

Bylaws of High School Republicans of Texas
As Amended June 13, 2015

Article 1- Name

This organization shall be known as High School Republicans of Texas.

Article II- Objectives

The objectives of High School Republicans of Texas are

- To be an official auxiliary organization of the Republican Party of Texas and the official Texas organization of the National Teenage Republicans and in doing so support the initiatives and objectives of the Republican National Committee and the state and county Republican parties in Texas
- To spread conservative and Republican views and ideals through the efforts of member clubs and organizations
- To promote the education of youth in the political process and the views of the Republican Party
- To provide a voice for Republican and conservative youth in Texas
- To assist in the election of the nominees of the Republican Party at all levels in Texas
- To identify youth Republican clubs at High Schools and communities around the state already in existence to coordinate with and aid
- To assist in the founding of new teenage Republican clubs in Texas

Article III- Membership

Section 1- Prerequisites

In order for a club to qualify for membership, it must meet the following prerequisites:

- Have at least 7 members
- Have an elected chairman or other leader and at least one additional officer
- Have a constitution or bylaws approved by High School Republicans of Texas
- Have a qualified adult sponsor
- Pay member club dues, if any for that year

Section 2- Process to Become a Member

In order to become a member chapter of High School Republicans of Texas, a club must:

- Meet the aforementioned prerequisites
- Complete the Club application form and submit it for approval to the state Secretary along with a copy of the club's bylaws and/or constitution.

Clubs that are registered chapters of the National Teenage Republicans and meet all the prerequisites shall be granted membership without requiring submission of a Club application form.

Clubs that meet these requirements and are approved by High School Republicans of Texas become full member clubs.

Section 3- Club Dues

The State Executive Committee may charge active member clubs dues on an annual basis based on the finances of the organization. This may be overridden by a majority vote of the Leadership Council.

Section 4- Renewal of Membership

At the beginning of every school year, member clubs must renew membership with the High School Republicans of Texas by:

- Notifying the state Secretary that the club is still active and still meets the prerequisites for membership.
- Submitting a club application form updated for that school year.

Section 5- Levels of Membership

Clubs shall fall into two categories of membership: Full and Associate. Full members are clubs that meet all application requirements and are current on all paperwork and requirements with High School Republicans of Texas. Associate members are clubs in the following situations:

- Clubs that have failed to renew their membership for that school year.
- Clubs that are registered chapters of the National TARS that fail to meet the requirements for membership or fail to apply for full membership with the state Secretary.
- Organized and/or active youth Republican clubs that fail to meet the requirements for membership, but are recognized as associate members by the state Chairman.
- Individuals who aren't members of a club who are recognized as associate individual members by the state Chairman.
- Any other situation in which the Chairman certifies that a club doesn't qualify for full membership and is granted associate membership.

Associate member clubs shall have no voting rights nor shall its members be eligible to serve as elected officers in county, regional or statewide bodies of this organization, but associate members are eligible to attend High School Republicans of Texas events and assist the organization and/or receive assistance in other capacities at the discretion of the state Chairman.

Section 6- Candidate Endorsement

Member clubs may not endorse candidates in contested Republican primaries or endorse candidates other than a Republican nominee in any partisan election. This clause does not bar any member of this organization from participating in the campaigns of candidates in contested Republican primaries or those of candidates in nonpartisan local elections.

Section 7-Membership Clause

All members of full member clubs of this organization and in good standing within their local club shall be official members of the High School Republicans of Texas. All members of

associate member clubs of this organization and in good standing in their local club shall be official associate members of the High School Republicans of Texas. Any other person or entity designated associate members by the Chairman shall be official associate members of the High School Republicans of Texas.

Article IV- Organizational Structure and Officers

Section 1- Organizational Structure

At the state level, the High School Republicans of Texas shall be composed of:

- A State Executive Committee that runs the organization at the state level.
- A Leadership Council composed of the State Executive Committee and a representative from every full member club.

After that, the state shall be divided up into multiple geographic regions, each with its own officers and organizational structure determined by each region.

If a county has multiple full member clubs, a county-wide organization can be formed within one of the regional organizations.

