

Constitution of Southshire

September 2017

The constitution is the foundation of law and civilisation within Southshire, and shall consist of policies, laws, and precedents of special importance to Southshire and its culture.

Autonomy, Territory, and Definitions

Article 1 – **Southshire - the realm - is currently a borough of the Commonwealth, and is therefore subject to Commonwealth law, but shall operate as independently and autonomously as is attainable under federal law.**

Article 2 – **Southshire has the right to own, claim, and develop land, but any claim must receive the approval of the legislative and executive branches of government, as well as the federal government.**

Article 3 – **Southshire and its territory may be subdivided into districts.**

Chancellor and Chancellorship

Article 4 – **Executive power is exercised exclusively by the Chancellor.**

Article 5 – **Grover Edwin Simpson IV (StrPlatinum) shall be appointed as the first Chancellor.**

Article 6 – **Subsequent chancellors must be elected by majority vote of the electorate.**

Article 7 – **Subsequent chancellors shall be subject to a two month term time.**

Article 8 – **Prospective chancellors must be, or have previously been a councillor, or have relevant leadership ability determined by a supermajority of the legislative and judicial branch collectively.**

Article 9 – **The Chancellor may veto an act of the legislative branch subject to reasonable limits determined by the judiciary.**

Article 10 – **The Chancellor may assent to an act of the legislative branch, if said act requires it for ratification.**

Article 11 – **The Chancellor may grant citizenship to any individual Commonwealther at will.**

Council and Councillorship

Article 12 – **Legislative power is exercised exclusively by the Council.**

Article 13 – **The council is made up of councillors, all of whom must be elected by majority vote of the electorate.**

Article 14 – **At the beginning of each month the council shall be refreshed, causing the terms of the existing councillors to expire, whereby they will hold an election to**

determine the new council. However, any by-elected councillor may request the judiciary to not be subject to the monthly refresh, subject to once per term.

Article 15 – During elections, the previous council shall reside until the transfer of power to the new council.

Article 16 – Councillors may propose a motion to the council.

Article 17 – The council must debate and vote on all motions and petitions submitted, unless said proposal are duplicates, or patently superficial.

Article 18 – Motions and petitions may outline new laws, changes, acquisitions, renovations, or any other endeavour that may concern the council.

Article 19 – Proposals must have a clear majority to succeed.

Article 20 – Successful proposals enter a state whereby the chancellor or judiciary have twenty four hours to submit any formal objection.

- ❖ *If an objection is submitted by the chancellor, the proposal is immediately vetoed, subject to the three veto curb.*

- ❖ *Otherwise any other objection shall suspend the proposal for a further twenty four hours while the judiciary rules on its constitutionality.*

Article 21 – Successful proposals that receive no formal objection can then be ratified.

Article 22 – The Council must publicly disclose its decisions, including a breakdown of the individual votes of the councillors for transparency.

Article 23 – Additional seats can be added via an absolute consensus vote of the council.

Article 24 – Vacant seats may be removed via an absolute consensus vote of the council.

Article 25 – Councillors may bring attention to the judiciary a case of overly zealous use of veto power by the chancellor, subject to the three veto curb.

Article 26 – No councillor may occupy more than a single seat within the council.

Article 27 – Each seat within the council receives one vote per proposal.

Judge and Judiciary

Article 28 – Judicial power is exercised exclusively by the Judge.

Article 29 – While there may be many judges, there may be only one acting Judge.

Article 30 – Judgeship may be granted by the chancellor through appointment, or by approval of a council nomination.

Article 31 – The Judge has the right to review the law, the decrees of the council, and the previous verdicts of the judiciary, to [re]determine their constitutionality.

Article 32 – The Judge must take on and consider any legitimate case brought to them, unless said cases are duplicates, lack explanation, or are patently superficial.

Article 33 – A judge cannot themselves petition the judiciary to review a case.

Article 34 – A judge may summon a jury of citizens to determine a verdict.

Government Definitions

Article 35 – No government official may operate in more than one branch of the government at a time.

Article 36 – **Government officials may be stripped of their position via a no-confidence vote.**

Article 37 – **A vote of no-confidence may be initiated by any government official, or citizen with the endorsement of any one government official.**

Article 38 – **No-confidence votes require a supermajority of the government as a whole, with the notable exclusion of the affected party.**

Article 39 – **A successful no-confidence vote will strip the relevant title from the affected party.**

Article 40 – **The three veto curb describes a limit of veto power for the executive branch in order to prevent dictatorial powers. If a proposal is reasonable and constitutional, then it shall not be vetoed more than three times, otherwise the matter can be brought to a judge. If the judge rules the proposal constitutional, then it is passed with immediate effect, bypassing the chancellor, and allowing for ratification.**

Amending the Constitution

Article 41 – **Any change to the constitution, which include prospective amendments may be submitted to the council through motion and petition.**

Article 42 – **Changes must receive an absolute consensus within the council.**

Article 43 – **The council must publish what the changes are and why they feel the changes are necessary.**

Rights of the Citizens

Article 44 – **Citizenship is defined by being an active and permanent resident of Southshire or one of her districts, or having received it by the chancellor.**

Article 45 – **Citizens have the right to run, or be nominated for government positions, unless they have received a vote of no-confidence in any respect.**

Article 46 – **Citizens have the right to vote in elections, and in referenda.**

Article 47 – **Citizens may submit a petition to the council.**

Article 48 – **Citizens may formally object to legislation, with explanation, to the judiciary.**

Article 49 – **Citizens have the right to rent, to lease, and to own private property, subject to limitations.**

Article 50 – **Citizens have the right to harvest public farms and related infrastructure and collect as if it was private property.**

Article 51 – **Unexplained Absences are defined as a lack of general in game or meta activity for at least a month whereby you lose any ownership, claims, ranks, and titles that would otherwise be served better by someone more active.**

Article 52 – **You have the right to your citizenship, unless you have committed an act deemed constitutionally criminal, whereby your citizenship is not longer guaranteed.**

Mineman Rights

Article 53 – **Players have the right to safety, and to defend themselves with reasonable and proportionate force.**

Article 54 – **Players have the right to habeas corpus.**

Article 55 – **Players have the right to legal consideration.**

Article 56 – **Players have the right to know their mineman rights upon detention.**

Article 57 – **Players have the right to a public and speedy trial within five days of arrest, otherwise they must be released.**

Article 58 – **Players have the right to speak freely, unless such speech would otherwise call for or incite violence.**

Constitutionally Criminal Acts

Article 59 – **No player can coerce others to vote differently, surrender their candidacy or seat of government, or otherwise infringe on their ability to exercise their constitutional rights.**

Article 60 – **No player can initiate or participate in seditious, or otherwise treasonous activity against Southshire, her districts, or the Commonwealth.**

Article 61 – **No government leaders may use the autonomy of their district, or other defined areas to initiate or participate in war, or otherwise hostile actions against Southshire, the Commonwealth or its constituent territories, or any other foreign political and or sovereign entities.**

Article 62 – **No player may initiate or participate in raids, or acts of greifing.**

Article 63 – **No player may knowingly declare any Southshire territory to be sovereign, autonomous, and or independent, regardless of personal or private ownership or claim.**

Article 64 – **No government officials may fabricate evidence, or attempt to pass legislation in order to retroactively convict a player.**

Article 65 – **No government officials may knowingly act outside the bounds of their roles as described.**

Article 66 – **No government officials may participate in bribery or corruption.**