

Northeast State Constitution

Including the legislation of the joint council of chapter presidents and all constitutional amendments passed thereafter

OFFICERS OF THE STATE

2019–2020

Kavya Desikan, Governor

William Feng, Lieutenant Governor

2018–2019

Jenny Wang, Governor

Paul Johnson, Lieutenant Governor

2017–2018

Derek Lo, Governor

Sarah Hoffman, Lieutenant Governor

2016–2017

Kamran Parsa, Governor

Aronno Shafi, Lieutenant Governor

2015–2016

Jenna Wong, Governor

Abigail Mumme–Monheit, Lieutenant Governor

2014–2015

Frank Kachmar, Governor

Marissa Birne, Lieutenant Governor

2013–2014

Benjamin Reytblat, Governor

Austin Ostro, Lieutenant Governor

2012–2013

Jacob Meisel, Governor

Daniel Weiner, Lieutenant Governor

2011–2012

Rachel Weber, Governor

Jacob Meisel, Lieutenant Governor

2010–2011

Lia Cromwell, Governor

Joseph Campagna, Lieutenant Governor

2009–2010

Daniel Hoffmann, Governor

Justin Fletcher, Lieutenant Governor

2008–2009

Alexander Speiser, Governor

Jessye Kass, Lieutenant Governor

2007–2008

Soojin Kim, Governor

Jason Katz, Lieutenant Governor

2006–2007

Jordan Levine, Governor

M–W Floyd, Lieutenant Governor

2005–2006

Nora Lawrence, Governor

Jordan Levine, Lieutenant Governor

Talya Housman, President Pro Tempore

2004–2005

Peter Betz, Governor

James Betz, Lieutenant Governor

Kavita Patel, President Pro Tempore

2003–2004

Matthew Woodward, Governor

Elizabeth Gates, Lieutenant Governor

Jenny Matydtik, President Pro Tempore

Preamble

We, as students determined to achieve a better understanding of the governmental process, to increase our awareness of contemporary issues, to promote students' involvement in politics, to encourage good leadership qualities and responsibility in high school students, do hereby establish this Constitution for the Northeast State.

Article I: Names and Boundaries

SECTION 1.

The name of the State shall be the Northeast State. It may be referred to as the NES.

SECTION 2.

The Northeast State shall consist of New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine.

SECTION 3.

The Northeast State shall be divided into two regions.

- a. The Empire Constitution Region will consist of New York and Connecticut. This region may be referred to as the ECR.
- b. The New England Region will consist of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine. This region may be referred to as the NER.

Article II: Membership

SECTION 1.

A member shall be defined as any high school student who belongs to an official JSA chapter within the Northeast State and has paid the annual membership "tax" as established by the Council of Governors.

SECTION 2.

All members of the Junior State shall enjoy equal protection under the law and shall not be denied any rights or privileges entitled to them by law without proper action according to the law so established within this Constitution. The NES shall not discriminate on account of race, gender identity, creed, color, sex, nationality, handicap, or sexual orientation.

Article III: The Chapter

SECTION 1.

A chapter shall be defined as a minimum of eight members who have the appropriate approval by their respective high school administration. This minimum number may only be changed by the Junior Statesmen Foundation.

SECTION 2.

No chapter shall deny its members a republican form of government.

- a. Each chapter shall elect a Chapter President(s) who must serve as the leader of their respective chapter. The existence of two co-Chapter Presidents is permitted.
- b. The state shall not legislate other chapter positions. Chapters shall have the option of creating positions below Chapter Presidents as they see fit.

SECTION 3.

A chapter shall be chartered upon the Governor's receipt and approval of the chapter's constitution.

SECTION 4.

Each chapter shall have a regular school-approved advisor responsible for overseeing the activities and accompanying the chapter to conventions. Alternate school-approved advisors may accompany a chapter to conventions if the regular school-approved advisor is unable to.

