

Ohio River Valley State Constitution

Preamble

We, the citizens of the Ohio River Valley of the Junior State of America, in order to practice and learn about the democratic process, encourage open discussion of current and past social and political issues, and develop leadership among our citizens, do hereby ordain and establish this Constitution of the Junior State of America Ohio River Valley.

Article I: Name

SECTION 1

The name of the State shall be the Ohio River Valley of the Junior State of America. This name is defined as chapters within the state boundaries of Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia, and any chapters of Southeastern Indiana that wish to participate in Ohio River Valley affairs.

Article II: Membership

SECTION 1

Citizens are defined as dues paid high school students belonging to a Junior State of America Foundation approved chapter.

SECTION 2

Citizens shall not be denied the right to participate in state activities, including, but not limited to, the right to attend state functions, the right to hold office, and the right to vote in state elections unless faced with disciplinary consequences.

SECTION 3

Citizens may initiate legislation within the Council of Chapter Presidents through a petition signed by citizens numbering at least ten percent (10%) of the attendance of the last overnight convention. Signatures from at least three chapters must comprise this ten percent (10%).

SECTION 4

Chapter Presidents are defined as high school students chosen by their chapter to represent them in the Council of Chapter Presidents. The Chapter President has the jurisdiction to send a representative to the Council of Chapter Presidents in dire circumstances that would not allow them to attend the meeting themselves.

Chapter Presidents may propose legislation to the Council of Chapter Presidents without a petition.

SECTION 5

Citizens shall not have the above rights revoked without the opportunity to speak to a staff member chosen by the Junior State of America Foundation.

Article III: Officers

SECTION 1

The executive authority of the state shall rest in the office of the Governor.

SECTION 2

The Governor shall be elected at the final State Convention for a one year term.

The election shall be done anonymously (as stated in the Voting Privacy Act), open to all citizens of the state in attendance of Spring State. The Governor must capture a majority of all votes cast, with runoff elections as needed to achieve a majority. [Run off elections defined as: elections held between the top two (or more if there are ties) candidates after they have given another round of speeches if time permits.]

SECTION 3

The authority of the Governor includes overseeing all state conventions, including, but not limited to Cabinet retreats and potential One Day Conventions. In addition, the Governor shall oversee other internal state affairs including, but not limited to, suggesting legislation to the Council of Chapter Presidents and facilitating inter-chapter communication. To this end, the Governor shall appoint a Cabinet that must constitute a Department of Chapter Internal Affairs as stated in the Balaj and Xia Amendment. The Governor will also serve as the ORV representative on the National Council of Governors. The Governor may not serve as his/her Chapter President.

SECTION 4

The Governor shall have the right to veto any action of the Council of Chapter Presidents. The Council of Chapter Presidents can override a veto by a two thirds (2/3) majority vote.

SECTION 5

The Lieutenant Governor shall work to advance the state in cooperation with the Governor. The Lieutenant Governor presides over the Council of Chapter Presidents. The responsibilities of the Lieutenant Governor in presiding over the Council of Chapter Presidents include but are not limited to: scheduling and running the Council of Chapter Presidents meetings, assisting voting upon legislation, and assisting any motions to impeach an elected official. The Council of Chapter Presidents is established in the CCP Amendment (under Amendments). The Lieutenant Governor shall not have the authority to remove the Governor.

SECTION 6

The Governor can be impeached and removed by the procedure outlined in the CCP Amendment. All impeachment proceedings are to be held in public. The Governor may be impeached if they fail to execute the office to which they were elected, including, but not limited to, the Governor has deliberately tampered with the Electoral Process, or if the Governor misuses the resources of the state for personal endeavors.

SECTION 7

The Lieutenant Governor shall be elected separately from the Governor, in the same manner as that prescribed for the election of the Governor. The Lieutenant Governor shall act as Governor if the office of Governor is vacated. The Lieutenant Governor may be impeached by the same process as the Governor as outlined in the CCP Amendment. If the office of the Lieutenant Governor should be vacated, the sitting Governor shall determine the method in which the vacancy is filled.

SECTION 8

In the case that both the office of the Lieutenant Governor and the Governor are vacant, the office of Governor will fall upon a citizen chosen by the Lieutenant Governor and Governor prior to the first State Convention. If there is no chosen citizen or the citizen declines, the office of Governor will fall upon the Director of Chapter Internal Affairs. If the Director of Chapter Internal Affairs declines, the office will fall upon the most senior member of Cabinet until someone accepts.

Article IV: Elections

SECTION 1

The Lieutenant Governor will preside over the elections.

SECTION 2

If the Lieutenant Governor is running for an office, the Governor shall appoint the head of the Fair Election Committee. If the Governor is running for office, the position of head of the Fair Election Committee will fall upon the most senior member of Cabinet until someone accepts,

SECTION 3

A Fair Election Committee will be selected consisting of the committee head, defined by Sections 1 and 2, and a maximum of two (2) other non-partisan members.

