YMCA New Mexico Youth and Government Constitution
Ratified during the 2020 Model Legislature

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

New Mexico YMCA Youth and Government Constitution

Preamble:
We, the delegates of the New Mexico YMCA Youth and Government Program, in order to form a more efficient conference, establish organized guidelines, promote delegate involvement in government, and secure the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity, do hereby ordain and establish this Constitution for the New Mexico YMCA Youth and Government Program.

Article 1: The Legislative Branch

Section One: The Legislature

1. All legislative powers shall be bicameral but jointly controlled by the House of Representatives and the Senate. The business of each shall be conducted according to Parliamentary Procedure as the presiding officer dictates.
2. Legislative sessions will not be commenced unless a majority of the legislative body is present.
3. A member of one legislative body will not have participatory rights in the opposite body unless explicitly given rights by a majority vote.
4. When entering the voting procedure, the entrances to the chambers will be sealed by the Sergeant at Arms until the voting procedure has ended.
5. In the event of a veto, the Majority Floor Leader or President Pro Tempore can make a motion to reintroduce a piece of legislation onto the official docket, which can be passed by a majority vote. This legislation will be included on the docket of the chamber in which the legislation was reintroduced. In order to overturn the veto, the legislation must receive a two-thirds majority of the legislative body in each chamber. If passed, the legislation will become law.
6. If an executive officer fails to exercise their duties or participates in misconduct, they may be removed from office at the sole discretion of the State Director.
7. School delegations shall not submit multiple bills that address the same specific issue.
8. Committees shall be able to vote to approve a bill that is likely to have near-unanimous approval in Chambers to be recommended for the Consent Calendar.
9. Gavel taps will be standardized as follows: one tap at 30 seconds remaining in the time allotted, two taps at 15 seconds remaining, and three taps at 0 seconds remaining, after which the delegate will be gavelled out.

Section Two: The House of Representatives

1. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall preside over the business of the House of Representatives; the Speaker of the House shall be elected by the rules put forward by Article 9.
2. No person shall be a representative who shall not, at the time of conference, be a high school student.
3. The official docket of legislation shall be determined before the conference by the Speaker of the House.
4. Legislation will be organized by topic into preliminary committees, through which the legislation must pass before being presented on the floor.
    a. In committee, two or more pieces of legislation of similar nature can be combined to form a single piece of legislation to present on the House floor.
    b. If multiple pieces of legislation are combined, the bill authors will remain jointly attached to the combined bill for the remainder of the conference.
5. In accordance with the official docket, legislation shall be presented to the floor in the form of an opening speech by the bill author(s). This introduction shall be succeeded by a period of technical, non-debatable questions, after which will follow a period of pro-con debate. Pro-con debate can be suspended at any time by any member of the House of Representatives, provided there is a majority vote by the body. Prior to a final vote on the legislation, the bill author(s) will be recognized for closing remarks. Each delegate will receive one vote.
6. Amendments to legislation must be submitted in writing to the majority floor leader, before debate is ended, in order to be considered. If the majority floor leader is absent, amendments can be submitted to the Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives. The majority floor leader or Sergeant at Arms will submit the amendment to the Clerk of the House before debate has ended.
    a. The total number of pages for amendments shall not be in excess of four. Should this limit be reached, the governor may submit a written allowance for a specified additional limit.
7. All votes shall, in accordance with parliamentary procedure, be taken as a vote of acclamation, unless division is called, in which case votes shall be taken as a vote by placard.
8. In the event of an equally divided house, the Speaker of the House shall cast the deciding vote. The Speaker of the House will have voting rights on all decisions.
9. Representatives will be recognized for technical, non-debatable questions, debate, and any other business by the verbal recognition of the chair.
10. All legislation shall be prepared by the students before the conference and submitted to the proper authorities by the stated deadline.
11. Leadership roles in the House of Representatives are:
    a. The Majority Floor Leader will have certain ceremonial duties that will be outlined for them prior to the conference by the executive officers. The Majority Floor Leader is the only person who can make a motion to reconsider a piece of legislation if it fails its first pass through either house. In the event the Speaker of the House is unable to exercise their duties, the Majority Floor Leader will preside over the House of Representatives.

b. The Chief Clerk and Assistant Clerk will be in charge of taking roll, maintaining any records, counting votes, and doing any other menial task that is required of the branch in question.
c. The Sergeant at Arms and Deputy Sergeant at Arms will escort and/or retrieve any persons of concern for the chambers, seal the chambers for voting, and lead the body in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Sergeant at Arms will also deal with and pass out any copies of legislation needed by the body.
d. The Committee Chairs will preside over all Committee Hearings. Their committee will be chosen for them prior to the conference by the executive officers.
e. The Parliamentarian will be a resource for delegates who have questions regarding parliamentary procedure.
f. The Minority Floor Leader is the only person who can make a motion to reconsider the decision of the committee in addition to assisting the Majority Floor Leader in advancing debate in the chamber.

