

THE CONSTITUTION OF MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

Last revised by
Missouri YMCA Youth In Government State Committee
August 20, 2005

Last approved by
Affiliated Organizations of Missouri YMCA Youth In Government
October 17, 2005

ARTICLE I: PURPOSE, STATUS, AND OFFICES

SECTION 1. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

This Constitution provides for the establishment and support of Missouri YMCA Youth In Government (hereinafter the Program), which shall, under the direction of the State and Executive Committees created herein, develop and support inter-organizational laboratory experiences in Missouri State Government for students attending grades eight (8) through twelve (12). The activities of the Program shall be designed to:

- i. promote an understanding of governmental processes through active participation in a model state government;
- ii. develop an awareness of state issues, and support the exploration and exchange of ideas about solutions to state problems;
- iii. provide for the communication of youth concerns to appropriate individuals and groups involved with state government;
- iv. encourage interaction among youth and adults from varying backgrounds focusing on common efforts and concerns; and
- v. nurture respect for the ideas and ideals of others, both within the Program and throughout society as a whole.

SECTION 2. NONPROFIT STATUS

The purpose and objectives of Missouri YMCA Youth In Government shall be not-for-profit as stated in this Constitution, as it may be amended. No part of the net earnings or other assets of the Program shall inure to the benefit of, be distributed to or among, or revert to, any officer, committee member, contributor, volunteer, participant, or other private individual having, directly or indirectly, any personal or private interest in the activities of the Program, except that the Program may pay reasonable compensation for services rendered, and may make payments and distributions in furtherance of its nonprofit purposes.

SECTION 3. OFFICES

The principal offices of Missouri YMCA Youth In Government shall be within the State of Missouri and designated by the Executive Committee on an annual basis.

ARTICLE II: AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

SECTION 1. BASIS OF AFFILIATION

Missouri YMCA Youth In Government shall develop affiliations with YMCAs located and operating within the State of Missouri. If no such YMCA affiliation is available, the Program may, at the discretion of the Executive Committee, develop affiliations with non-YMCA organizations, for the purpose of accommodating all interested participants within the State of Missouri. The basis for these affiliations shall be the agreement of each organization with, and adherence to, the provisions stated in this

Constitution, as expressed by the signature of an Executive Officer of each Affiliated Organization on a copy of this document.

SECTION 2. RESPONSIBILITIES

Each Affiliated Organization may sponsor one or more groups of students, known as Delegations, for participation in Missouri YMCA Youth In Government. Affiliated Organizations shall be organized so as to serve the needs of the participants in the Program, known as Delegates, who are currently enrolled in school and attending grades eight (8) through twelve (12). Affiliated Organizations of Missouri YMCA Youth In Government shall be primarily responsible to:

- i. recruit and provide both staff and volunteer-based leadership to conduct the Program properly on a continuing, year-to-year basis;
- ii. supervise the activities of the Delegates, Staff, and Volunteers from the Delegation(s) sponsored by the Affiliated Organization;
- iii. prepare the Delegates, Staff, and Volunteers from the Delegation(s) sponsored by the Affiliated Organization for the inter-organizational activities of the Program;
- iv. ensure that all Delegates, Staff, and Volunteers from the Delegation(s) sponsored by the Affiliated Organization abide by the Code of Conduct adopted annually by the State Committee;
- v. secure liability of any kind and type arising from the activities of the Delegates, Staff, and Volunteers involved with the Program;
- vi. furnish insurance with medical payment or separate accident insurance to cover liability for personal injury and destruction of property occurring as a result of the activities of the Delegates, Staff, and Volunteers from the Delegation(s) sponsored by the Affiliated Organization, and offering proof of said insurance to the Executive Committee of the Program; and
- vii. provide coverage of all costs and expenses of legal proceedings arising from the activities of the Delegates, Staff, and Volunteers from the Delegation(s) sponsored by the Affiliated Organization, including attorneys, costs of defense, and indemnification of the members of the State and Executive Committees and the other Affiliated Organizations.