Article IV: The State Executive Branch

SECTION 1.

The elected officers of the executive branch of the Northeast Junior State shall be the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor as voted upon by the majority of the members of the NES. The Governor and Lieutenant Governor must be tax-paid members of the Northeast State.

SECTION 2.

The term of office for the officers shall be the June 1st following their elections through the subsequent May 31st.

SECTION 3.

The Governor shall be the chief executive power of the Northeast State.

- a. The Governor shall have the power to authorize chapters by approving their constitutions. If a constitution is not approved, the Governor shall return it to the chapter with recommendations for its re-submission.
- b. The Governor shall have the authority to create any departments essential for the functioning of the NES and give them the necessary power and authority. The Governor may appoint NES tax-paid members to cabinet positions to fulfill the requirements of these departments, but must notify the Joint Council of Chapter Presidents of these appointments. The governor can create new interim departments, but must submit them to the JCOCP for review at the next overnight convention. The JCOCP must vote by simple majority to approve the establishment of new departments.
- c. The Governor shall be responsible for all programs of the Northeast State.

- d. Should any gubernatorial cabinet position become vacant, the Governor shall release an application and appoint a replacement to serve. The Governor shall make such an appointment public immediately.
- e. The Governor shall have the ability to permanently remove any cabinet members from cabinet appointments.
- f. The Governor shall report the state of the NES to the Joint Council of Chapter Presidents at every state convention.
- g. The Governor shall have the authority to veto any bill passed by the legislature, which can be overridden by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of the JCOCP for legislation and $\frac{3}{4}$ vote for a constitutional amendment.
- h. Should the Governor fail to veto a bill within 10 days of its passage, the bill shall automatically become law.
- i. Impeachment proceedings against a Governor must commence once a petition for such purposes with the signatures of $\frac{1}{3}$ of the JCOCP has been received at least a week prior to the next overnight convention. A vote of $\frac{3}{4}$ of the JCOCP is necessary to impeach a Governor. The Governor must be given at least five minutes to address the JCOCP concerning the impeachment. Upon impeachment, the Governor shall immediately be removed from office.
- j. Upon the resignation or impeachment of the Northeast Governor, the Lt. Governor shall assume the gubernatorial position and the Lt. Governor's Chief of Staff shall become Lt. Governor.

SECTION 4.

The Lieutenant Governor shall be the second ranking official of the NES.

- a. The Lieutenant Governor shall act as Governor should the Governor be absent or should he/she be incapable of exercising his/her duties for any reason.
- b. The Lieutenant Governor shall preside over and call into session the Joint Council of Chapter Presidents. In their absence, the President Pro Tempore will perform this duty.
- c. The Lieutenant Governor may be directed by the Governor to perform any duties necessary for the functioning of the Northeast State. The Lieutenant Governor shall oversee a cabinet, the departments of which will be jointly decided by each year's state Elected Officials.
- d. Should any lieutenant gubernatorial cabinet position become vacant, the Lieutenant Governor shall release an application and appoint a replacement to serve. The Lieutenant Governor shall make such an appointment public immediately.
- d. The Lieutenant Governor shall conduct all NES elections as prescribed by law unless he/she shall be a candidate or cannot otherwise conduct them, in which case the President Pro Tempore shall conduct them.

- e. In order for the President Pro Tempore to assume control over NES elections, the Lt. Governor must notify the Joint Council of Chapter Presidents by Fall State. If neither the Lt. Governor nor the President Pro Tempore can conduct the elections, the Governor shall appoint someone with the majority vote of the Joint Council of Chapter Presidents.
- i. Impeachment proceedings against a Lieutenant Governor must commence once a petition for such purposes with the signatures of 1/3 of the JCOCP has been received at least a week prior to the next overnight convention. A vote of 3/4 of the JCOCP is necessary to impeach a Lieutenant Governor. The Lieutenant Governor must be given at least five minutes to address the JCOCP concerning the impeachment. Upon impeachment, the Lieutenant Governor shall immediately be removed from office.
- g. Upon the resignation or impeachment of the Northeast Lt. Governor, the Lt. Governor's Chief of Staff shall become Lt. Governor.

