ENGAGE-YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT BYLAWS
US CENTER FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, INC.

ARTICLE I - Name

Section 1. The name of this division of the US Center for Civic Engagement shall be "ENGAGE-Youth in Government" and hereinafter referred to as "ENGAGE."

ARTICLE II - Purpose

Section 1. The purpose of ENGAGE is to provide, as an integral part of the instructional program, additional opportunities for secondary students (grades 6–12) in public service and safety and/or related fields and JROTC to develop vocational and career supportive competencies and to promote civic and personal responsibilities.

Section 2. The specific goals of ENGAGE are to:

- develop competent, service-minded civic leadership;
- strengthen the confidence of students in themselves and their work;
- create more interest in and understanding of American public service and safety;
- encourage members in the development of individual projects which contribute to the improvement of home, school, business, and community;
- develop character, prepare for useful citizenship, and foster patriotism;
- encourage scholarship and promote school loyalty;
- assist students in the establishment of occupational goals; and
- facilitate the transition from school to employment, enrollment in post-secondary studies, or enlistment in the armed services.

ARTICLE III - Membership

Section 1. ENGAGE membership shall consist of members of chartered local Chapters. These members shall hold membership in their state and national Chapters. Individual members shall be recognized only through a state Chapter of ENGAGE except that, in the case where there is no state Chapter, the member shall be recognized by the National Office.

Section 2. ENGAGE USA, as well as the state and local Chapters, shall be open for membership to these classes of members:

- *Active Members* shall be secondary students (grades 6-12) who:
    - demonstrate an interest in public service and safety and/or related fields or JROTC,
    - who accept the purpose of ENGAGE and subscribe to its creed
    - who demonstrate willingness to contribute to good school-community relations

  Active members shall pay dues as established by ENGAGE and may participate in national events, in accordance with the guidelines established by the National Organization, serve as voting delegates to the National Leadership Competition & Conference, hold national office in accordance with Article VI, and otherwise represent their state and local Chapters as approved by their respective state and local Advisors.
- *Honorary Life Members* may be elected to a state or local Chapter by a majority vote. They shall be persons who are assisting in the advancement of public

service and safety education and/or who are rendering outstanding service to ENGAGE. Honorary Life members shall not vote or hold office and shall not be required to pay dues.

- *National Honorary Life Members* may be recommended by the membership and shall be accepted upon approval by the board of directors of ENGAGE. They shall be persons making significant contributions to the field of public service and safety education and/or to the growth and development of ENGAGE. National Honorary Life members shall not vote or hold office and shall not be required to pay dues.

ARTICLE IV - Dues and Finance

Section 1. National dues shall be based on fiscal reports by the National Center, and on recommendation by the national advisory council and the board of directors. National member dues shall be collected directly by the national office.

Section 2. Annual dues (national), until reconsidered, shall be $10.00. States and local Chapters may require additional dues to support their operation. State dues shall be collected with national dues and the state portion will be sent to the states by the National Office.

Section 3. The affairs and property of ENGAGE shall be managed by the board of directors, which shall have the powers and duties of a board of directors, according to the current Official Code of Georgia (OCGA).

Section 4. The association president and chief executive officer shall administer all ENGAGE finances, submit an annual budget to the board of directors for approval, and provide the board of directors and members with an annual external audit.

ARTICLE V - Organization

Section 1. ENGAGE shall be a national association of state and local Chapters, each operating in accordance with a charter granted by the US Center for Civic Engagement (USCCE). Only Chapters that have received charters and numbers issued by the USCCE and that are currently in good standing, shall be referred to as "ENGAGE-Youth in Government" or "ENGAGE" Chapters.

Good standing is defined as the following:

1. **Timely Payment of Dues**: Ensuring that all membership dues are paid on time.

2. **Compliance with Rules and Regulations**: Adhering to the national organization's bylaws, policies, and guidelines.
3. **Active Participation**: Engaging in national and possibly regional or state activities, competitions, and conferences.
4. **Membership Requirements**: Maintaining a minimum number of members or meeting specific membership growth targets.
5. **Reporting**: Submitting required reports and updates on Chapter activities and financial status on time.
6. **Educational and Community Activities**: Demonstrating active involvement in community service, educational programs, and other initiatives that align with the goals of the national and state organization.