SECTION 3. AFFILIATION AND SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT

Missouri YMCA Youth In Government shall provide annually to each Affiliated Organization a document outlining the basic provisions of this Constitution and the obligations of Affiliated Organizations, known as a "Affiliation and Sponsorship Agreement." For every year an Organization intends to maintain its affiliation with the Program, this agreement shall be signed by an Executive Officer of the Affiliated Organization and returned to the office of the Program as close to the beginning of the Program's fiscal year as possible.

SECTION 4. ANNUAL REPORT

Missouri YMCA Youth In Government shall provide yearly to each Affiliated Organization a document, known as an "Annual Report," which includes overviews of

the Program's activities, summaries of the Program's participation statistics, reviews of the Program's financial status, and evaluations of all reported data.

ARTICLE III: INDEMNIFICATION

SECTION 1. CAUSE FOR INDEMNIFICATION

Affiliated Organizations shall indemnify any member of the Executive or State Committees of Missouri YMCA Youth In Government who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit, or proceeding, whether civil, administrative or investigative, other than an action by or in the right of the Program, by reason of the fact that said member is or was a committee member, officer, employee, or agent of the Program, or is or was serving at the request of the Program, or is or was serving at the request of the Program as a committee member, officer, employee, or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, against expenses, including attorneys' fees, judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by said member in connection with such action, suit, or process if said member acted in good faith and in a manner said member reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the Program and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe the conduct was unlawful. The termination of any action, suit, or proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or upon a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent, shall not, of itself, create a presumption that the committee member did not act in good faith and in a manner which said member reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the Program, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had reasonable cause to believe that the conduct was unlawful.

SECTION 2. OTHER RIGHTS RETAINED

The indemnification provided by this Article shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which those seeking indemnification may be entitled under the Constitution of the State of Missouri, Section 537. 117, Missouri Revised Statutes 1986, any other provision of law, the Constitution of Missouri YMCA Youth In Government, or any agreement or vote of committee members, disinterested or otherwise, both as to action in the member's official capacity and as to action in another capacity while holding such office, and shall continue to a person who has ceased to be a committee member, officer, employee, or agent, and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors and administrators of such a person.

SECTION 3. EXTENSIONS OF INDEMNIFICATION

Missouri YMCA Youth In Government shall have the power to give any further indemnity, in addition to the indemnity authorized or contemplated under other sections of this Constitution, to any person who is or was a committee member, officer, employee, or agent, or to any person who is or was serving at the request of the Program as a committee member, officer, employee, or agent of any corporation,

partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, provided such further indemnity is either authorized, directed, or provided for in the Constitution of Missouri YMCA Youth In Government or any duly adopted amendment thereof. Further, no such indemnity shall indemnify any person from or on account of such person's conduct which was finally adjudged to have been knowingly fraudulent, deliberately dishonest, or to have shown willful misconduct.

SECTION 4. INSURANCE

Missouri YMCA Youth In Government may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of an individual who is or was a committee member, officer, employee, or agent of the Program, or who, while a committee member, officer, employee, or agent of the Program, is or was serving at the request of the Program as a committee member, officer, partner, trustee, employee, or agent of another foreign or domestic business or nonprofit corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan, or other enterprise, against liability asserted against or incurred by said individual in that capacity or arising from the status of said individual as a committee member, officer, employee, or agent, whether or not the Program would have the power to indemnify said individual against the same liability under this Constitution.

ARTICLE IV: STRUCTURE OF COMMITTEES

SECTION 1. STANDING COMMITTEES

Missouri YMCA Youth In Government shall have three standing committees, known as the State Committee, the Executive Committee, and the Advisory Committee, to provide for the management, coordination, and support of the Program.