Section Three: The Senate

1. The Lieutenant Governor shall preside over the business of the Senate. The Lieutenant Governor shall be elected by the rules put forward by Article 9.
2. No person shall be a senator who shall not, at the time of conference, be a high school student.
3. The official docket of legislation shall be determined before the conference by the Lieutenant Governor.
4. Legislation will be organized by topic into preliminary committees, through which the legislation must pass before being presented on the floor.
    a. In committee, two or more pieces of legislation of similar nature can be combined to form a single piece of legislation to present on the Senate floor.
    b. If multiple pieces of legislation are combined, the bill authors will remain jointly attached to the combined bill for the remainder of the conference.
5. In accordance with the official docket, legislation shall be presented to the floor in the form of an opening speech by the bill author(s). This introduction shall be succeeded by a period of technical, non-debatable questions, after which will follow a period of pro-con debate. Pro-con debate can be suspended at any time by any member of the Senate, provided there is a majority vote by the body. Prior to a final vote on the legislation, the bill author(s) will be recognized for closing remarks. Each delegate will receive one vote.
6. Amendments to legislation must be submitted in writing to the President Pro Tempore, before debate ends, in order to be considered by the body. If the President Pro Tempore is absent, amendments can be submitted to the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate. The President Pro Tempore or Sergeant at Arms will submit the amendment to the Clerk of the Senate before debate has ended.
    a. The total number of pages for amendments shall not be in excess of four. Should this limit be reached, the governor may submit a written allowance for a specified additional limit.

7. All votes shall, in accordance with parliamentary procedure, be taken as a vote of acclamation, unless division is called, in which case votes shall be taken as a vote by placard.
8. In the event of an equally divided body, the Lieutenant Governor will cast the deciding vote. Other than in this circumstance, the Lieutenant Governor will not be given a vote on any decisions.
9. Senators will be recognized for technical, non-debatable questions and new business by the verbal recognition of the chair.
10. All legislation shall be prepared by the students and submitted to the proper authorities before the conference.
11. Leadership positions in the Senate are:
    a. In the event that the Lieutenant Governor is unable to exercise their duties, the President Pro Tempore will preside over the Senate. The President Pro Tempore shall also serve to organize the general committee assignments.
    b. The Chief Clerk and Assistant Clerk will be in charge of taking roll, maintaining any records, counting votes, and doing any other menial tasks that are required of the branch in question.
    c. The Committee Chairs will preside over all Committee Hearings. Their committee will be chosen for them prior to the conference by the executive officers.
    d. The Parliamentarian will be a resource for delegates who have questions regarding parliamentary procedure.
    e. The Minority Floor Leader is the only person who can make a motion to reconsider the decision of the committee in addition to assisting the Majority Floor Leader in advancing debate in the chamber.
    f. The Majority Floor Leader will have certain ceremonial duties that will be outlined for them prior to the conference by the executive officers. The Majority Floor Leader is the only person who can make a motion to reconsider a piece of legislation if it fails its first pass through either house.
    g. The Sergeant at Arms and Deputy Sergeant at Arms will escort and/or retrieve any persons of concern for the chambers, seal the chambers for voting, and the Sergeant at Arms will also deal with and pass out any copies of legislation needed by the body.

Article 2: The Judicial Branch

Section One: The Judicial Branch

1. All Judicial power for the New Mexico Youth and Government program shall be vested in the Supreme Court of the New Mexico YMCA Youth and Government.
2. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall preside over all business of the Supreme Court along with a panel of Justices of the Supreme Court. All Justices will be selected by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. All attorneys will be selected to serve as justices at least once during the conference, and will be judged in a manner that is determined by the Chief Justice in accordance with a standard rubric per round.