Article V: The Regions

SECTION 1.

The Empire Constitution Region will be run by a Mayor and Vice Mayor, whom a majority of the members of the ECR shall elect. The New England Region will be run by a Mayor and Vice Mayor, whom a majority of the members of the NER shall elect.

SECTION 2.

The term of office for the aforementioned officers shall be the June 1st following their elections through the subsequent May 31st.

SECTION 3.

The Mayor shall be the chief executive power of his/her region.

- a. The Mayor shall have the power to create any departments deemed necessary for the functioning of the region with the approval of the Vice Mayor. He/she can appoint members to cabinet positions within these departments with the approval of the Vice Mayor. Cabinet appointments shall be made public by Fall Regional. Should any regional cabinet position become vacant, the Mayor shall make an application and appoint a replacement to serve. All midterm appointments must be made public immediately.
- b. The Mayor shall be responsible for all programs of the region.
- c. Impeachment proceedings against a Mayor must commence once a petition for such purposes with the signatures of 1/3 the Chapter Presidents in the region has been received by the Governor at least a week prior to the next overnight convention. A vote of 3/4 of the Chapter Presidents in a region is necessary to impeach a Mayor. The Mayor must be given at least five minutes to address the Chapter Presidents in his/her region concerning the impeachment. Upon impeachment, the Mayor shall immediately be removed from office.

- d. Should a Mayor be impeached, the Vice Mayor will act as Mayor until being sworn in by the Joint Council of Chapter Presidents.

SECTION 4.

The Vice Mayor shall be the second ranking official of the region.

- a. The Vice Mayor shall act as Mayor should the Mayor be absent or incapable of exercising his/her duties for any reason.
- b. The Vice Mayor may be directed by the Mayor to perform any duties necessary to the functioning of the region.
- c. Impeachment proceedings against a Vice Mayor must commence once a petition for such purposes with the signatures of 1/3 the Chapter Presidents in the region has been received by the Governor at least a week prior to the next overnight convention. A vote of 3/4 of the Chapter Presidents in a region is necessary to impeach a Vice Mayor. The Vice Mayor must be given at least five minutes to address the Chapter Presidents in his/her region concerning the impeachment. Upon impeachment, the Vice Mayor shall immediately be removed from office.
- d. Should a Vice Mayor be impeached or promoted to Mayor following the Mayor's impeachment, the Mayor will appoint a new Vice Mayor who will be sworn in at the next meeting of the Joint Council of Chapter Presidents.

SECTION 5.

No person or chapter may belong to more than one region. The members of a region are to be the only voters in the regional elections.

SECTION 6.

No region shall deny its members a republican form of government.

Article VI: The Legislative Branch

SECTION 1.

The Northeast State legislature shall consist of a single body: the Joint Council of Chapter Presidents (JCOCP).

- a. The Joint Council of Chapter Presidents shall consist of the democratically elected Chapter President(s) from each chapter in the State or his/her designee for the JCOCP. The Chapter President cannot be an elected official.
- b. The Joint Council of Chapter Presidents shall have the power to pass legislation with a majority vote and a constitutional amendment by 2/3 vote.
- c. Should the Joint Council of Chapter Presidents pass any legislation by a majority, it shall be given to the Governor for approval.

- d. The Joint Council of Chapter Presidents may override a gubernatorial veto by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote for legislation and $\frac{3}{4}$ for a constitutional amendment.
- e. Any NES member may attend a meeting of the Joint Council of Chapter Presidents and propose an amendment, resolution, or piece of legislation. Chapter Presidents shall be the only members to hold a vote in the Joint Council of Chapter Presidents. This presiding officer will only hold a vote in the case of a tie.

