



Massachusetts DeMolay
State Chapter Constitution
(As Amended Through Congress, 2023)

**ARTICLE I:
NAME**

- A.** The name of this organization shall be the Order of DeMolay in Massachusetts, hereinafter referred to as Massachusetts DeMolay.
(amended March 2010)

**ARTICLE II:
PURPOSES**

- A.** This body shall assist the Executive Officer and his staff in the execution of the DeMolay program throughout the Jurisdiction.
- B.** This body shall be governed primarily by the “By-Laws and Rules & Regulations of DeMolay International” and secondarily by this Constitution.

**ARTICLE III:
STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL**

- A.** This body shall have an Advisory Council that consists of the Executive Officer and his staff.
- B.** The Chairman of the Advisory Council shall be the Executive Officer.
- C.** The Chapter Advisor shall be the Director of State Officers.

**ARTICLE IV:
MEMBERSHIP**

- A.** This body shall consist of all Chapters in the Jurisdiction.
- B.** During the Annual Conclave and the Annual Congress this body shall further represent each Chapter by means of at most five Delegates to be selected by that Chapter.
- C.** Discussion and Debate shall be open to all Active DeMolays.
(amended March 1991)



**ARTICLE V:
STATE ELECTIVE OFFICERS**
(amended Congress 2011)

- A.** The elected officers of Massachusetts DeMolay shall be the State Master Councilor, Deputy State Master Councilor, State Senior Councilor, and State Junior Councilor, each of which to be elected at the annual Conclave.
- B.** A candidate for elected State Office must be an active member (*having not reached majority by the date of the election*) in good standing of any Massachusetts DeMolay Chapter, or an active DeMolay-at-Large in good standing with the Jurisdiction of Massachusetts at the time of the election. A candidate reaching majority after his election will be allowed to fulfill his tenure.
- C.** Candidates for elected State Office must be a presiding or Past Master Councilor at the time of election. Candidates for elected State Office must have successfully completed the Leadership Correspondence Course, AND HE MUST HOLD EITHER (1) the Representative DeMolay Award, or (2) the PMC-MSA Award. He must also have a RELIABLE means of transportation. No candidate shall be eligible to run for office if it is determined that he will not be able to fulfill the duties of his office due to out-of-state schooling, military service, or other cause. This provision may be waived by the Executive Officer on a case by case basis.
- D.** An aspirant for elected State Office must submit to the Executive Officer or his designated representative a letter of intent to become a candidate. This letter must include the office the candidate is seeking and the following signatures of authorization: the candidate, his parent or guardian, the Chapter Advisor, and the Chapter Chairman signing on behalf of the Advisory Council of his Chapter. If the candidate is a member at large, his letter must include the office that he is seeking and the following signatures of authorization: the candidate, his parent or guardian, and signature of the Executive Officer or one of his deputies. No candidate will be eligible to seek elected State Office without filing this letter of intent, which must be approved by the Executive Officer in writing before an aspirant may declare his candidacy publicly.
- E.** Minimum Qualifications for each elected State Office are as follows:

State Junior & Senior Councilor:

Must be 17 years of age and have been an Active DeMolay for at least 2 years.

Deputy State Master Councilor:

Must be 18 years of age and have been an Active DeMolay for at least 2 years.
Must have served one prior full term as an appointed or elected State Officer.

State Master Councilor

Must be 18 years of age and have been an Active DeMolay for at least 3 years.
Must have served one prior full term as an appointed, with the approval of the Executive Officer, or elected state officer. (*amended March 2023*)

- F.** An aspirant for any elected office must submit his letter of intent to become a candidate within 30 days of the close of Congress. His letter must include an



overview of his goals and a summary of his ideas for advancing Massachusetts DeMolay. Interviews with all potential candidates will be held by the Executive Officer or his designate and a review panel of 5 participants chosen by him or his designate in consultation with the presiding State Master Councilor, to determine the qualifications of each candidate and readiness to serve. The interview process will include a proficiency test of their prospective office's part in the Initiatory Degree, DeMolay Degree, and Opening and Closing of a Chapter Meeting. (*amended March 2023*) Not fewer than 120 days prior to the Annual Conclave, the Executive Officer, upon advice of the review panel, will authorize one or more candidates for each elected office. The authorized candidates for State Master Councilor will work with the Executive Officer to create a detailed term plan for the subsequent DeMolay year.