Section 2- Officers

The High School Republicans of Texas shall have the following officers with the following duties:

- Chairman- chief executive officer who is in charge of the day to day operations of the organization. The Chairman works closely with the other officers to run the organization and make important decisions. The Chairman is the official representative of the organization and is an *ex officio* member of all committees.
- Vice Chairman- shall be the chief assistant to the State Chairman and shall perform appropriate assigned duties. They shall be given charge of large projects or initiatives and serve at the pleasure of the State Chairman.
- Secretary- shall keep the records of the organization such as a list of all the member clubs, officers and other contacts or records. The Secretary is also the officer in charge of processing applications for membership, with all processed applications then requiring the approval of the Chairman for a club to become a member. The secretary is also responsible for recording the minutes of meetings of the State Executive Committee and Leadership Council. Should the Secretary be absent at these meetings, the Chairman shall designate a temporary secretary to record that particular meeting's minutes. Also and in addition, the Secretary shall perform any appropriate duties designated by the Chairman.
- Treasurer- shall handle the finances of the organization. Also and in addition, the Treasurer shall perform any appropriate duties designated by the Chairman. The treasurer and the State Chairman, along with an adult, shall be the signers on the HSRT bank account. Also, either the chairman or the treasurer shall be responsible for any campaign finance

filings in accordance with HSRT's PAC status with the Texas Ethics Commission or other entity with a trusted adult as Campaign Treasurer.

Section 3- Eligibility of Officers

In order to be eligible to be an officer, a person must be an officer in a full member club of this organization and must be in good standing with the organization. A graduating senior cannot run for an officer position.

Section 4- Vacancies in Officer Positions

In the case that a vacancy arises, the Chairman shall appoint someone to occupy the position until an election is held by the Executive Committee to elect someone to serve until the next state convention.

Article V- Cabinet

Section 1- Objective

The cabinet shall serve to advise and assist the chairman and executive committee in running the organization

Section 2- Appointment

Cabinet members shall be appointed by the chairman. They shall stand officially appointed unless a majority of the Leadership Council overrides the appointment.

Section 3- Term of Office and Qualifications

Appointees shall be club members of associate or full member clubs or an individual associate member. They shall serve for 1 year with their term expiring with the election of new state officers. A 2/3 majority vote of the leadership council makes a cabinet position permanent, requiring an appointment at the beginning of every term. These standing cabinet positions shall be automatically added to the running list in Article V Section 4 along with a description of the office approved in the same vote that created the standing position. Otherwise, cabinet positions shall not exist unless renewed annually by the chairman.

Section 4- Standing Cabinet Positions

The standing cabinet positions of the High School Republicans of Texas are as follows:

Article VI- State Executive Committee

Section 1- Composition

The State Executive Committee shall be composed of all the statewide officers and regional chairman.

Section 2- Duties

The State Executive Committee shall be tasked with:

- Managing the organization and its operations and initiatives
- Approving the creation of committees
- Directing spending and fundraising of funds

- Directing or approving any other major undertakings or decisions
- Any other appropriate business or discussion

Section 3- Voting

Voting may take place in person or via electronic communication with the Secretary certifying the results of any vote.

Article VII- Leadership Council

Section 1- Composition

The Leadership Council shall be composed of the State Executive Committee and a representative from every full member club. Club representatives must be an officer in their respective club and not a member of the State Executive Committee.

Section 2- Duties

The Leadership Council shall be tasked with:

- Approving amendments to the bylaws
- Voting on measures as designated by the State Executive Committee or on their own initiative

Section 3- Voting

Voting may take place in person or via electronic communication with the Secretary certifying the results of any vote.

Article VIII- Meetings

Section 1- Means

Meetings of the State Executive Committee and Leadership Council may be conducted electronically or in person.

Section 2- Frequency

The State Executive Committee must meet at least once monthly. The Leadership Council shall meet upon the calling of a meeting by the Chairman or by a petition of at least 1/5 of its members.

Section 3- Meeting Opening Procedure

All in person meetings shall begin with the Pledge of Allegiance, Texas Pledge and an invocation.

Section 4- Quorum

In order for a meeting of either body to conduct business, it must have at least ½ of its membership present.

Section 5- Organization

Meetings shall be run by the chairman or the highest ranking officer present.

Section 6- Adjournment

Meetings shall be adjourned by the presiding officer when business is concluded.

Article IX- Regional and County Organizations

Section 1- Regional Organizations

Clubs within the geographic regions may form regional organizations to govern and organize clubs in the region. Regional Organizations shall structure themselves in the way in which they see fit; however, bylaws for Regional Organizations must be approved by the State Executive Committee. Regions must have 3 or more clubs to form a regional organization. Regions without a regional organization shall have the clubs within it designated as members of another regional organization by the State Executive Committee until a regional organization is formed. Each Regional Organization must have a chairman.

