

Constitution of MIT Democrats

I. Mission statement

MIT Democrats represents politically engaged members of the MIT community, including students, staff, faculty, and alumni, who generally support Democratic candidates for office, the advancement of progressive ideals in American politics, and the improvement of the Democratic Party.

II. Bylaws

A. The Bylaws of MIT Democrats shall specify:

1. The roles and election procedures for officers of the organization,
2. Any requirements that govern the budget of the organization, and
3. Any other provisions necessary to carry out official business.

III. Amendment procedure

A. Proposing Constitutional Amendments

1. Amendments may be proposed by a Resolution passed by a simple majority of the Executive Board.
2. Amendments may be proposed by a Petition signed by 20% of individual members of MIT Democrats (see Membership).

B. Passage of Constitutional Amendments

1. An amendment is adopted when it is approved by $\frac{2}{3}$ of the members of the Executive Board and by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of the membership.

C. Passage of Bylaws Amendments

1. Amendments to the Bylaws shall require approval by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of the Executive Board.

IV. Public Availability

The current Constitution and Bylaws of MIT Democrats shall always be posted in a publicly available location.

V. Ratification Procedure

This Constitution shall be ratified and take effect immediately when approved by a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority by private ballot over a one-week period. Voting shall be restricted to members of MIT Democrats. At least 5 members must vote for the Constitution to be ratified.



VI. ASA Governance Clause

MIT Democrats agrees to abide by the [rules and regulations](#) of the Association of Student Activities, and its executive board. This constitution, amendments to it, and the by-laws of this organization shall be subject to review by the ASA Executive Board to ensure that they are in accordance with the aforementioned rules and regulations.

Bylaws of MIT Democrats

I. Leadership

A. Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee shall include one or two Co-Presidents, a Treasurer, and other positions as created and defined by the membership.
2. General provisions:
 - a) Terms of Executive Committee members shall end on January 31st each year.
 - b) Each member of the Executive Committee shall be chosen in a ranked choice election as described in Section B.
3. Positions on the Executive Committee other than the Co-Presidents and Treasurer may be created or abolished upon the recommendation of any member of the Executive Committee and confirmation by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of the membership.
 - a) Abolishing a currently occupied position shall require a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of the membership.
 - b) A special election will be held to fill the newly created position.
4. Executive Committee member removal procedures
 - a) Resignation
 - (1) Executive Committee members may resign at any time by emailing their resignation to the Executive Committee mailing list.
 - b) Impeachment
 - (1) A member of the Executive Committee may be impeached by a simple majority vote of the Executive Committee or by a simple majority vote of the membership.
 - (2) The member shall be promptly informed of their impeachment and provided an opportunity to respond to any charges included in the impeachment motion.
 - (3) The member shall be removed from office by passage of a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of the membership. Such a vote may not begin any sooner than 1 week after the impeachment motion passes.
 - (4) The member that has been impeached may not preside over any meetings at which the impeachment is on the agenda and may not administer any votes related to the impeachment motion or removal from office.

B. Elections

1. Each member of the Executive Board shall be chosen in a ranked choice election.
 - a) All individuals who are members of MIT Democrats on the day of the election shall be eligible to vote.
 - b) The election may be held online. An online election shall be open for voting for at least 1 week.
 - c) An election should be held during January of each year to elect candidates for the next term.
2. Special election procedures
 - a) Special elections for vacancies of existing positions should be held within two weeks of the vacancy.
 - b) Special elections for newly created positions may be held at any time.
 - c) The Co-Presidents shall be responsible for announcing and administering the election.

II. Membership

A. Eligibility

1. All MIT students are eligible to become members through the process described below.
2. MIT faculty, staff, and alumni may also be eligible at the discretion of the Executive Committee, requiring a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote to approve.

B. Membership Process

1. The organization's membership will consist of at least 5 MIT students and be more than half MIT students.
2. Members consist of individuals who have attended at least two MIT Democrats meetings within the last six months. (If fewer than two meetings have been held, the requirement is one meeting in the past six months.)
3. The membership list shall be updated before every election and at the start of each semester.

C. Rights

1. Individual members of MIT Democrats have the right to vote in Executive Committee elections, any motions that would have the effect of endorsing a candidate for elected office, and in any membership votes required by the Constitution or these Bylaws.

III. Finance

- A. The Treasurer shall oversee the finances of MIT Democrats.
- B. Spending and reimbursement



1. Individual expenses up to \$100 must be approved or rejected by the Treasurer.
2. Expenses in excess of \$100 must be approved or rejected by the Executive Board.

C. Fundraising

1. Donations may only be accepted from MIT students and alumni.
2. Donations may not be accepted from staff of MA elected officials, or political candidates from the last five years.
3. Donations shall not exceed \$500 per person per calendar year.

D. Records

1. Treasurer will be responsible for maintaining thorough records of donors and amounts.

IV. Rules

Rules for the conduct of MIT Democrats business and activities, including endorsement of candidates and the position of MIT Democrats on legislation or other issues, may be established or amended by a simple majority vote of either the Executive Committee or the membership.

Rules of MIT Democrats

I. Meetings

- A. The President or Co-Presidents are responsible for calling and announcing meetings.
- B. General meetings should be announced to the MIT Democrats list with at least three days' notice.
- C. Attendance at meetings will be recorded by the President or by another executive member as designated by the President.
- D. Meetings are chaired by the President or Co-Presidents, or someone else as designated by the President or Co-Presidents.
- E. If neither is available for the meeting, the President or Co-Presidents will appoint a chair.

II. General Provisions for Endorsements

- A. Rules for the endorsement of candidates shall be established for each election before the endorsement is made. The procedures for endorsement of candidates in different elections may be different.
- B. MIT Democrats may also endorse bills, movements, initiatives, and other items.
 1. Miscellaneous endorsements may be proposed by any MIT Democrats member.
 2. Rules for the endorsement of bills, movements, initiatives, and other items shall be established before the endorsement is made.