graduation from high school.
- b. The MIHSDA official Membership Google Form must be filled out and completed

Section 6 Membership Dues.

General membership must be maintained without dues at all times.

Section 7 Membership.

- a. All members of the High School Democrats of America shall be given the following rights for the duration of their membership:
  - i. All members will be allowed to vote in fair and open elections as long as they have registered as a member as mentioned in Article VII. No membership test or oath shall be given to members by any part of this organization, except that they must declare support for the Democratic Party
  - ii. Members will not be subject to discrimination based on race, religion, sexual orientation, gender, age, national origin, economic status, or physical disability.
  - iii. All members shall have the opportunity to run for any national office within the High School Democrats of America provided that they will be members for the duration of the term they seek.

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Article V

Local Chapters

Section 8 Chapter Membership.

- a. In order to register as an official school or community based chapter of MIHSDA, the Chapter Registration Google Form must be completed and the following must be achieved:
  - i. Three members
  - ii. Leadership
  - iii. Teacher adviser (if applicable)
- b. An official membership roster shall be created by each chapter with the following information:
  - i. Name
  - ii. Age and graduation year
  - iii. Contact information

Section 9 Chapter Types.

Members may create school or community based chapters in the case that a school is either too small or rural to host its own chapter

Section 10 Chapter Privileges.

Local chapters that have been chartered shall have the privilege of participating in both their respective state unit, and the High School Democrats of America. All members of registered local chapters shall be considered members of this organization.

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Article VI

Executive Board

Section 11 Separation between National and State.

The MIHSDA executive board shall function as an independent entity under the national organization High School Democrats of America receiving aid and support from national, but separate in its own right and decision making

Section 12 Composition of Executive Board.

- a. The executive board shall be comprised of the following seven (7) positions with their respective duties listed below, but not limited to:
  - i. Chairperson: leads the state executive board and oversees the delegation of tasks. Helps to find new opportunities for membership and leads weekly executive board meetings. In charge of leading election process and in most cases impeachment
  - ii. Vice Chairperson: second-in-command to the Chairperson, helps with the delegation of tasks and the election process. Steps in and leads executive board meetings when Chairperson is unavailable
  - iii. Chief of Staff: appointed by the Chairperson, oversees the management of the executive board and is in charge of helping board members with completing tasks.
  - iv. Communications Director: oversees social medias and send out communication in various formats to chapter leaders and membership. Ensures that there is a solid connection between the executive board and local leadership and that the board is being transparent in its day-to-day business.
  - v. Political Director: helps to connect MIHSDA with local and federal level candidates, politicians, and offices to ensure we are providing opportunities to our membership and engaging with the MDP and DNC. Also in charge of organizing grassroots efforts to pursue Democratic goals.
  - vi. Development and Outreach Director: works to ensure expansion efforts are being made throughout the year and finding new ways to engage and expand our

membership. Will work to reach out to local chapters to find ways to expand existing chapter membership as well.

- vii. Diversity and Inclusion Director: connects with local chapters and general membership to ensure all individuals are being allowed to join MIHSDA and that nobody is being discriminated upon because of their race, sexual identity, religion, creed, citizenship, etc. Also in charge of settling disputes with school administrators when students are denied a chapter at their school (only if said institution is public).

### Section 13 Appointments

- a. Positions that are not elected shall be filled by the MIHSDA executive board with the Chairperson nominating a candidate and the board approving the candidate by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. For example, if three board members are elected, the chair will nominate a candidate and  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the current board members need to approve of this appointment. Once nominees are added to the board, the  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote will expand with the number of board members until the seven (7) positions are filled.
- b. Appointments should be made without the presence of bias, preference, or individual prejudice. This will eliminate the issue of favoritism, thus preventing future concerns that may get in the way of proper functioning of state leadership.

### Section 14 Executive Board Meetings.

- b. Executive Board meetings shall be held once a week, at a time and in a manner specified by the National Chair. The Chair may call special meetings for any reason. All Executive Board Members must be notified of operational meetings two days prior to the meeting, except under extraordinary circumstances. Members must be present at three-fourths ( $\frac{3}{4}$ ) of the monthly meetings.

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### Article VII

#### Elections

### Section 14 State Elections.

- a. The Michigan High School Democrats shall conduct a statewide election every year in the month of May. The election shall be conducted by the Chair, Vice Chair, and Chief of

Staff and votes shall be cast digitally through a method accessible to every member. Measures shall be taken to ensure that each voter casts his or her vote once. A simple majority of votes cast shall be necessary to obtain the desired office.

- b. Appointments shall not be discussed by the Chair prior to the election of the Chair of the MIHSDA

#### Section 15 Constituency.

All members of this organization shall be given the right to cast one (1) vote in the elections. All members wishing to cast their vote at the election must prove their status of eligibility as is deemed necessary by the Chair, Vice Chair, and Chief of Staff.