Section 2- County or Metro-Area Organizations

If a county or metropolitan area contains 2 or more clubs, a county or city-wide organization may be formed within the Regional Organization. Its organizational structure and bylaws must be approved by the Regional Organization and then the State Executive Committee.

Article X- Committees

Section 1- Formation

Committees within the High School Republicans of Texas may be formed by the State Executive Committee by a 2/3 majority vote at the request of the Chairman. Standing committees may be created by amending section 6 of this article to include those committees along with a description of their duties.

Section 2- Terms

Committee members serve for 1 year terms that expire at the end of each year's state convention.

Section 3- Membership

Committees shall have a committee chairman and secretary appointed by the Chairman in addition to its other members as appointed by the chairman. Vacancies can be filled by the Chairman.

Section 4- Duties of Committee Officers

The committee chairman shall be the presiding officer of the committee and in charge of guiding the committee and its decisions and proceedings. The secretary shall keep the records of the committee and record the minutes of the committee's meetings. The committee chairman or secretary shall immediately forward the approved minutes of the committee's meetings to the State Chairman. If the committee met in the previous month, the committee chairman or appointed proxy shall submit a committee report to the State Executive Committee of its activities during the previous month at its first meeting for that month.

Section 5- Meetings

Committees shall meet at least once monthly unless it is determined by the state Chairman that there is no necessary business for a particular month and therefore not necessary to meet.

Committees shall have a quorum of at least half of its members to conduct business. In the case of the absence of the committee's chairman or secretary, the chairman shall appoint temporary officers as needed prior to the committee's meeting.

Section 6- Standing Committees

The standing committees of the High School Republicans of Texas shall be:

Article XI- State Convention

Section 1- Requirements

The High School Republicans of Texas shall hold an annual state convention to take place no earlier than April 1 and no later than June 30 of every calendar year. The State Executive Committee, in conjunction with the various committees, cabinet officers, club chairman and other members of this organization, shall be tasked with setting the time and place of this convention and organizing its activities.

Section 2- Notice

The State Executive Committee shall provide written notice of this convention to all chartered full member and associate clubs/members no later than 30 days prior to the convention.

Section 3- Required Business

The following are the required official business to be transacted at every state convention (in no particular order of precedence):

- The election of the coming year's state officers
- Consideration of all valid amendments to these bylaws
- A report of the treasurer on the end of the year fiscal state of the organization
- Final reports from all committees convened that year on their activities since the last state convention.
- A "State of the Federation" address from the Chairman on the progress and activities of the previous year.
- A speech from the newly elected Chairman on their goals for the coming year.

Section 4- Delegations

Each chartered full member club shall be entitled to a number of delegates equal to no more than the club's reported membership at the beginning of the year. A club can be exempted from this requirement if the State Executive Committee determines that the club has seen growth throughout the year that makes them deserving of more delegates. Delegates must be present in order for their vote to count.

Section 5- Quorum

At least ½ of the seated delegates at the convention must be present for business to be conducted.

Section 6- Procedure and Voting

The convention shall be conducted in accordance with *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*. All votes except for the election of officers may be conducted by voice vote, show of hands or other form of balloting. Election of officers shall be conducted by secret ballot. The State Chairman shall be the presiding officer and the Secretary shall be the convention secretary tasked with keeping the minutes of the official proceedings. Should either be absent, the State Chairman may appoint ahead of time officers to take their places.

Section 7- Election of Officers

Officer candidates who meet the eligibility requirements in Article IV Section 3 and have met any other reasonable requirements such as paperwork, appropriate deadlines or rules for campaigning set forth by the State Executive Committee shall be placed on ballot for a statewide officer position at the convention. Candidates shall be entitled to candidate speeches of equal length to the convention and may campaign in accordance with rules set forth by the Executive Committee prior to the convention. The highest ranking statewide officer not on the ballot shall preside over the elections with duties including, but not limited to, tallying votes with the help of other designated delegates, enforcing election rules etc. Should all the officers be either involved in the election, not present or unable to fulfill these duties, the Chairman shall appoint a qualified person to preside over the elections. Candidates must receive a 50%+1 majority in order to win, so runoffs are permissible in order to comply with this rule. Each seated delegate shall receive one vote in these elections and must be present to vote for statewide officers.

