

**2023-2024**

MIHSD State Bylaws

Article I  
Name

Section 1, Name.

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

MIHSD State Bylaws  
Article II  
Policy

Section 2, Mission Statement.

The mission of the Michigan High School Democrats, 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, and support local Democratic candidates.

Section 3, Organizational Functions.

- a. MIHSD shall engage our fellow students to be active in the Democratic process and connect youth with politics locally, in Lansing and in Washington D.C.
- b. MIHSD shall actively support and campaign for local, state, 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
- c. MIHSD shall educate and inform youth on different opportunities to get hands-on experience in campaigns
- d. MIHSD will initiate and engage with local chapters and HSDA to ensure our principle mission is fulfilled

- e. Partner with local, state, and federal candidates, and elected officials for intern and political opportunities

MIHSD State Bylaws  
Article III  
Organization

Section 4, Organizational Structure.

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

Section 5, Election Commission

- a. The election commission shall be responsible for the operation, oversight, and organization of the yearly executive board elections. Including but not limited to the declaration of candidacy process, dates and scheduling, the voting forms, and the distribution of information
- b. No member of the executive board running in the proposed state election shall serve on the election commission.
- c. In the case of an incumbent's re-election to the MIHSD State Executive Board or a vacancy occurs, the spot shall be filled according to the line of succession

MIHSD State Bylaws  
Article IV  
Membership

### Section 6, 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 official MIHSD 2022-2023 Membership Google Form must be filled out and completed

### Section 7, Membership Dues.

General membership must be maintained without dues at all times.

### Section 8, 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 identity, 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.
  - iv. All members shall have the opportunity to run for any state office on the Michigan High School Democrats Executive Board. Any Executive Board member trying to prevent this could face impeachment.

MIHSD State Bylaws  
Article V  
Local Chapters

Section 9, Chapter Membership.

- a. In order to register as an official school or community based chapter of MIHSD, the Chapter Registration Google Form must be completed and the following must be achieved:
  - i. Three members
  - ii. Leadership
  - iii. Teacher supervisor (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
- c. Communication with the Executive Board for confirmation and approval.

Section 10, 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 11, 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.

MIHSD State Bylaws  
Article VI  
Executive Board

Section 12, Separation between National and State.

The MIHSD 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 13, Composition of Executive Board.

- a. The executive board shall be comprised of the following eight (8) 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. Development 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.
  - iv. Chief of Staff: oversees the management of the executive board and is in charge of helping board members with completing tasks.
  - v. Communications Director: oversees social media 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.
  - vi. Political Director: helps to connect MIHSD 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.
  - vii. Diversity and Inclusion Director: connects with local chapters and general membership to ensure all individuals are being allowed to join MIHSD and that nobody is being discriminated against 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).
  - viii. The Finance Director: ensures the oversight of the fiscal aspects of the Michigan High School Democrats. The Finance Director will establish and maintain the organization's financial strategy for earning profits and oversee the finance and accounting operations. Additionally, the Finance Director is responsible for

contributing to the achievement of the organization's objectives by providing advice and guidance on financial policy.

#### Section 14, Appointments

- a. Positions that are not elected shall be filled by the MIHSD executive board with the Chairperson nominating a candidate and the board approving the candidate by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote.
  - i. 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.
  - ii. These positions shall be filled in a timely manner.
- 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 15, Executive Board Meetings.

- b. Executive Board meetings shall be held once a week, at a time and in a manner specified by the State 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. Executive Board members must be present at three-fourths ( $\frac{3}{4}$ ) of the meetings.

MIHSD State Bylaws  
Article VII  
Elections

#### Section 16, 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 those serving on the election commission and votes shall be cast digitally through a method accessible to every member. Ballot security 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

## MIHSD

### Section 17, 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 18, 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. In the case of an incumbent's re-election to the MIHSD State Executive Board, election materials shall be published by those according to the line of succession. Candidates for state offices shall be prohibited from joining with other candidates in a slate.

### Section 18, 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 19, 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 20, Closed Door Policy.

- a. Member registration shall close **3 days** 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 shall begin their campaign after their filing is confirmed

MIHSD State Bylaws  
Article VIII  
Removal of Officers

## Section 21, 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. Failure to attend meetings may result in impeachment.

## Section 22, 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 23, 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  $\frac{3}{4}$  quorum and an agreeance of  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the executive board

Section 24, Succession.

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

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

MIHSD State Bylaws  
Article IX  
Decision Making and Amendment of the MIHSD State Bylaws

Section 25, Major Organizational Decision Making.

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

Section 26, Amendment of the MIHSD State Bylaws.

- a. Official amendment of the MIHSD State 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  $\frac{3}{4}$  quorum must be reached to officially amend the bylaws

MIHSD State Bylaws  
Article X  
Ethics and Accountability

Section 27, Ethics Clause.

- a. MIHSD 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. MIHSD State leadership will commit to investigating any complaint against or by any of its members regarding discriminatory actions within their chapter.
- c. MIHSD 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 MIHSD and or supervisors of chapters.
- d. Regarding social media posts and or communication, slander and/or libel will not be tolerated by MIHSD 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. MIHSD 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. Violation of this *Ethics Clause* may result in impeachment.
- g. All members will adhere to National Bylaws in addition to MIHSD's State Bylaws

**Signed:**

**Kasen Wooters,**

Chairman, Michigan High School Democrats 2023-2024

**MIHSD 2022-23 Executive Board**

Huda Yaseen, Vice Chair

Seojin Lee, Development Director