**Constitution of Turning Point USA at The Ohio State University**

**PREAMBLE:**

Turning Point USA is a non-partisan student organization that exists to identify, educate, train, and organize students that believe in the organization’s principles of free markets, limited government, and fiscal responsibility.

**ARTICLE I. Name of the Organization**

**Section 1. *Name***

The name of this organization shall be Turning Point USA at The Ohio State University.

**ARTICLE II. Affiliation with Other Groups**

**Section 1. *Professional Affiliation***

The organization will be an official chapter of Turning Point USA and shall be independent in its decision-making in accordance with the national Turning Point USA organization.

**ARTICLE III. Mission**

**Section 1. *Identify***

The organization shall identify students that believe in the principles of free markets, limited government, and fiscal responsibility or would like to know more about these principles.

**Section 2. *Educate***

The organization shall educate its members about these principles with materials provided by the national organization, chapter discussions, and by hosting speakers.

**Section 3. *Train***

The organization shall train students on how to make change on their campus and in their communities in regards to the principles the organization is founded on.

**Section 4. *Organize***

The organization shall organize students and work with other organizations with similar principles to create a network of individuals that all believe in the message of free markets, limited government, and fiscal responsibility.

**ARTICLE IV. Membership**

**Section 1. *Membership Requirements***

Membership in the organization shall be open to all full-time and part-time students at The Ohio State University. Members are students who have attended at least one meeting and remain in good standing with the national organization and university.

**Section 2. *Voting Members***

All members of the organization that have attended at least one meeting and are in good standing with the national organization and The Ohio State University shall be permitted one vote on organization business.

**Section 3. *Associate Members***

Associate membership in the organization shall be open to any individual who demonstrates an interest and willingness to support the purposes and objectives of the organization, but does not attend The Ohio State University. Associate members may take part in all activities and privileges of the club, though are not permitted to vote or hold officer positions.

**Section 4. *Non-Discrimination***

This organization does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, protected veteran status, or any other bases under the law, in its activities, programs, admission, and employment.

**Section 5. Methods for removing members and officers**

* If a member engages in behavior that is detrimental to advancing the purpose of this organization, violates the organization’s constitution or by-laws, or violates the Code of Student Conduct, university policy, or federal, state or local law, the member may be removed through a majority vote of the officers in consultation with the organization’s advisor.
* Any elected officer of the chapter may be removed from their position for cause. Cause for removal includes, but is not limited to: violation of the constitution or by-laws, failure to perform duties, or any behavior that is detrimental to advancing the purpose of this organization, including violations of the Student Code of Conduct, university policy, or federal, state, or local laws. The Executive Committee may act for removal upon a two-thirds affirmative vote of the executive board in consultation with the organization’s advisor.
* In the event that the reason for member removal is protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) or cannot otherwise be shared with members (e.g., while an investigation is pending),the executive board, in consultation with the organization’s advisor, may vote to temporarily suspend a member or executive officer

**ARTICLE V. Executive Board**

**Section 1. *Purpose***

The affairs of the organization shall be managed by its elected officers that shall collectively be known as the Executive Board. The Executive Board shall have the general power to manage and control the affairs and property of the organization, adopt rules and regulations governing the actions and activities of the organization, and delegate its authority to appointed officers and committees.

**Section 2. *Positions***

The organization shall be comprised of no fewer than three and no more than six elected officers. Three offices that must be filled at all times are the President, Vice-President, and Treasurer. An additional recommended position is that of Secretary. In addition to these, the chapter may choose to elect two additional officers of their choice.

**Section 3. *Responsibilities***

The responsibilities of the executive board include but are not limited to:

* Nominating appointed officers for approval by the general body
* Determining chapter meeting times and dates
* Attending all chapter and executive board meetings unless they provide the President with a valid excuse in writing. (Valid excuses include class, work, sickness, family emergency)
* Attending all organization sponsored activism events unless they provide the President with a valid excuse in writing.
* Helping with recruitment through tabling, petitioning, or other means at least once per month.

**ARTICLE VI. Duties of Required Officers**

**Section 1. *Duties of the President***

The duties of the President include, but are not limited to:

* Preside over all chapter and Executive Board meetings
* Coordinate activities within the chapter
* Report to the national organization
* Attend University functions which require a club representative
* Act as a liaison between the chapter and outside entities
* Appoint members to officer positions in the event of resignation or removal before the next election cycle

**Section 2. *Duties of the Vice-President***

The duties of the Vice-President include, but are not limited to:

* Carry out the duties of the President in the event of the President’s absence
* Replace the President in the event of the President’s removal or resignation
* Maintain decorum at meetings
* Work with appointed officers to aid them in their responsibilities
* Work with the other officers to create a schedule of events and activities

**Section 3. *Duties of the Treasurer***

The duties of the Treasurer include, but are not limited to:

* Serve as a signatory on the chapter’s bank account
* Manage the finances of the chapter
* Ensure debts are paid on time
* Work with other officers to prepare budgetary and fundraising plans
* Work with the national Turning Point USA organization when reimbursement is needed for chapter materials or events

**Section 4. *Duties of the Secretary***

The duties of the Secretary include, but are not limited to:

* Take attendance at all chapter and executive board meetings
* Take minutes at chapter meetings when chapter business is being discussed or voted upon
* Take minutes at Executive Board meetings
* Handle communications with chapter members including informing them of upcoming events
* Handle all social media accounts of the chapter in the absence of a Social Media Director
* Take pictures at chapter meetings and chapter events as well as organizing a picture at the end of ever chapter meeting with members holding rally signs.