Section 8 – State Awards

Awards commemorating the excellent work of the members of this organization shall be announced and presented at the annual State Convention. Every award does not have to be given every year, however, the State Executive Committee will release the applications for each award every year. The same school may win any of the awards in consecutive years. The awards are as follows:

- Exemplary Service Award
This award shall be given to all students who volunteer over 100 hours in political campaigns, functions and/or community service as a member and representative of the HSRT organization. Students may apply for this award through the application released by the State Executive Committee.
- Most Outstanding High School Republican Club in Texas
This award shall be given to one High School Republican club within the state of Texas, limited to a single organization representing a city, school or area. Regional organizations are not available to apply for this award. The State Executive Committee will narrow the prospective winners to 5 finalists and release this list to all member clubs with the finalists' qualifications. All clubs will then vote on the finalist they believe to be the most deserving. The winner of this award will be selected from these votes. The four finalists not receiving the award will be commemorated with the honorary recognition of Outstanding High School Republican Club.
- Most Outstanding High School Republican in Texas
This award shall be given to the top student in the state of Texas as determined by their peers. Students will submit their application for the award to the State Executive Committee from which 5 student finalists will be selected. These finalists will be released to the all member clubs and voted on. The top student, as selected by these votes, will be

named the Most Outstanding High School Republican for that year. The other four finalists will be commemorated with the honorary recognition of Outstanding High School Republican.

- **Rising Star Club**

This award shall only be awarded to the single club that displays the most outstanding accomplishments. Individual clubs that have only been in operation for a year may apply. This award will likewise be voted upon in the same manner as that of the Most Outstanding High School Republican Club in Texas. Regional organizations may not apply for this award.

- **Most Outstanding Media Presence in Texas**

This award shall be given to a single organization, with exception to the State, for its outstanding media presence throughout the year. The State Executive Committee, in congruence with the State Leadership Board shall decide the winner.

- **Most Outstanding Website in Texas**

This award shall be presented to a single organization, with exception to the State, for its high quality website design and operation. The State Executive Committee, in congruence with the State Leadership Board shall decide the winner.

Article XII- Rules of Order

Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern all meetings of the State Executive Committee, Leadership Council, Committees, State Conventions or any other official proceedings of the High School Republicans of Texas.

Article XIII- Removal of Members and HSRT Officers and Personnel

Section 1- Grounds and Procedure

Any member of this organization may be removed from their respective office or made ineligible to hold any offices or positions within this organization if it is determined by a 2/3 majority of the State Executive Committee or Leadership Council (with the accused not having a vote if they are a member of either body) that said person has:

- Committed a crime under the law befitting removal from office.
- Engaged in improper conduct in official or unofficial capacities as a representative of this organization.
- Failed to execute the duties of their office appropriately.

- Given, through their actions, any other reason as determined by either body making the person deserving of removal from office.

Section 2- Removal from HSRT

If it is determined from the procedure outlined in Section 1 that someone should be permanently removed from HSRT in addition to being removed from office, such measures shall carry weight. The person can be banned from attending any and all official HSRT events and/or any other action able to be taken by HSRT.

Section 3- Regional Application

The State Executive Committee or Leadership Council can remove officers of a regional organization. In addition, regional organization may remove its own officers for misconduct if such procedure is set forth in the regional bylaws approved by the State Executive Committee.

Section 4- Contempt

Either statewide board may also elect, instead of removal, to hold a member or officer in contempt of either body. Contempt resolutions make said person ineligible for any future elected office within this organization and any individual associate members held in contempt or removed from an office shall be removed from this organization.

Article XIV- Amendments

Section 1- Submission

Amendments must be submitted to the State Executive Committee by members of the State Executive Committee or Leadership Council in writing at least 15 days prior to a state convention in order to be considered at that convention. Amendments requiring expedited action between conventions must be submitted to the state Secretary at least 5 days prior to a meeting of the State Executive Committee.

Section 2- Adoption

Amendments are considered adopted and added to the bylaws after they're approved by a 2/3 majority of the delegates at a state convention of the High School Republicans of Texas. Amendments may also be adopted if a 2/3 majority of the State Executive Committee determines that the amendment should be allowed to be considered by the Leadership Council in between state conventions. If this is the case, then a 2/3 majority of the Leadership Council shall make the amendment in effect until the next state convention where it will have to be approved by a 2/3 majority of the delegates to remain in force after the conclusion of the convention.