Chapters in good standing may benefit from privileges such as eligibility to participate in competitions, access to grants or funding, and full voting rights in organizational matters.

Section 2. The board of directors of USCCE shall serve as the policymaking body of this organization and derives its authority from the Articles of Incorporation of USCCE and the laws of the State of Georgia. It may be referred to as the board of directors. Members of the board of directors shall be nominated by a nominations committee who is appointed by the Chair of the Board of Directors in consultation with the association president and chief executive officer.

Section 3. The administration of ENGAGE shall be vested in the association president and chief executive officer of USCCE.

Section 4. There shall be a national advisory council, which shall make recommendations to the board of directors and perform other duties as prescribed in these bylaws.

Section 5. There shall be five administrative regions:

- **Southeast Region**: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.
- **Northeast Region**: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.
- **North Central Region**: Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri Ohio, and Wisconsin.
- **Midwest Region:** Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming.
- **West Region**: Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington.

Section 6. State Chapter charters shall be issued upon approval of the board of directors. A state Chapter shall have at least five local Chapters with all members holding national membership in ENGAGE and hold one annual meeting to elect state officers and conduct business in order to qualify for a charter. Each state Chapter shall have a state committee composed of professional educators in the areas of public service and safety occupations and/or JROTC.

Section 7. A state committee chair shall be recommended by the association president and chief executive officer and approved by the board of directors.

Section 8. Each local Chapter shall have an Advisor who shall be a faculty member who believes in the mission and goals of the association. A local Chapter shall have a minimum of ten (10) paid members. A local Chapter may have as many special-emphasis groups under the Chapter charter as it deems necessary to meet the interests of all students (i.e., JROTC, Law and Public Safety, Government and Public Administration, Leadership, et, al.). The local Chapter of ENGAGE shall assume full responsibility for coordinating the program for these interest groups.

Section 9. National Board Composition.

The National Board shall be composed of no fewer than 12 and no more than 25 members with special attention given to geographic, skill, and demographic diversity. The board membership may consist of members from key industries and partners relevant to ENGAGE, members representing educational institutions (state department of education, or local school systems), members representing state affiliates (state chair, or state executive), and the national student president. The national association president and ceo shall serve as a voting member of the board of directors. All national student officers and alumni association president shall serve as *ex-officio members* of the national board.

The board shall have the following officers, which shall compose the executive committee:
Chair: Provides leadership and oversees the board's activities.
Vice Chair: Assists the president and takes over leadership duties in their absence.
Secretary: Manages all board communications and record-keeping.
Treasurer: Oversees financial policies, budgeting, and financial reporting.

Board Terms. Board members shall be elected to serve three-year terms. Board members may not serve more than two consecutive without a one-year gap in service.

Board Member Removal. A board member may be removed, without cause, as determined by a two-thirds vote of the Board present at any meeting at which there is a quorum. In addition, any member of the Board of Directors may be removed for a substantial cause by the majority vote of the Board present at any meeting at which there is a quorum.

Meeting Quorum. Sufficient quorum to transact business shall be no fewer than fifty percent (50%) of the board plus +1 member. Unless otherwise restricted by law, a board member proxy may be submitted to the Chair of the board, which would count toward quorum.

Called Meetings. Board members should be given 30 days notice of the meeting unless there is an emergency, wherein a 24-hour period is sufficient. Meetings may occur in-person or via electronic means.

Section 10. National Advisory Council.

The National Advisory Council shall be composed of members from each chartered state. Each chartered state shall have a minimum of two and a maximum of three representatives on the National Board of Directors to include the following:
1) the state committee chairman; and
2) the professional staff member (executive) of the state, and/or
3) a representative from the state department of education, or, a representative from the state affiliate board of directors.

The Advisory Council shall provide advice and guidance to the National Board and represent the organization in their respective states and providing assistance as necessary for success of the program in their state.