3. The business of the Supreme Court will be decided on by the Chief Justice. The case will be posted on the New Mexico Youth and Government website on January 1st. The debate will involve the argument of a constitutional question which is posed in the case law. It is the responsibility of each attorney to retrieve the case materials and write one argument for each side of the case, which must be submitted to the proper authorities by the proper date.
4. Attorneys are permitted to operate alone or in teams of two. Each attorney or team of attorneys will have a chance to argue the appellant's case and the defendant's case.
5. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court will determine the docket of cases to be heard. Each team will be provided a chance to argue both sides of the case and serve as a justice.
6. Attorney teams will participate in rounds of deliberation as assigned, during which teams will discuss the outcome of the case to result in a written Opinion of the Court that will be read at the closing ceremony.
7. Attorneys and judges will be judged based upon merit, and compliance with a rubric, to be decided on by the Chief Justice. The rubric will include use of case law, demeanor and presentation, and the ability to answer questions, along with any other criteria the current Chief Justice sees fit to add. The rubric will be posted along with all other pertinent materials on January 1st.
8. It is the obligation of the Chief Justice to make any necessary changes to the Judicial program between conferences. The Chief Justice must schedule events for the Judicial program during conference, and make a conscious effort to avoid school bias; the Chief Justice must make a schedule wherein no justices from any one school shall justice another team from that school, and no two teams from the same school may debate against one another, until or unless it is no longer possible to schedule in such a fashion.
9. Adult scorers should be trained to score attorneys and objectively determine who will qualify for the showcase round.
10. The Chief Justice shall have the right to appoint a clerk, to be chosen from the pool of alumni present at the conference. It is the responsibility of the clerk to write down the majority opinion decided upon during deliberation by the Chief Justice and co-justices, and to post those opinions online, along with feedback for both teams.
11. The Election of The Chief Justice will be explained in Article 9 of this constitution.

Section Two: The Attorney General

1. All questions of legality and constitutionality under the United States and New Mexico constitution regarding legislation shall be dealt with by the Attorney General.
2. The Attorney General may establish a Cabinet and the Attorney General will preside over the business of the Cabinet.
3. Members of the Attorney General's Cabinet shall be chosen by the Attorney General prior to the Conference. People interested in holding this position must submit an application to the Attorney General by the specified deadline.

4. Prior to the conference, all bills shall be examined by the Attorney General's Cabinet, and evaluated for constitutionality.
5. Every bill must be examined by the Attorney General's Cabinet in its finalized state, before being given to the Governor's Cabinet.
6. The Attorney General has the ability to call bill authors to discuss minor issues pertaining to constitutionality within their bills. Should this arise, bill authors will have the opportunity to amend their bills to be within the bounds of constitutionality.
7. The Attorney General determines the constitutionality of a bill through the process of Judicial Review.
8. The Attorney General's Cabinet's opinion should influence the Governor's Cabinet's decision on whether or not a bill passes.
9. Election of the Attorney General will be explained in Article 9 of this constitution.

Article 3: The Executive Branch

Section One: Governor

1. Powers vested to the Governor are: assembling an executive cabinet, signing or vetoing bills, and acting as an executive officer. This veto may just be the vetoing of a specific line and/or phrase.
2. The Governor may take action on legislation by approving it after the Legislature has passed the legislation.
3. The Governor has the right to preside over an executive cabinet.
4. The Governor has the right to endorse legislation by suggesting debate points to be delivered on their behalf by a senator or representative.

Section Two: Executive Cabinet

1. The Executive Cabinet is selected by the Governor from a list of the delegates who applied to be a member prior to the Conference. The Governor must make selections twenty-four hours after training concludes, with the exception of the Secretary of State, who will be elected by the Youth and Government delegates.
    a. The Secretary of State will assist the Governor in the final decision on legislation.
2. The duties of the Executive Cabinet are to assist the Governor in his/her day-to-day work and help the Governor make the decision of passing or vetoing a certain piece of legislation.
3. If more than 6 bills are on the Governor's Cabinet docket that are not being deliberated at any time, the Governor has the ability to split the Governor's Cabinet into two groups that will be overseen by either the Governor, Secretary of State, Chief of Staff, or a senior Secretary appointed by the Governor.

Section Three: Executive Officers

1. The duties of the Executive Branch will include, but not be limited to, the following: planning the conference, presiding over the conference, observing

other state conferences, preparing materials for the conference, and providing training workshops for all delegates.
2. Election of executive officers will be explained in Article 9 of this constitution.
3. In the executive cabinet, there will exist the Secretary of State, and multiple appointed secretaries, with certain subject focuses.