SECTION 2. STRUCTURE AND SELECTION OF STATE COMMITTEE

The State Committee of Missouri YMCA Youth In Government shall consist of the following members:

- i. youth delegates serving as Major and Program Officers, representing the major subdivisions of the Program, including, but not limited to, the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Chief Lobbyist, Editor-In-Chief, and Video News Director;
- ii. adult individuals serving as Program Coordinators, representing the major subdivisions of the Program including, but not limited to, the Legislative, Executive, Judicial, Lobbyist, Print Press, Video News, Page, and Advisor Coordinators, as determined by the State Committee;
- iii. adult individuals serving as District Coordinators, representing the major regions of the State of Missouri, known as Districts, as determined by the State Committee;
- iv. adult individuals serving as Representatives-At-Large, one representing each of the Districts that participate in the Program, who are, at the time of service, employed as YMCA Professionals in the State of Missouri;
- v. adult individuals serving as Executive Officers, namely, the Chairperson

(serving as the Presiding Officer of the State Committee), Immediate Past Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary-Treasurer of Missouri YMCA Youth In Government, who, if already serving as Program Coordinators, District Coordinators, or Representatives-At-Large, shall only be entitled to one vote; and

- vi. the State Director serving as an ex-officio, non-voting member.

The Annual Meeting of State Committee shall be the first official meeting of the calendar year. The State Committee shall be elected at the Annual Meeting by the members of the State Committee, with the exceptions of the Youth Delegates, who are appointed or elected from the Program, and the State Director, who is employed by the Program. All members of the State Committee, with the exception of the State Director and Chairperson, have equal voting power and serve one year terms, beginning immediately upon their selection or induction. The Chairperson has equal voting power and serves a one year term, beginning immediately upon selection, but is limited to three (3) total terms.

SECTION 3. STRUCTURE AND SELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee of Missouri YMCA Youth In Government shall consist of nine (9) members, as follows: the Chairperson, Immediate Past Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary-Treasurer of Missouri YMCA Youth In Government; three adult members of the State Committee serving as Executives-At-Large; the Youth Governor; and the State Director as an ex officio, non-voting member. The Executive Committee shall be elected by the members of the State Committee at the Annual Meeting, with the exceptions of the Youth Governor, who is elected by the Delegates at the State Convention, the State Director, who is employed by the Program, and the Immediate Past Chairperson, who is the previous Chairperson. The Chairperson of Missouri YMCA Youth In Government shall be the Presiding Officer of the Executive Committee. All elected members of the Executive Committee, with the exception of the Chairperson, shall have equal voting power and serve one year terms, beginning immediately upon their selection or induction. The Chairperson has equal voting power and serves a one year term, beginning immediately upon selection, but is limited to three (3) total terms.

SECTION 4. STRUCTURE AND SELECTION OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Advisory Committee of Missouri YMCA Youth In Government shall consist of individuals selected by the State Committee, who are interested in offering additional support for the Program. The Advisory Committee should include adults engaged in government-oriented activities and professions that are modeled by participants in the Program, as well as outstanding citizens and YMCA dignitaries. Members may be added or removed from the Advisory Committee at any time, at the discretion of the State Committee.

SECTION 5. ELECTION PROCEDURES

The Executive Committee shall appoint a Nominating Committee, consisting of, but

not limited to, at least one representative from each of the Districts that participate in Missouri YMCA Youth In Government, to determine the slates of candidates for the State and Executive Committees. The members of this Nominating Committee shall be notified of their appointment at least forty-five (45) days prior to the Annual Meeting. The Nominating Committee shall then determine slates of candidates and present them in writing to each member of the State Committee at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Meeting. Upon written request of at least one member of the State Committee, made to a member of the Nominating Committee not fewer than fifteen (15) days prior to said Annual Meeting, an additional slate of candidates may be made and presented to the State Committee. At the Annual Meeting, the Nominating Committee shall present all slates of candidates made, and the State Committee shall proceed with the election of the State Committee, followed by the election of the Executive Committee by the newly-elected State Committee.