- G.** Each candidate shall only be nominated for one elected office. He shall be nominated by the Chapter over which he has presided as Master Councilor unless this provision has been waived by the Executive Officer. His Chapter shall not nominate more than one other candidate for an elected office (two elected State Officers total per Chapter).
- H.** Campaigning will be permitted. A letter of intent must be filed prior to campaigning. Campaign speeches and remarks are strictly prohibited during Stated Meetings, Installations, and similar Chapter meetings. Campaigning may be done before and after such meetings but must not interfere with the business of the Chapter. All campaigning must be approved by the Executive Officer or his designate.
- I.** Candidates shall be permitted to promote their candidacies through the distribution of campaign materials, through the organization of volunteer campaign staffs, and through the organization of slates or teams of candidates. Campaign limitations that are placed on candidates also pertain to their campaign organizations.
- J.** The election of state officers will take place at the Annual Conclave Session. To be included on the ballot, a candidate must be present at the Conclave, unless a written exception is recommended by the State Master Councilor and granted by the Executive Officer. In voting, a secret ballot will be employed. A majority of all votes cast shall be necessary for election. Blank ballots and ballots cast for unauthorized candidates shall not be counted toward the majority. In the event that no candidate obtains a majority vote, a second ballot will be held which will be limited to the two candidates receiving the most votes. The State Master Councilor must cast his ballot with the others but his vote shall not be counted unless it is required to break a tie.
- K.** The elected State Officers shall serve through the next annual Conclave or until their successors have been duly elected and installed.
- L.** Any elected State Officer may be removed from office by the Executive Officer for failure to perform duties or for violation of the obligations, landmarks, and standards of the Order of DeMolay.
- M.** The Executive Officer, in consultation with the State Master Councilor, may appoint or promote an active DeMolay who meets the eligibility provisions of these bylaws to fill a vacancy in an elected office of Massachusetts DeMolay. This appointment need not adhere to the traditional "line of succession" of the officers.
- N.** Any officer may resign at any time during the year from their office, but is responsible for returning the jewel of office, and any other books, records or property of Massachusetts DeMolay to the Executive Officer or his designated staff member within 7 days of the date of resignation. Any officer who does not complete his term in office is not recognized by title or publication for a partial term of service.



O. The duties of the State Master Councilor shall be to preside at all meetings; assign



duties and responsibilities to elected State Officers; see that these Bylaws are duly observed; appoint committees to serve during his term; meet with the committees when in session; and to perform such other duties as may devolve upon him from time to time.

- P.** The duties of the Deputy State Master Councilor shall be to preside in the absence of the State Master Councilor, and to perform such other duties as may be assigned to him.
- Q.** The duties of the State Senior Councilor shall be to preside in the absence of the State Master Councilor and Deputy State Master Councilor and to perform such other duties as may be assigned to him.
- R.** The duties of the State Junior Councilor shall be to preside in the absence of the State Master Councilor, Deputy State Master Councilor and State Senior Councilor and to perform such other duties as may be assigned to him.