Article 4: Task Force

Section One: Task Force Operations

1. The Task Force will be convened annually by the Governor to investigate a pressing issue affecting New Mexico. It will be led and moderated by the State Auditor, State Treasurer, and Commissioner of Public Lands.
2. The Task Force will convene before Orientation and will adjourn at YAGreat Night!, where Task Force members will present their research and solutions to their Youth Government. Meetings may be held after "YAGreat Night!" to complete the bill, if needed.
3. All Task Force delegates will be expected to contribute to drafting and finalizing the bill. Speakers (up to two) will be selected by the Task Force Officers to present the bill during the conference.
4. Task Force may consist of middle-school page delegates who have demonstrated sufficient debate expertise.
    a. The delegates must apply to be in the Task Force, and selections shall be made by the Task Force Officers.
5. The State Auditor and Land Commissioner will also be responsible for running the National Issues Forum (NIF), contingent upon the NIF having at least 12 delegates, excluding the Task Force officers.
6. During the 2027 Conference the State Treasurer will be responsible for the State Budget Committee (SBC)
7. Election of the Task Force Officers will be explained in Article 9 of this Constitution.

Section Two: At-Conference Participation

1. The Task Force delegates may participate in any branch that they choose at conference by following the usual branch selection process.
2. The selected Task Force delegates and officers may present the bill at conference.
    a. The bill will go through the regular bill process of a vote through each chamber, rather than through a special session.

Article 5: Media

Section One: The Press and Media Director

1. All power of the press shall be directed through the New Mexico Youth and Government Media Director. The Media Director will be responsible for setting the duties as seen fit for the media delegates at the conference.
2. The Media Director will be selected by the State Director of the program by August 1, following the conference.

3. Media will be responsible for introducing the candidates through video, article, or social media prior to or during the conference.

Article 6: Lobbyists

Section One: Conference Participation

1. Lobbyists shall be placed into the committee corresponding to their application topic, or will be assigned as space permits.
2. Committee Lobbying
    a. Lobbyists shall research and prepare speeches on bills within their assigned committees.
        i. Lobbyists are required to deliver speeches on a minimum of 50% of the bills in committee.
    b. During a period of Public Comment, Lobbyists are to deliver any prepared commentary.
    c. Speeches in opposition are not in order during the First Hearing of Bills.
        i. Constructive speeches should focus on providing actionable amendments to strengthen the bills.
3. Chamber Lobbying
    a. While the House/Senate chambers are in session, all lobbyists are to reside primarily in the gallery of their respective chambers.
    b. Lobbyists shall research and prepare talking points for Pro/Con speeches, questions, and statistics to be provided to delegates.
    c. Notes shall not be passed to the bill author while they are presenting: only before or after they have presented.
    d. Lobbyists are not reserved the right to deliver speeches during chamber debate.
4. Lobbyists are not reserved the right to vote during any legislative voting procedures.
5. Delegates of the Lobby shall be overseen by an appointed Lead Lobbyist.

Article 7: National Issues Forum (NIF)

Section One: Establishment and Purpose

1. The National Issues Forum (NIF) is established as a standing branch of New Mexico Youth & Government (NMYAG) for delegates to research, draft, and advocate proposals on national or international policy while explicitly connecting those issues to New Mexico.
2. NIF complements, and does not replace, existing branches (Legislative, Executive, Judicial).
3. Gavel taps will be standardized as follows: one tap at 30 seconds remaining in the time allotted, two taps at 15 seconds remaining, and three taps at 0 seconds remaining, after which the delegate will be gavelled out.

Section Two: Eligibility and Participation

1. Any registered high school delegate may elect the NIF during Conference registration.
2. Single-author rule. Each proposal must be authored by one (1) individual; co-authorship is not permitted.
3. Unique topic per school. Delegates from the same school may not submit proposals on the same topic.
4. No combination proposals. Bundling multiple discrete proposals into one is not permitted.
5. Minimum participation. NIF convenes only if at least twelve (12) NIF delegates are registered by the Conference registration deadline. If the threshold is not met, NIF is postponed for that year, and interested delegates are reassigned as needed.

Section Three: Proposal Standards and Filings

1. Each NIF delegate shall file one (1) proposal by a deadline that mirrors the Legislative bill-filing deadline, as published by the State Office.
2. New Mexico Impact Statement (NMIS). Every proposal must include an NMIS that meaningfully connects its national/international issue to New Mexico perspectives, communities, challenges, or contributions.
3. The State Office shall annually publish proposal format, word limits, and the official NIF rubric no later than Orientation.

Section Four: Deliberation Structure

1. The tiers of deliberation will vary based on the number of delegates participating in NIF and must include a General Assembly, a committee of the whole body.
2. Top-ranked proposals advance per the official docket.
3. Committee Chairs are appointed as needed, preside over First Committees only, introduce authors, manage debate cycles, and must themselves submit a proposal.