SECTION 6. REPLACEMENT PROCEDURES

Any member of any committee may resign at any time by giving written notice to the State Committee or Chairperson of Missouri YMCA Youth In Government. Unless otherwise specified therein, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective. Any member of any committee may be removed, with or without cause, by a resolution supported by two-thirds (2/3) majority of the voting members of the entire State Committee, and shall take effect at the time specified therein. In the event of the death, incapacity, inability to act, resignation, or removal of a member of the Executive or State Committees, a successor member shall be elected at a special meeting consisting of a quorum of the State Committee or the next official State Committee meeting.

SECTION 7. SUPPORT FOR THE PROGRAM

All committee members and officers, by virtue of accepting their positions in Missouri YMCA Youth In Government, shall agree to support the principles and policies of the Program as expressed in this Constitution, in the Participation Agreement, and in the decisions of the State Committee.

ARTICLE V: FUNCTIONS OF THE STATE COMMITTEE

SECTION 1. DUTIES

Based on the recommendations of the Executive Committee, the State Committee shall be responsible for and shall have the authority for conducting, managing, and supervising the regular business affairs of Missouri YMCA Youth In Government, unless limited or otherwise provided for in this Constitution. Specifically, the State Committee shall be empowered to:

- i. approve policies developed and arrangements negotiated by the Executive Committee;
- ii. recommend actions to be taken by the Executive Committee, the State Director, and other individuals or entities concerning any business related to

- the Program; and
- iii. select individuals and appoint committees for the purposes of implementing approved policies and programs, or making recommendations to the State or Executive Committees, concerning any business related to the Program.

In addition, the State Committee shall be directly responsible to the Affiliated Organizations of Missouri YMCA Youth In Government.

SECTION 2. MEETINGS

The State Committee shall have three (3) regular meetings annually, at times and places set by the Chairperson of Missouri YMCA Youth In Government. The first of these regular meetings in the calendar year, known as the Annual Meeting, shall be held for purposes of conducting elections for the State and Executive Committees, and conducting such other business as may come before the State Committee. The foremost order of business at the Annual Meeting shall be the election of the State Committee, after which the newly-elected members are fully-empowered. The new State Committee shall immediately follow their own election with the election of the Executive Committee. The second regular meeting of the State Committee shall be held for the purpose of conducting the regular business of the Program. The Chairperson of Missouri YMCA Youth In Government or any ten (10) members of the State Committee may call for a special meeting at any time. The presence of a simple majority of the voting members of the entire State Committee shall constitute a quorum for conducting business.

SECTION 3. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

In order for the business of any meeting of the State Committee to be lawfully conducted, written notice of every meeting shall be given at least thirty (30) days in advance. Such notice may be delivered either in person, or by mail, email, or facsimile, to each member at her or his business or home location. Any member may waive notice of any meeting. The attendance of a member at any meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice of said meeting, except where a member attends a meeting for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business because the meeting has not been lawfully called or convened. Neither the business to be conducted at nor the specific purpose of any meeting of the State Committee need be indicated in the notice of the meeting.

SECTION 4. PRESENCE AT MEETINGS

Any member of the State Committee may participate in a meeting by means of conference telephone or similar communication, whereby all persons participating in the meeting can communicate with each other, and such participation in a meeting shall constitute the presence of this member in person at the meeting.

SECTION 5. NON-MEETING ACTIONS AND APPROVALS

Any action or approval required of or desired by the State Committee may be taken without a meeting if consent is obtained in writing, setting forth the action so taken, by

a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the voting members of the entire State Committee. Such consent, delivered either in person, or by mail, email, or facsimile, shall have the same force and effect as a simple majority vote at a meeting duly held, and may be stated as such in any document. The Secretary-Treasurer shall file such actions with the minutes of the most recent meeting of the State Committee.

SECTION 6. COMMITTEE ACTIONS AND RULES OF ORDER

In all matters not covered by this Constitution, business conducted by the State Committee shall be governed by the parliamentary procedures set forth in the manual known as Robert's Rules of Order, the Modern Edition.