ARTICLE VI: STATE APPOINTIVE OFFICERS

- A.** At his Installation into office, the State Master Councilor in consultation with the Executive Officer or his designee may appoint up to four State Officers as he shall deem desirable. He must appoint a State Senior Deacon, a State Marshal, and a State Chaplain. He may appoint up to two (2) more officer if desired. (*amended March 2023*)
- B.** No more than two members from the same Chapter may be selected to serve as an appointed officer in the same term. In the event that two members from the same Chapter are elected to serve as State Officers for the same term, no more than one additional member from that Chapter may be selected to serve in an appointed capacity.
- C.** Each State Appointive Officer shall be sixteen years of age or older upon his installation. (*Section added Congress, 2003*) They must also possess their Lamp of Knowledge or Representative DeMolay Award. (*Section edited Congress 2012*)
- D.** The duties of each appointed State Officer are to serve at the will and pleasure of the State Master Councilor. They are to perform such duties as naturally devolve upon their office as well as those assigned by the State Master Councilor.
- E.** A State Appointive Officer must receive special dispensation from the State Master Councilor and the Executive Officer in order to run for the office of Master Councilor of a chapter during his term as a State Appointive Officer. The Executive Officer's decision shall be final. (*Section added Congress, 2003*)



ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS

- A.** This body shall hold at least two Regular Communications during the term of the State Master Councilor:
 - 1.** A Regular Communication shall be held at the Annual Conclave on the dates designated by the Executive Officer.
 - 2.** A Regular Communication shall be held at the Annual Congress Session on the date designated by the Executive Officer.
 - 3.** Any other Regular Communication shall be held on the date designated by the Executive Officer. *(amended March, 1991)*
 - 4.** Dates for all Regular and Special Communications must be published at least six weeks prior. *(amended March 2023)*
- B.** This body shall hold any necessary Special Communication on the date designated by the Executive Officer:
 - 1.** A Special Communication shall be held whenever the Executive Officer deems one to be necessary.
 - 2.** A Special Communication shall be held if it is requested by the State Master Councilor. A Special Communication shall be held if it is requested by a three-quarters vote of this body.

ARTICLE VIII: VOTING

- A.** During the Annual Conclave and the Annual Congress Session the Delegates shall be entitled to full voting privileges:
 - 1.** Each Delegate shall be an Active DeMolay who is a member of that Chapter.
 - 2.** Each Councilor shall be a Delegate.
 - 3.** Each candidate for an elective office shall be a Delegate.
 - 4.** Each Delegate must possess an obligation card in order to obtain a vote.
(Subsection added Congress 2012)
- B.** During each Regular and Special Communication the State Elective Officers shall be entitled to full voting privileges.
- C.** During each Regular and Special Communication the State Appointive Officers shall be entitled to full voting privileges.
- D.** During each Regular and Special Communication the Past State Master Councilors, who are still Active DeMolays, shall be entitled to full voting privileges.



ARTICLE IX: COMMITTEES

- A.** The State Suite shall act on behalf of this body between each Regular Communication and shall consist of the State Master Councilor, the Deputy State Master Councilor, the State Senior Councilor, the State Junior Councilor, the State Marshal, the State Chaplain, the State Scribe, and the State Senior Deacon.
- B.** The State Master Councilor shall appoint eight Standing Committees which are the Activities Committee, the Athletics Committee, the Awards Committee, the Masonic Relations Committee, the Membership Committee, the Online Communications Committee, the Publications Committee, and the Public Relations Committee and shall appoint their respective Chairmen. *(amended March 2023)*
- C.** The State Master Councilor shall appoint any necessary Special Committees.
- D.** Each Committee shall faithfully execute these duties:
 - 1.** It shall meet at regular intervals between each Regular Communication.
 - 2.** It shall review each interim action of the Chairman.
 - 3.** It shall perform all duties assigned by the State Master Councilor in a proficient manner.
- E.** Each Committee must consist of at least the members of the State Suite.
- F.** Each Committee shall serve at the will and pleasure of the State Master Councilor.

ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS

- A.** This body shall adopt any Amendment to this Constitution by a two-thirds majority vote.
- B.** Each Amendment shall be submitted to the State Advisory Council for its action.
- C.** Each Amendment shall only become effective upon the approval of the Executive Officer.