

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Article I: Name

The name of this organization shall be **Democracy Matters**.

Article II: Purpose

Section I. Description:

Democracy Matters is a NON-partisan organization concerned about political accountability and the corrupting influence of private money in American government. We hope to educate others and ourselves about present infringements upon democracy, political equality, and government transparency, and the possible alternatives that may help reform and revitalize our political process. Along with education, we work to deepen democracy by pushing for campaign finance and lobbying reform, expansion of the referendum and ballot initiatives in all states, election reform, and increased political participation of the American People.

Section II. Mission Statement:

Democracy Matters' mission is to educate, to inspire, and to act: Change elections and change America.

Section III. Values:

Democracy Matters strives to uphold an environment of mutual-respect, open-mindedness, and an appreciation for ideological diversity. Democracy Matters recognizes that competing views and ideas form the foundation for a productive and sound organization. We desire effectiveness and efficiency in achieving our goals while embracing participation and delegation of responsibility to as many of our members as possible. Moreover, Democracy Matters holds sacred the individual, for it is the individual who is the force and strength behind this organization and behind a legitimate Democracy.

Article III: Membership

Section I. Any fee paying, undergraduate students enrolled in Towson University with a 2.0 GPA or higher may become a member of Democracy Matters at Towson University with voting rights and office holding privileges.

Section II. No dues shall be charged to members, but helping with fundraising activities will be expected of ALL members.

Article IV: Executive Officers/Duties

*Section I. The executive officers of Democracy Matters shall be as follows:
Campus Coordinator, President/Co-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and
Coalition Coordinator .*

Campus Coordinator—His/Her duties and responsibilities: To act as the official liaison between the National Organization, other Democracy Matters Chapters; To work closely and intensely with the Campus Director on daily Chapter operations; To have the power of interpretation of this Constitution should it be necessary for the Campus Coordinator to make spontaneous decisions during the summer or periods when contact with the Inner Core is suspended.

President—His/Her duties and responsibilities: To oversee all officers in the chapter not overseen by the Campus Coordinator; To serve as Event Planner in coordinating all events with all other officers of the Core; To prepare the Agenda for Inner Core Meetings. Co-Presidencies will be permitted if deemed necessary by the Campus Coordinator.

Treasurer—His/Her duties and responsibilities: To devise semester budget proposals; To work with Democracy Matters (National) and with Cornell University in securing funding; To oversee budget proposals for events and other organizational functions; To ensure all members are compensated for Organization expenses (to be deemed appropriate by the Campus Coordinator).

Secretary—His/Her duties and responsibilities: To prepare a sign-in sheet for meetings; To develop an Excel spread sheet of members with their appropriate information; To sign up and reserve meeting rooms and tables; To update Registration with Towson University; To appoint the News, Current Events, and Legislative Reporter or be responsible for this duty directly if he/she so chooses; To record and have on file all historical events of the organization and its members; To oversee elections; To handle any other Administrative duties deemed appropriate by the Campus Director.

Coalition Coordinator—His/Her duties and responsibilities: To form relationships with other Campus organizations and to initiate and organize co-sponsored events; To represent Democracy Matters at meetings of other organizations to stress how the corrupting influence of money in politics relates to their causes; To form relationships with local Ithaca organizations; To assist the Campus Coordinator in maintaining relationships with other chapters of Democracy Matters and to organize co-sponsored events.

Article V. General Membership

Section I. General members form the body of Democracy Matters, for whom without, this organization would be naught. In order to be considered a “Member,” an individual must come to one of the bi-weekly General Members meetings.

Section II. All General members are invited to Core meetings.

Section III. General members will have the right to vote on matters brought to attention at General Meetings.

Section IV. Membership may be revoked only if a member is found in violation of upholding and practicing the tenets expressed in Article I. The Inner Core Officers will decide by two-thirds vote whether a member stands in violation. In the event of a tie, the Campus Coordinator will cast the deciding vote.

Article VI. Voting and Elections

Section I. Any undergraduate, fee paying student member is eligible to vote and for nomination as and officer of the executive committee who meets the requirements of membership with Democracy Matters.

Section I (a): A majority of all Voting Members present at the respective General Meeting will elect an Inner Core member. In an election of greater than two candidates, if no candidate wins with a clear majority, the two candidates who emerge with the greatest number of votes will then face off in a second election. The candidate with the majority of the votes in this second election will be elected.

Section I (b): In the event of a tied election for any one officer, the current Campus Coordinator will cast the deciding vote.

Section II. Elections will take place annually and will take place six weeks before the end of Spring semester. All elected Core positions will be open to new candidates or incumbents. There are no term limits except for graduation.

Section II (a): Elections will be held at the General Meeting which is scheduled closest to four to five weeks prior to the end of Spring Semester. Elections will be chaired by the Campus Coordinator.

Section II (b): In the event of a tie, a revote will be done.

Section II (C): The Officer-Elect will not be inaugurated until the final Core Meeting of the Spring Semester. The six weeks interim period will

be a time in which the Officer-Elects will attend every Core Meeting for the purpose acclimating each officer-elect to his/her new position. Each Officer-Elect will work with his/her complimentary Core officer in order to ensure the proper training.

Section III. An officer may be impeached by a 2/3 majority vote if he or she is not fulfilling their constitutional duties.

Article VII. Amendments

Section I. Any six Inner Core Members or six Voting Members may introduce an Amendment to the Constitution by submitting it, in writing, to the Secretary.

Section I (a): A unanimous vote, by the Core, in favor of the Amendment, is necessary for the adoption of the Amendment.

Section II (b): If the Core cannot reach a unanimous vote, the Amendment is passed to the General Members for voting. A two-thirds majority of all Voting Members present at the respective meeting will ratify the Amendment.

Section II. Should the General Members vote on an Amendment, a copy of the proposed Amendment will be made available to all members at least two days prior to the meeting.

Section III. The time period for the debate will be set by the Core and may be extended if deemed necessary by the Core. A vote is to be taken after the debate.

Section IV. An Amendment may only be proposed once. If voted down, that proposed Amendment must not be submitted again unless it is rewritten to reflect different principles or unless the semester in which it was proposed has expired.

Section V. Amendments, once passed through the members, will be declared or adopted upon SGA Approval.

Article VIII: By-Laws:

By-Laws, not inconsistent with this constitution, may be adopted or amended by a 2/3 majority of the voting members present at any general or special meetings, provided the By-Laws are submitted in writing at least one week ahead of time and upon SGA approval.