ARTICLE VI: FUNCTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SECTION 1. DUTIES

The Executive Committee shall be responsible for guiding the regular business affairs of Missouri YMCA Youth In Government, unless limited or otherwise provided for in this Constitution. Specifically, the Executive Committee shall be empowered to:

- i. develop policies relating to the organization, implementation, and finances of the Program, subject to approval by the State Committee prior to execution; and
- ii. direct the State Director in the execution of all policies approved by the State Committee; and
- iii. maintain ability to recommend the hiring and terminating of the State Director, while also annually evaluating the performance of the State Director in conjunction with one of the Program's Affiliated Organizations if that organization has been contracted with to provide supervision to State Director; and
- iv. negotiate terms with agents, employees, independent contractors and other individuals and entities, subject to approval by the State Committee, concerning any business related to the Program, upon which such arrangements shall be retained at the expense of the State Committee; and
- v. select individuals and appoint committees for the purposes of implementing policies and programs approved by the State Committee, or making recommendations to the State or Executive Committees, concerning any business related to the Program; and
- vi. create and implement long term goals for the Program through an annual strategic plan.

SECTION 2. MEETINGS

The Executive Committee shall meet four (4) times annually, three (3) meetings of which shall be in conjunction with the meetings of the State Committee, and the remainder of which shall be at times and places set by the members of the Executive Committee. The Chairperson of Missouri YMCA Youth In Government or any four (4) members of the Executive Committee may call for a special meeting at any time.

The presence of four (4) of the eight (8) voting members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for conducting business. In the event of a tie vote, the Chairperson shall break the tie.

ARTICLE VII: FUNCTIONS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SECTION 1. DUTIES

The Advisory Committee shall strive to provide greater visibility for Missouri YMCA Youth In Government to the general public. Additionally, the members of the Advisory Committee shall help secure guidance, funding, services, facilities, and equipment for the activities of the Program. The recommendations of the Advisory Committee shall be non-binding upon the State and Executive Committees.

SECTION 2. MEETINGS

The Advisory Committee shall meet at least once annually as determined by the Chairperson of the State Committee. Individual members, however, may be in regular contact with the members of the State and Executive Committees throughout the year.

ARTICLE VIII: DUTIES OF OFFICERS OF THE STATE COMMITTEE

SECTION 1. TITLES OF OFFICERS

The State Committee of Missouri YMCA Youth In Government shall elect four (4) Officers, namely the Chairperson, the Immediate Past Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson, and the Secretary-Treasurer, in accordance with the procedures specified in this Constitution. No more than two (2) of these four (4) Officers at one time shall be paid, full- or part-time, staff members of any YMCA. These Officers shall serve on both the State and Executive Committees, and shall be charged with additional duties as specified in this Constitution.

SECTION 2. DUTIES OF THE CHAIRPERSON

The Chairperson of Missouri YMCA Youth In Government shall be primarily responsible for presiding over the State Committee and Executive Committee, and thereby guiding the regular business affairs of the Program. Specifically, in accordance with the requirements of this Constitution, the Chairperson shall be empowered to:

- i. conduct all of the usual, necessary, and regular business as may be required by the Program;
- ii. direct the State Director in the conduct of all the business of the Program as may be required;
- iii. approve and execute such contracts, leases, deeds, bonds, and other evidences of indebtedness, and other documents as may be required by the Program; and
- iv. perform all general duties incident to the Office of Chairperson, and such other duties as may be assigned by the State Committee.

SECTION 3. DUTIES OF THE IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIRPERSON

The Immediate Past Chairperson of Missouri YMCA Youth In Government shall be responsible for assisting with the transition to a new Chairperson and serving as a consultant to the State Committee and Executive Committee based on past practices.