ARTICLE VI - Officers and Elections

Section 1. National Officers. The national elected officers of ENGAGE shall be a president, vice presidents representing the respective (active) regions, a secretary, and a treasurer. The parliamentarian shall be an appointed national officer.

Section 2. Qualifications for National Office.

A. Only active high school members are eligible to hold national office.
B. Only those applicants who are present at the National Leadership Conference and officially certified by the officer screening committee shall be eligible for nomination.
C. To be considered for an office in ENGAGE, a candidate shall:
    1. Have at least one full year remaining in his/her public service and safety program.
    2. Hold or have held an elective office in his/her local or state Chapter.
    3. Be recommended by the Chapter Advisors and endorsed by his/her local and state Chapters.
    4. File an official application with the association president and chief executive officer at CCE by May 15.
        a. If no state Chapter submits an applicant for a particular office by the May 15 deadline, then the deadline for the particular office shall be extended to June 15.
        b. Applicants for national office who become candidates for office as of the second deadline shall have to prepare a campaign for office like all other candidates, including a requirement to pass the officer screening committee and caucus in state Chapter meetings.

c. If no candidates are submitted for a particular office by the first or second deadline, then candidates may apply for office at the National Leadership Conference and shall comply with all guidelines that other candidates comply with during the conference.

Section 3. Nominations.

A. The president, secretary, and treasurer shall be nominated by a state Chapter at a general session of the National Leadership Conference. The national vice presidents representing the regions shall be nominated by a state Chapter at their respective regional meetings at the National Leadership Conference.
B. Only candidates approved by the officer screening committee shall be nominated.

Section 4. Elections.

A. The president, secretary, and treasurer shall be elected annually at a general session of the National Leadership Conference by the state voting delegates. The national vice presidents representing the regions shall be elected annually at their respective regional meetings at the National Leadership Conference by the local voting delegates of the respective regions.
B. The president, secretary, and treasurer shall be elected by a ballot vote of the state voting delegates. The national vice presidents shall be elected by a ballot vote by the local voting delegates of respective regions. A majority vote shall be required for elections.
C. ~~No two national officers shall be elected from the same state Chapter.~~ Rule to be applied when membership growth is appropriate with a one-year notification period.

Section 5. Nominations. Term of Office. National officers shall be elected for one year or until their successors are elected or appointed, and their term of office shall begin at the close of the National Leadership Competition & Conference at which they were selected.

Section 6. Vacancy in Office. A vacancy in any office, other than that of president, shall be filled by appointment by the national (student) president in coordination with the national association president and CEO. In the event of a vacancy in the office of national (student) president, the national student leadership team will convene a special called meeting and will elect from the sitting vice presidents a new president.

Section 7. Appointment of Parliamentarian. The person scoring highest on the Parliamentary Procedure written test shall be appointed by the incoming national president to serve as parliamentarian. This individual shall have at least one year remaining before being graduated from a secondary school.

ARTICLE VII - Duties of ENGAGE National Officers

Section 1. The president shall:

A. serve as chairman of the national executive council;
B. preside over the council meetings and business meetings of ENGAGE;
C. serve as a member of the board of directors;
D. appoint appropriate committees and committee chairmen;
E. serve as an ex-officio, nonvoting member of all committees;
F. appoint the parliamentarian; and
G. perform other duties for the promotion and development of local, state, and national ENGAGE.

Section 2. The vice president(s) shall:

A. assist the president in the promotion and development of ENGAGE in the regions that elected them;
B. assist in planning Regional Leadership Conferences; and
C. preside at regional meetings at the National Leadership Conference.

Section 3. The secretary shall:

A. keep an accurate record of all business meetings of the National Leadership Conference & Conference;
B. supply promptly at least one copy of the minutes and substantiating reports to the ENGAGE president and the association president and chief executive officer; and
C. initiate communication with state officers to promote quality articles for national publications.

Section 4. The treasurer shall:

A. assist the national office in keeping an accurate record of national officer travel expenses and disbursements, and in planning national officer travel; and
B. present an annual financial report to members at the National Leadership Conference.