SECTION 4

Every elected official of the Ohio River Valley must take the following oath after their election:

“I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the Office for which I was elected by the citizens of the Ohio River Valley of the Junior State of America, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the mission and values of the Junior State of America.”

Article V: Amendment

SECTION 1

The constitution may be amended by a three fourths (¾) vote on proposed legislation to the Council of Chapter Presidents.

Article VI: Adoption

SECTION 1

This Constitution shall take effect upon the approval of a three fourths (3/4) majority of the Council of Chapter Presidents.

Amendments

AMENDMENT I

The Balaj and Xia Amendment

Co-Sponsors: Rachel Balaj & Melinda Xia

SECTION 1

The purpose of amending the Ohio River Valley Constitution is to eliminate the imbalance and inconsistency from elected Mayors. The responsibilities of chapter communications shall be shifted to a Department of Chapter Internal Affairs which will operate under the Governor. The elected position of a Mayor will be eliminated, beginning June 1st, 2019.

SECTION 2

The Department of Chapter Internal Affairs shall have the mandate and authority to manage communication to chapter leadership; oversee chapter health; coordinate chapter conferences; assist and create local chapter alliances; and to promote the mission of the Junior State throughout the state.

SECTION 3

Specialists of the Department of Chapter Internal Affairs shall be appointed by the Governor and shall operate under the Director of the department.

SECTION 4

The Governor shall have the authority to appoint members to the Department of Chapter Internal Affairs through the Cabinet selection process.

SECTION 5

Chapters shall not be set under certain districts governed by the state in this constitution.

SECTION 6

The Director of Chapter Internal Affairs will be selected by the discretion of the Governors when considering those that applied for the position in the annual Cabinet Application. The Governor shall have the authority to appoint a Director of Chapter Internal Affairs in the event of a vacancy as mentioned in the Constitution.

SECTION 7

The Chapter Presidents within the state shall have the authority to motion for the removal of a Director of Chapter Internal Affairs by a two-thirds majority vote, for whom the Governor shall re-appoint.

Amendment II

The CCP Amendment

Co-Sponsors: Rachel Balaj & Melinda Xia

SECTION 1

The Council of Chapter Presidents shall operate under the governing rules as the Lieutenant Governor deems necessary and proper.

SECTION 2

A Chapter President or a chapter representative is required to attend the Council of Chapter President scheduled by the Lieutenant Governor.

SECTION 3

Should the Council of Chapter Presidents desire to remove the Governor, at least 75% of the tax-paid chapters must be represented in the Council of Chapter Presidents in the Ohio River Valley and must hold two separate meetings to impeach, then remove.

A meeting can be digital or take place at a state convention. As long as the Lieutenant Governor and the required percentage of CPs are present, it is a Council of Chapter Presidents' Meeting. Any member of the ORV is welcome to attend but voting is done by the Chapter President or representative with each chapter receiving one vote.

The first meeting is to discuss and vote on impeachment. At least one Chapter President must propose and submit a written statement of impeachment specifically outlining the reasoning of the Council of Chapter Presidents to the Ohio River Valley Program Director, Governor, and Lieutenant Governor.

If $\frac{3}{4}$ of the attendees vote for impeachment, then a second one will be scheduled separately from the first meeting.

The second meeting will have a reiterated presentation of the original statement of impeachment and a vote for removal. The Governor may be impeached with a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of Chapter Presidents present.

SECTION 4

The Council of Chapter Presidents shall act as the judicial body of the state. As such, it will define any questions of constitutional law brought before it.

Any piece of legislation brought before the Council of Chapter Presidents is brought by the citizen alone, disregarding any role they may serve in the Ohio River Valley.

ORV Bylaws

BYLAW I

Voting Privacy Act

Co-sponsors: *Weston Lindner & Griffin Noe*

The Voting Privacy Act was passed by the Council of Chapter Presidents on April 23, 2016 at ORV Spring State. Prior to the act, chapter presidents would collect all the ballots from their chapter and announce how many ballots had been cast by chapter members for each candidate in the race. Under the previous system, voters had an option to vote “silent” whereby their vote would not be included in the announcement – a chapter president may simply have said “10 votes for Candidate A, 10 votes for Candidate B, and 3 silent votes”. This act ended the practice of chapter presidents making that announcement and made all votes be silent and secret.

Section 1

All votes for state officers will be considered silent.

BYLAW II

The Constitution Resolution

Co-Sponsors: *Rachel Balaj, Gene Kim, Shahad Salman, & Melinda Xia*

The Constitution Resolution was proposed at the 2018 ORV Fall State to renew the ORV Constitution.

Section 1

During the CCP meeting of the Ohio River Valley’s Spring State in 2019, a renewed state constitution will be presented and voted on.