SECTION 4. DUTIES OF THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON

The Vice-Chairperson of Missouri YMCA Youth In Government, in the absence of the Chairperson, shall be responsible for presiding over the Executive Committee, and when so acting, shall have all the power and authority of the Chairperson. Further, in accordance with the requirements of this Constitution, the Vice-Chairperson shall be empowered and required to:

- i. authenticate all the documents and records of the Program;
- ii. maintain a record of the active policies and decisions of the State and Executive Committees; and
- iii. perform all other duties incident to the Office of Vice-Chairperson, or as may be assigned by the Chairperson or by the State Committee.

SECTION 5. DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER

The Secretary-Treasurer of Missouri YMCA Youth In Government, in the absence of both the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson, shall be responsible for presiding over the Executive Committee, and when so acting, shall have all the power and authority of the Chairperson. Additionally, in accordance with the requirements of this Constitution, the Secretary-Treasurer shall be empowered and required to:

- iv. record and preserve the minutes of the meetings of the State and Executive Committees;
- v. ensure that an accounting system is maintained in such a manner as to give an accurate record of the financial status and transactions of the Program;
- vi. provide detailed, written reports at each State Committee meeting as to the minutes of previous meetings and the current financial status of the program; and
- vii. perform all other duties incident to the Office of Secretary-Treasurer, or as may be assigned by the Chairperson or by the State Committee.

ARTICLE IX: REGULAR OPERATIONS AND THE STATE DIRECTOR

SECTION 1. REGULAR OPERATIONS

The State Committee of Missouri YMCA Youth In Government shall employ a State Director who shall be responsible for the regular operations of the Program. The State Director shall serve under the direction of the Chairperson of Missouri YMCA Youth In Government. The Chairperson may, with the approval of the State Committee, negotiate a contract with one of the Program's Affiliated Organizations, to secure supervision for the State Director, or any additional support services as may be required by the Program.

SECTION 2. DUTIES OF THE STATE DIRECTOR

The State Director of Missouri YMCA Youth In Government shall be empowered and required to:

- i. attend and participate in meetings of the State Committee and Executive Committee, and submit a written report at each State Committee meeting;
- ii. distribute Program information under the direction of the Executive Committee, including notices of all State Committee meetings to the members thereof;
- iii. prepare the Annual Budget for presentation to the State and Executive Committees, and assist the Secretary-Treasurer in the preparation of all written reports;
- iv. attend all annually scheduled events of the Program, including the Centralized District Convention, Pre-Convention Training, the State Convention, and the Executive Branch Leadership Institute;
- v. secure the signature of the Executive Officer of each Affiliated Organization of the Program on the Affiliation and Sponsorship Agreement.
- vi. develop and implement annual marketing and fundraising campaigns for the Program;
- vii. recruit and train staff and volunteers to fulfill the various functions required at all levels of the Program, including the direct supervision of District Coordinators;
- viii. provide such written manuals and materials as are necessary for the preparation of all Delegates, Staff, and Volunteers in the Program;
- ix. make all the arrangements to provide the necessary facilities, services, and equipment for the Pre-Convention Training, the State Convention, and the Executive Branch Leadership Institute; and
- x. perform all other duties as may be assigned by the Chairperson, or by the Executive or State Committees.

The State Director may employ or seek voluntary assistance from such individuals as are required to fulfill her or his duties, as approved by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE X: FISCAL POLICIES AND PRACTICES

SECTION 1. USE AND SEGREGATION OF FUNDS

All funds of Missouri YMCA Youth In Government shall be used only for the purposes of the Program, as specified by the State and Executive Committees. The funds of the Program shall be held in a separate checking account by an Affiliated Organization of the Program, as a trustee of said funds, under an agreement negotiated by the Chairperson and approved by the State Committee.

SECTION 2. EXPENDITURES

The Executive Committee and the State Director may expend funds as approved in the

Annual Budget. All checks or other orders for payment of funds issued by the Program shall not be effective unless signed by the State Director, or an officer or agent selected by the State Committee, with the acknowledgment of either the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson, or the Secretary-Treasurer of the Program. The Executive Committee may delegate such power over payments to a selected officer or agent as approved by the State Committee.