#### Section 16 Candidacy.

All members shall have the ability to run, provided they meet all requirements for candidacy and complete candidacy forms published each year by the Chair, Vice Chair, and Chief of Staff. Candidates for state offices shall be prohibited from joining with other candidates in a slate.

#### Section 17 Certification and Count of the Vote.

- a. Certification of the vote shall occur when all members of the Executive Board have approved the vote. Any voting irregularities, discrepancies, or allegations of improper influence shall be examined at this time, and remedied as necessary. Thorough due process will be taken by the election commission to ensure each ballot is counted and verified.
- b. Results will be published by the Election Commission no more than five (5) days following the closure of ballots.

#### Section 18 Notice.

The membership shall be informed of all positions available, and the process for becoming a candidate. Within three (3) days following the filing deadline, all members shall be notified of all candidates for each position, and given a copy of their written statement. Voting instructions

must be included with this notification.

#### Section 19 Closed Door Policy.

- a. Member registration shall close two (2) weeks prior to the closure of the campaign season, as to inhibit excessive registration. This information shall be published ahead of time as to notify membership of this deadline.
  - i. Failure to send this information to candidates and membership in the designated time frame shall result in an adjustment of the closure of voter registration.
- b. Candidates themselves may not register voters, but if they have a “team” or individual helping them with their campaign, they may register voters and “GOTV”.
- c. Candidates shall get at least 29 days to run their campaign before election day.

#### Bylaws

#### Article VIII

#### Removal of Officers

#### Section 20 Cause for Impeachment.

Officers of the Executive Board are subject to impeachment and removal from office for failure to fulfill assigned duties or for violation of any law or rule of this organization, the Democratic Party, or for the commission of high crimes and misdemeanors.

#### Section 21 Impeachment Process.

- a. The Chair shall preside over the impeachment process unless they are the officer facing impeachment, in which case the Vice Chair shall preside
- b. An official cause for impeachment shall be sent to the Chair
- c. The motion must be co-signed by at least two other members of the board
- d. A hearing will be conducted where defendant, executive board, chapter leaders, and general membership will be allowed to attend
- e. Voting will occur two days after the conclusion of the hearing into impeachment
- f. The executive board and chapter leaders will vote on the articles of impeachment where a  $\frac{2}{3}$  quorum and a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority needs to be achieved for removal

#### Section 22 Vacancies.

- a. In the event of a death, resignation, or removal from office of any Executive Board Member, the National Chair shall nominate an individual for the position.
- b. A vote will be held to confirm the nominee with  $\frac{1}{2}$  quorum and an agreeance of  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the executive board

Section 23 Succession.

The line of succession following the Chairperson shall be as follows:

- a. Vice Chair
- b. Chief of Staff
- c. Diversity and Inclusion Director
- d. Political Director
- e. Development Director
- f. Communications Director

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Article IX

Decision Making and Amendment of the Bylaws

Section 24 Major Organizational Decision Making.

- a. Any major decision making on behalf of the MIHSDA executive board shall be met with a simple majority of officer votes

Section 25 Amendment of the Bylaws.

- a. Official amendment of the MIHSDA bylaws shall require an official edit statement to be made to the executive board stating which article(s) or section(s) particularly being put into question
- b. Following review by the executive board, a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority with a  $\frac{1}{2}$  quorum must be reached to officially amend the bylaws

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Article X

Ethics and Accountability



Section 26 Ethics Clause.

- a. MIHSDA will not tolerate nor condone any form of discrimination among chapter leadership or its members regarding race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity.
- b. MIHSDA State leadership will commit to investigating any complaint against or by any of its members regarding discriminatory actions within their chapter.
- c. MIHSDA requires all members to treat each other with the utmost respect at all times, and failure to do so will result in disciplinary action from MIHSDA and or supervisors of chapters.
- d. Regarding social media posts and or communication, slander and/or libel will not be tolerated by MIHSDA State leadership and disciplinary action will be taken upon completion of a formal investigation by the Executive board.
  - i. All posts will be respectful and adhere to the platform's community guidelines this is not limited to personal and/or alternative accounts.
- e. MIHSDA State leadership will commit to conducting a formal investigation into all complaints filed regarding their chapter members and or leadership. The Executive board will thoroughly oversee the investigation and assist in a just conclusion upon review.
- f. All members will adhere to National Bylaws in addition to MIHSDA's Bylaws

**Signed:**

**Liam Richichi**

Chairperson, Michigan High School Democrats of America 2020-21

**MIHSDA 2020-21 Executive Board**

End

Used in accordance with the 2019-2020 National Bylaws and the 2020-2021 Bylaws, as amended

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