Section Five: Officers and Administration

1. The State Auditor and Land Commissioner will preside over the National Issues Forum (NIF) jointly, with specific duties divided up each year.

Section Six: Rubric model.

1. Proposals are ranked in committees using a rubric determined by the state officers and the state office, and communicated to delegates annually. This rubric will include the NMIS criterion: *"Does the proposal meaningfully connect its national or international issue to New Mexico perspectives, challenges, or contributions?"*
2. Advancement. Highest-ranked proposals advance to General Assembly according to the official docket.
3. Proposals heard in General Assembly are voted on by all delegates to pass or fail.
4. Awards. NIF will confer Outstanding Statesperson and Outstanding Proposal, certified by the State Auditor and Land Commissioner.

Article 8: State Budget Committee (SBC)

Section One: Establishment and Purpose

1. The State Budget Committee (SBC) is established within the Executive Branch as a conference-integrated fiscal and appropriations simulation chaired by the State Treasurer.
2. Purpose: to build delegate literacy in fiscal policy, align legislation with realistic appropriations and experiences.
3. This activity does not appropriate real funds or bind YMCA/NMYAG finances.

Section Two: Delegated Program and Rule Creation (2026-elect)

1. The 2026-elect officer team shall design and adopt the complete operating rules and terms for the State Budget Committee for its inaugural year.
2. The team's rules ("Budget Committee Rules") shall control all details of the activity, including but not limited to:
    a. participant eligibility and enrollment process;
    b. baseline budget structure and categories;
    c. methods for estimating fiscal impact of bills;
    d. internal decision procedures and voting;
    e. records, reporting, and end-of-conference presentation;
    f. any startup thresholds or contingencies;
    g. training materials and pre-conference publications.
3. The 2026-elect team may consult advisors and solicit delegate feedback but retains final authorship of the Rules.
4. The State Treasurer may appoint a Vice Chair to run the committee smoothly.

Section Three: Treasurer's Powers

1. The State Treasurer (or Treasurer-elect during the rulemaking period) is the chair and recordkeeper for the activity and is responsible for coordinating rule development, publication, and the end-of-conference budget presentation as specified in the adopted Rules.

Section Four: Effective Date

1. This Article becomes operational following the 2026 year and shall begin with the 2027 State Conference.

Article 9: Elections

Section One: Elections

1. All candidates, with the exception of the Media Director and Chief Lobbyist(s), will be voted upon by popular vote by the delegates of the conference.
2. The Secretary of State will preside over all electoral business.
3. The Secretary of State will appoint two Fair Elections Commissioners.
    a. The Fair Elections Commissioners will support the Secretary of State in regards to rules, regulations, and meetings about candidates' campaigns. Those who may be appointed to this position must remain impartial within the election and not be a candidate running for any elected office. They must be from different delegations from each other and the

Secretary of State. They may be from the branches of the lobbyist, the Attorney General Cabinet, Legislative, or Media.

4. Voting will occur on the morning of the last day of the conference.
5. All present high school delegates shall have the opportunity to vote for all high school elected positions. High school delegates do not have voting rights in any middle school election processes.
6. The Secretary of State will preside over a Candidates' Forum during the Conference. Candidates will be presented to the body, asked questions, and given an opportunity to campaign.
7. Write-in candidates will be required to submit the application before 3 pm on the day of the Candidates' Forum.
8. The Secretary of State will create a candidate packet, which will stipulate the rules of running for office during the Conference, including rules about campaigning, and approved campaign materials. The packet will be available on the website before the Conference.
9. All candidates, including write-in candidates, must turn in the Candidate Permission Form signed by themselves and their parent/guardian by the communicated deadline.

Section Two: Requirements for Candidates

1. All candidates must be high school delegates in grades 9-11 who participate in the New Mexico Youth and Government program.
2. Interested delegates must submit an application on the day decided by the Secretary of State, which will be communicated to all delegates.
3. If the application is not received on that date, students may still run for office as a write-in candidate for uncontested races or races that do not have declared candidates.
4. Any student may run for any position regardless of years of experience in that branch, with the exception of the Governor, Chief Justice, and Task Force positions.
    a. The Governor candidates must have at least one prior year of experience in either an appointed or elected officer position or experience at a National YMCA YAG event and must have at least one prior year of experience in a YMCA Youth and Government program
    b. The Chief Justice candidate must be in the judicial program for at least one year before running for Chief Justice.
    c. Task Force positions, including State Auditor, State Treasurer, and Commissioner of Public Lands, must all have one year of active participation in the Task Force before or during the year that they run for the given position.
5. Definitions & Counting Rules:
    a. "Year" refers to at least one complete Conference cycle in the specified branch, beginning with the first official training and concluding with the State Conference of that same cycle.
        i. If a Conference is canceled or materially shortened by the State Office, documented work in the branch across official

Orientation/Training and substitute events may be counted toward the requirement.

b. "Meaningful/active participation" includes active case/bill/proposal or project work consistent with branch expectations as published by the State Office.