SECTION 3. AGREEMENTS AND CONTRACTS

The State Committee may authorize the State Director, or any other officer or agent, to enter into any contract or execute any agreement in the name of and on behalf of the Program, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances. Unless so authorized, no officer, agent or employee shall have any power or authority to bind the Program by any contract or agreement, or to pledge its credit, or to render it financially liable for any purpose or in any amount. Unless otherwise provided for in this Constitution, no contract shall take effect unless signed by the State Director, or an officer or agent selected by the State Committee, with the acknowledgment of either the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson, or the Secretary-Treasurer of the Program.

SECTION 4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No agreement, contract, or transaction between Missouri YMCA Youth In Government and one or more of its Executive or State Committee members or officers, or between the Program and any association, corporation, partnership, or organization in which one or more of said members or officers are employed, or have a financial interest, shall be void solely for that reason, or solely because said members or officers participate in the meeting of the committee thereof which authorizes the agreement, contract, or transaction. If the material facts of a member's or officer's relationship to or interest in the agreement, contract, or transaction are disclosed or are known to the Executive or State Committees, either committee may, in good faith, taking into account the fairness of agreement, contract, or transaction, authorize the agreement, contract, or transaction by the affirmative votes of a majority of the disinterested members present.

SECTION 5. FISCAL YEAR

The Fiscal Year of Missouri YMCA Youth In Government shall commence on January 1 and shall end on December 31.

SECTION 6. APPROVAL OF ANNUAL BUDGET

The State Director shall prepare an Annual Budget for Missouri YMCA Youth In Government to be approved by the State Committee at the last official State Committee meeting in the current fiscal year.

SECTION 7. POLICIES FOR BUDGET PREPARATION

The State Director shall plan all income in the Annual Budget based on the previous year's enrollment of participants in the Program, and all proposed expenditures

sufficient to cover a reasonable increase in anticipated expenses. Funds expected from participant registration fees in the Annual Budget shall not be based on more than ninety-five percent (95%) of the previous year's actual enrollment. The State Director, the State Committee, and the Advisory Committee may seek contributions from other sources to supplement the income from participant fees, and such expected contributions may be included in the Annual Budget.

SECTION 8. BUDGET DEFICITS

In the case of a budget deficit for any fiscal year, the Affiliated Organizations of the Program shall arrange to provide funds to recover the deficit. The amount of responsibility for the deficit shall be prorated among the Affiliated Organizations, according to the number of Delegates they sponsored as a percentage of the whole who registered for the State Convention during that fiscal year.

SECTION 9. BUDGET SURPLUSES

In the case of a budget surplus for any fiscal year, the funds shall be carried forward and used to offset future deficits that may occur. In the event of a substantial surplus, the State Committee may place the surplus in a special fund for the purpose of providing grants for Delegates to participate in the activities associated with the Program. Said fund shall be administered by the Executive Committee. All passive income generated by the investment of budget surplus in a fund may be used by the State Committee to provide educational scholarships to Delegates for study at a college or university.

SECTION 10. TERMINATION OF PROGRAM FUNDS

Upon the discontinuation of Missouri YMCA Youth In Government, the last elected State Committee shall, after paying or making provisions for payment of all liabilities of the Program, dispose of all assets of the Program by allocating them to the Affiliated Organizations, prorated according to the number of Delegates they sponsored as a percentage of the whole who registered for the State Convention during that fiscal year.

ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1. PROPOSAL OF AMENDMENTS

The State Committee may propose amendments to this Constitution with a resolution supported by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the voting members of the entire State Committee.

SECTION 2. RATIFICATION OF AMENDMENTS

Proposed Amendments must be ratified by a three-fourths (3/4) majority of the Affiliated Organizations of Missouri YMCA Youth In Government, as indicated by the signature of an Executive Officer of each Affiliated Organization on a copy of the amendment.