SECTION 2.

The legislature may meet at any time when called for by the Lieutenant Governor where there is a quorum.

- a. In order for official business to be conducted, the meeting must be called by the Lieutenant Governor and presided by the Lieutenant Governor. In the case that the Lieutenant Governor cannot preside, the President Pro Tempore shall preside. The Lieutenant Governor must call a meeting at every state convention.
 - i. The President Pro Tempore must be a Chapter President, nominated by the Lieutenant Governor and approved by a majority vote of the JCOCP.
- b. Quorum will be necessary to conduct official business. Quorum shall be defined as a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority of Chapter Presidents at the designated event.

SECTION 3.

Each delegation shall only have one vote. The presiding officer shall have a vote only in the case of a tie.

SECTION 4.

Every motion shall require a majority vote to pass unless otherwise noted, with the exception of constitutional amendments that require a $\frac{2}{3}$ -vote.

SECTION 5.

The JCOCP may be permitted to vote through an online forum on issues that must be decided on before the next meeting of the JCOCP.

- a. The members of the JCOCP must be given one week's notice of the upcoming vote. This notice must include the legislation to be voted on and the ability to put in writing their support for or dissent against the legislation.
- b. When the form for voting is sent to all chapter presidents it must include a video or document of support for the legislation. If one or more Chapter Presidents wish to speak or write against the legislation their dissent will be made available to all chapter presidents before voting may take place.
- c. A form will be sent to all chapter presidents via email with a specified deadline by which votes must be submitted. Each chapter president will be allowed to vote, and based on the number of chapter presidents voting and the outcome of the vote the Lieutenant Governor will decide whether the legislation has passed or failed.

Article VII: The Judicial Branch

SECTION 1.

In the instance of a judicial conflict, all members of the NES shall have the right to convene an honor court to address their complaint.

- a. In order to call a court, the student must inform the Governor and Program Director at least ten days before a convention.
- b. The honor court shall take place during a state convention.

SECTION 2.

In the honor court, the Governor shall serve as the judge. Should the governor be party to the case, the Lieutenant Governor shall assume the duties of judge.

- a. The judge shall have the responsibility of determining sentence, should the defendant be found guilty and to maintain a fair and efficient trial.

SECTION 3.

The judge shall select a jury of seven (7) Northeast tax-paid students and teacher advisors.

SECTION 4.

Both sides shall have twenty minutes to present their side of the case to the jury. During this time, the plaintiff and defendant can:

- a. Call witnesses
- b. Speak
- c. Yield time to other speakers

SECTION 5.

Following the arguments, the jury shall adjourn to a private room to discuss the case. A clear majority (4) shall be necessary to convict.

SECTION 6.

Should the jury decide to convict, the judge shall have the responsibility to sit down with both parties and figure out appropriate reparations.

Article VIII: Supremacy Clause

SECTION 1.

This constitution supersedes all other constitutions on the region or chapter level. Anything that contradicts this Constitution will be null and void.

Article IX: Amendments

SECTION 1.

In order for this constitution to be amended, a meeting must be held during a Northeast State convention. At this meeting, open to all tax-paid members of the Northeast State, the Lieutenant Governor must read-aloud the proposed amendment to all present. At the same meeting, there shall be a vote taken about the proposed amendment. If the Joint Council of Chapter Presidents votes in favor of the amendment with a 2/3 majority, the amendment shall be adopted.

Article X: Rules of Procedure

SECTION 1.

Official rules and procedures for the Joint Council of Chapter Presidents shall be the latest edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*.

Article XI: Ratification

SECTION 1.

All chapters authorized prior to the adoption of this constitution shall remain authorized.

Revised and enacted by the JCOCP, Winter Congress 2016

Abigail Mumme-Monheit, *Lieutenant Governor*

Michael Noone, *President Pro-Tempore*

Jenna Wong, *Sponsor & Constitutional Rewrite Commission Member*