Section 5. The parliamentarian shall:

A. advise the president of the orderly conduct of business in accordance with ENGAGE bylaws and Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised;
B. shall initiate communication with his/her state counterparts to promote expansion of parliamentary knowledge and awareness; and
C. serves as an ex-officio member of the national executive council.

Section 6. These officers shall serve on the national executive council, perform the duties prescribed in these bylaws, and perform such other duties as are directed by the ENGAGE president and the association president and chief executive officer and the board of directors and not inconsistent with these bylaws or other rules adopted by ENGAGE.

ARTICLE VIII - National Leadership Competition & Conference

Section 1. A National Leadership Competition & Conference shall be held each year. A date and location will be recommended by national staff and approved by the board of directors.

Section 2. Each state Chapter in good standing shall be entitled to send two voting delegates and one alternate from its active membership to the National Leadership Competition & Conference.

Section 3. Each local Chapter in good standing shall be entitled to send from its active membership, two to four local voting delegates and one alternate for each voting delegate to the National Leadership Competition & Conference in accordance with the following:

- Under 50 members—two voting delegates.
- 50–100 members—three voting delegates.
- Over 100 members—four voting delegates.

Section 4. All voting delegates of local and state Chapters shall be officially certified by their respective Advisors and their names submitted to the national office postmarked no later than 20 days prior to the National Leadership Competition & Conference.

Section 5. Voting. State voting delegates shall be entitled to vote on all matters that come before the general session. Local voting delegates shall be entitled to vote on all matters that come before the regional meetings. There shall be no proxy voting.

Section 6. Quorum. The quorum for all business meetings of the National Leadership Competition & Conference shall be a majority of the registered voting delegates.

ARTICLE IX - Committees

Section 1. Advisory committees to assist in the growth and development of ENGAGE may be appointed as deemed necessary by the board of directors. Recommendations of persons for such appointments shall be requested of state Chapters.

Section 2. Local and state Chapters may select advisory committees to assist in the growth and development of their respective Chapters.

Section 3. The president of ENGAGE shall, with the approval of the national advisory council, establish committees, appoint their members for a period not to exceed his/her term in office, and assist these committees in their activities.

Section 4. An officer screening committee, composed of national officers, national advisory board members, and board members, shall be appointed by the ENGAGE president in consultation with the association president and chief executive officer. The officer screening committee shall, after careful consideration of applicants for officers of ENGAGE, approve candidates for nomination.

Section 5. Committee business may be conducted by mail (electronic or physical) at the discretion of the chair. For adoption, action by mail shall require a majority vote of the members eligible to vote and shall be reported to the committee members not later than the next regular meeting.

ARTICLE X - Emblem and Colors

Section 1. The official emblem and insignia item designs are described and protected from infringement by registration in the U.S. Patent Office under the Trademark Act of 1946. The manufacture, reproduction, wearing, or display of the emblem shall be governed by the board of directors.

Section 2. Emblems and insignia shall be uniform in all local and state Chapters and within special-emphasis groups: they shall be those of ENGAGE. Only members in good standing may use official emblems and insignia.

Section 3. The official colors of ENGAGE shall be red, white, and navy blue.

ARTICLE XI - Parliamentary Procedure

Section 1. The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern ENGAGE in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the rules of CCE, these bylaws, or any special rules of order that ENGAGE may adopt.

ARTICLE XII - Amendment

Section 1. Proposed amendments to these bylaws shall be submitted in writing by local or state Chapters or by a national officer to the association president and chief executive officer no later than April 1. The proposed amendments shall be submitted for review to the national board chair and the bylaws committee of the board of directors by April 15. Proposed amendments approved by the bylaws committee shall be returned to the association president and chief executive officer by May 1. Each state Chapter will be sent (electronic) copies of the approved amendments by May 15. The national executive council shall present approved proposed amendments with recommendations to the state voting delegates at the National Leadership Conference. A two-thirds vote of the state-voting delegates present and voting at the National Leadership Conference is required for adoption.

ARTICLE XIII - DISSOLUTION

Section 1. Upon the dissolution of this organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of IRC Section 501(c)(3), or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Adopted: April 2025