**ARTICLE VII. Elections and Tenure of Officers**

**Section 1. *Eligibility***

Members wishing to run for elected office must be students at The Ohio State University, have attended at least two chapter meetings, and be willing and able to serve for the full duration of their term.

**Section 2. *Election Dates***

Elections for new officers shall be held at the second to last meeting of the Fall Semester for each year.

**Section 3. *Candidates for Office***

Candidates for office must submit their intent to run for office to the chapter President no later than 11:59 PM two days prior to the election. The President shall then send out an email to all voting members, as defined in Article IV Section 2, with the names of each candidate for office and what position they are running for. Members may choose to run for more than one office but may only serve as one. If there is not a candidate for one of the required offices, then one may be nominated on the floor at the meeting.

**Section 4. *Election Procedures***

The election for officers will be held as the last order of business at the chapter meeting. Each officer will be elected individually in the following order: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, etc. Each candidate shall be permitted to give a one-minute speech regarding why they are running for office and what their plans are if elected. Additionally, members may be permitted to ask up to five questions to candidates running in a contested race. Candidates shall not be permitted in the room during the speeches or question and answer sessions of their opponents.

**Section 5. *Voting***

Voting shall be done by secret ballot. The chapter may choose to print off ballots beforehand or can have members write the name of their choice on a blank sheet of paper. The members of the Executive Board that are not candidates in the race shall will then tabulate the results and announce the winner to the chapter. A candidate must receive a majority of the vote in order to win. If no candidate receives a majority, a run-off election will be held between the candidates with the two-highest vote totals.

**Section 6. *Tenure***

Officers shall assume their roles on the final regularly scheduled meeting of the Spring Semester each year, and will serve until their successors have been sworn in.

**ARTICLE VIII. Optional and Appointed Officers**

**Section 1. *Positions***

In addition to the officer positions mentioned in Article VI, the chapter may choose to elect two additional officers. Furthermore, the chapter is permitted to have appointed officers as well. Appointed offices can include but are not limited to: Social Media Director, Media Relations Director, Activism Director, and Recruitment Director.

**Section 2. *Appointment Procedures***

In order for a member to be selected as an appointed officer, they must send an application via email to the President of the chapter detailing what position they would like to fill, why they would like the position, and what they plan to do if selected to that position. The Executive Board shall then review the application and vote whether to recommend the appointment to the chapter. If recommended, the appointment will be confirmed upon a simple majority vote of the chapter.

**ARTICLE IX. Resignation and Removal of Officers**

**Section 1. *Resignation***

In the case that an officer resigns their position prior to the end of their term, the remaining elected officers of the chapter shall appoint someone to fill the vacancy and shall submit the name to the chapter for approval.

**Section 2. *Impeachment***

Charges for impeachment may be recommended against an officer by a majority vote of the elected officers, excluding the one the charges are against. The reasons for recommending impeachment must be clearly stated and shall be presented at the next regularly scheduled meeting. The President, or Vice-President if the charges are against the President, shall present the charges to the chapter. The officer being charged shall then be given a chance to respond to the charges. After that, a secret vote will be held and the officer shall be impeached if 3/4 of the voting members of the chapter vote in the affirmative.

**Section 3. *Failure to Attend Mandatory Meetings***

In addition to the procedures mentioned above, an elected officer may also be removed from office if they accrue more than two unexcused absences in one academic semester. Excused absences include class, work, sickness, family emergency, and religious events. All excuses must be submitted to the President no later than 24 hours after their occurrence. Upon an Executive Board Member receiving their fourth unexcused absence, their office shall be vacated and the remaining elected officers shall appoint someone and shall submit the name to the chapter for approval. Meetings may not be considered mandatory unless 7 days’ notice has been given.

**ARTICLE X. Meetings**

**Section 1. *Chapter Meetings***

The chapter shall hold meetings no less than once a month and no more than once a week during an academic term. A general schedule for meetings should be set within the first two weeks of an academic term, and any changes must be communicated to the chapter immediately. The Executive Board shall work with chapter members to select a consistent schedule for chapter meetings.

**Section 2. *Executive Board Meetings***

The Executive Board shall hold at least the same number of meetings as there are chapter meetings. The Executive Board must meet between one to seven days prior to all chapter meetings to plan themes, discussion topics, and discuss the meeting in general. At the first Executive Board Meeting of each academic term, the elected officers shall create a plan for the academic term including the topics of each chapter meeting and other events that will be hosted. This plan may be altered throughout the academic term if needed.

**Section 3. *Voting***

In order for any votes to be a taken, a majority of officers must be in attendance. All votes require a simple majority, 50%+1, to pass unless otherwise specified in this Constitution.

**ARTICLE XI. Books and Records**

**Section 1. *Books and Records***

The Club shall keep correct and complete books and records of financial accounts, and also shall keep minutes of the proceedings of its membership meetings.

**ARTICLE XII. Amendments**

**Section 1. *Amendments to Constitution***

This Constitution may be altered, or amended and new Bylaws may be adopted by the affirmative vote of at least 2/3 of the Executive Board and 3/4 of all voting members in attendance. Officers wishing to amend the Constitution must inform all members of a vote no less than two weeks prior to the vote. Members wishing to amend the Constitution must submit their proposal in writing to the President.

**Section 2. *Club Requirements***

Regardless of changes to the Constitution, the following must remain:

* At least three officer positions, comprised of President, Vice-President, and Treasurer must exist.
* Officer elections must be held between November 1st and December 31st of each calendar year with officers serving for one year.