

Arizona State Constitution

Preamble

We, the members of the Arizona region of the Junior State of America, in order to form a more perfect Arizona Junior State program, achieve high standards of citizenship, increase student understanding of democratic processes, develop responsibility in the individual, and promote involvement in our democracy, do hereby ordain and establish this Constitution of the Arizona National State of the Junior State of America.

Article I

SECTION 1.

This organization shall be called the Arizona State of the Junior State of America, may be referred to as the Arizona Junior State (JSAZ), and shall exist as an autonomous division of the Junior State of America (J.S.A).

SECTION 2.

The jurisdictions of the Arizona Junior State shall include only the territory of the state of Arizona and New Mexico and other territories as defined by the National Council of Governors.

SECTION 3.

A Junior State chapter shall be formed in the Arizona Junior State when a minimum of six students of a respective high school pay their annual national membership tax and their chapter constitution has been approved by the Arizona Governor and Lieutenant Governor. Each chapter shall have a sovereign government, subject only to the State government, the national government, and school rules, that shall not deny the members thereof a republican form of government.

SECTION 4.

The Arizona Junior State shall grant membership to any high school student who has paid the Junior State's annual national membership tax and is a member of an official chapter. A high school student is defined as an individual in grades nine (9) through twelve (12).

Article II

SECTION 1.

The legislative powers of the Arizona Junior State shall be vested in a State Council to consist of all Chapter Presidents.

SECTION 2.

Members of the State Council shall meet at least twice each year and/or at Fall State and Spring Convention.

SECTION 3.

The Lieutenant Governor shall serve as the President of the State Council and preside over Council meetings, but shall have no vote on any matter before the Council unless the body is equally divided. The Council shall also elect a President Pro- Tempore, who shall preside over Council meetings when the Lieutenant Governor is unable.

SECTION 4.

The Governor, Lieutenant Governor jointly, two thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of the total membership of the Council, may convene a special meeting of the State Council.

SECTION 5.

In the event that on average there are 550+ students attending all yearly Arizona State Conventions for three consecutive years; and the Governor and Lieutenant Governor see it feasible at the time, a Speaker of the House may be elected. They will be elected in the same manner and at the same time as the next years' Governor and Lieutenant Governor.

Article III

SECTION 1.

The State Council shall have the power to enact any resolution, bill, Constitutional amendment, et cetera, which it feels is fitting and appropriate for the Arizona Junior State.

SECTION 2.

All State bylaws must be in the form of a bill, and before any bill becomes a bylaw it shall have to first pass the Council by a majority vote, unless otherwise specified, and be signed by the Governor.

SECTION 3.

The Governor shall have the power to veto any bill or resolution passed by the Council and send it back with objections.

SECTION 4.

If, after reconsideration of legislation voted by the Governor, the Council passes said legislation over the Governor's objections with a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote, the legislation shall be enacted.

SECTION 5.

If a bylaw or resolution is neither returned to the Council by the Governor with objections nor signed by the Governor within thirty (30) days of it being presented, the bill shall automatically be enacted.

Article IV

SECTION 1.

The State Council is further empowered to:

- i. Establish its own rules and procedures in accordance with parliamentary law; punish its members for misbehavior; and by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, expel a member.
- ii. In the case of impeachment, the officer facing articles of impeachment, which can be defined as gross negligence or high crimes and misdemeanors, must be notified at least 30 days before a decision is made regarding removal.
- iii. The charges must be signed by the Governor. If the Governor does not take action for ten (10) days, the Lieutenant Governor must sign within five (5) days. If the Lieutenant Governor neglects to sign, a 2/3 vote of the council of chapter presidents within five (5) days will be required to remove a chapter president from office.
- iv. The said officer has the right to be present during the meeting regarding their impeachment and advocate on their behalf.
- v. Establish and elect additional officers for itself.
- vi. Impeach any State officer by a three-fourths (3/4) vote and a consultation with the Governor and Lieutenant Governor

Article V

SECTION 1.

The executive powers of the Arizona Junior State shall be vested in a Governor of the Arizona State of the Junior State of America who, along with the Lieutenant Governor, shall be elected at each Spring Convention. The terms of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, as for all elected officials, shall begin June 1.

SECTION 2.

The elections for all elected officers shall be governed by a Fair Elections Committee (F.E.C). No member of the Junior State who is declared candidate for elective office may serve as a member of the F.E.C.

SECTION 3.

In addition to the appointees prescribed for the previous section, the Lieutenant Governor shall serve as a member of the Fair Elections Committee and serve as its chairman. In the event that the Lieutenant Governor is running for an elective office, the remaining members of the F.E.C shall together appoint a replacement.

SECTION 4.

The Fair Elections Committee chairman, or their designee, shall moderate all election activities at Spring Convention.

SECTION 6.

Any tax-paid member of the Junior State who resides within the jurisdiction of the Arizona State, and will be in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) during their term of office, shall be eligible for all elective offices.

SECTION 7.

In order to be elected to the offices of Governor and Lieutenant Governor, a candidate must receive a majority of all votes cast for the office they are running for.

SECTION 8.

All votes cast shall not be verbal, and shall be collected and counted by the Fair Elections Committee and its chair. Chapter officers are not to handle votes that are not their own.

SECTION 9.

Before assuming office, all elected officials and chapter presidents shall take the following oath (or affirmation) as administered by the Lieutenant Governor and Governor.

“I, [name of person taking oath], do solemnly swear that I will support and uphold the Constitution of the Arizona Junior State of America; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same as well as to the principles of the Junior State of America; that I take this oath freely without mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office upon which I am about to enter.”

Article VI

SECTION 1.

The Governor may, with the advice and consent of the State Council, establish all departments, agencies, offices, et cetera, that they may deem necessary for the proper administration of the State

SECTION 2.

In the event that the office of Governor becomes vacant, the Lieutenant Governor shall attain said office. In the event that the office of Lieutenant Governor becomes vacant, the Governor shall appoint a replacement to said office with a current member of the State’s Cabinet and with the advice and consent of the State Council.

SECTION 3.

The Governor shall, when wishing to do so or when instructed to do so by a majority of the State Council, report to the Legislature concerning the state of the State and its affairs. The Governor may also recommend to the Legislature such measures as the Governor shall judge are in the best interest of the State.

Article VII

SECTION 1.

This Constitution, or specific parts thereof properly approved, shall take immediate effect upon ratification by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Council and signature of the Arizona Governor.

SECTION 2.

Amendments to this Constitution shall take effect upon ratification by a (2/3) vote of the State Council.