Section Three: Officer-Elect Service Project (Post-Election)

1. Purpose.
    a. The Executive Officer Service Project is established to ensure statewide officers lead measurable, community-oriented service that reflects the mission and values of New Mexico Youth & Government (NMYAG).
        i. The "Executive Officer Team" consists of all statewide officers elected and appointed at the State Conference for the upcoming program year.
    b. Completion of the Service Project is a team obligation shared jointly by all executive officers.
2. Scope and Standards
    a. The Service Project must deliver a concrete benefit to New Mexico communities or to NMYAG statewide operations (civic access, youth engagement, public service, education, or capacity-building).
    b. The project must be distinct from ordinary officer duties, have defined beneficiaries, and include volunteer participation beyond the officer-elect team where practicable.
3. Timeline and Milestones
    a. Execution Window: The Executive Officer team shall complete the project no later than the first regular Training event of the new program year, unless an extension (max 60 days) is granted for good cause by the State Office.
    b. Public Showcase: Officers shall present an impact report at the earliest statewide gathering thereafter (Orientation, Training, or Conference opening session), as scheduled by the State Office.
4. Funding and Support
    a. Use NMYAG resources only as approved in the Proposal budget and authorized by the State Director; external partnerships/fundraising must follow YMCA policy and State Office guidance.
5. Successor Continuity
    a. When feasible, the Executive Officer team shall document the service project for future teams to replicate or scale successful projects.
6. Annual Guidance
    a. The State Office shall publish a one-page Service Project Guide (standards, examples, and deadlines) no later than Orientation each year.
7. Effective Date
    a. This Section applies beginning with Officers elected/appointed at the 2026 State Conference and thereafter.

Section Four: Special Elections

1. In the event of a vacant position, a special election will be held to occupy the position.
2. If there are no candidates who run for the position during the previous conference, the election will be held shortly thereafter all Youth and Government national programs conclude. If an officer position becomes vacant, a special election will be held as quickly as possible to fill the spot.
3. The recently-elected Secretary of State will preside over all special election matters. If the Secretary of State position is vacant, then the previous year's Secretary of State will preside over the election.
4. Participants from the previous conference are eligible to vote, including graduated seniors. Middle school delegates do not have voting privileges in any high school election process.
5. Candidates will have no more than two weeks to complete the application process once the election is announced.
6. An online candidate forum will be held by the Secretary of State before the election. Candidates will be presented to the body, asked questions, and have the opportunity to campaign.

Section Five: Appointed Officer Selection

1. Prior to training, those wishing to take part in Conference as an appointed officer must submit an application.
    a. Applicants will be interviewed by the head of the respective branch and will be selected based upon individual merit.

Article 10: Future Amendments

Section One: The Constitution

1. This Constitution shall be the sole governing document of the New Mexico Youth and Government Program. Its content will dictate the organization and procedures of the conference.
2. The ratification of this constitution shall be completed upon review and acceptance by all delegates and the State Director of the conference.
3. Two-thirds of the attending body must approve the working document in order for it to be passed. The ballot will appear during the voting procedure for all elected positions.

Section Two: Amending the Constitution

1. This Constitution may be amended at any time, for any purpose as long as the amendment leads to the continuation and preservation of organization, efficiency, equality, and liberty.
2. Amendments may be presented by any delegate or member of the organization.
3. YMCA Staff may grammatically amend the constitution without altering intent.
4. Amendments can pass in two ways.
    a. The Amendment can be presented in a piece of Legislation. In order to pass in this manner, the amendment must receive the vote of two-thirds of the members present. If the amendment passes through each

legislative house, it must also pass through the Supreme Court, with the consent of the Chief Justice, and finally be submitted to the Governor's Cabinet for approval. This form of amending will occur during the conference.

b. The Amendment can be presented by an executive officer prior to the conference. In order for an amendment to pass in this manner, the executive officers must pass it with a two-thirds majority.