

Article XVII: Electoral Procedures

A. Officers of the High Council and **Justicars of the High Court** are elected by public ballot. **Once an election is called, the following go into effect:**

1. Open offices will accept **nominations** for no less than one half year to allow potential candidates to step forth.
 - a. **Candidates must register their nomination with the Electoral Administrator by submitting a letter containing their name, city of residence and the position they are running for.**
 - b. **Potential candidates must be a citizen of Britannia, have reached the majority age of fourteen years, have no outstanding warrants for arrest and may not be a convicted criminal serving a sentence.**
 - c. **After the nomination period ends, a public debate between all eligible candidates shall be held no less than one quarter year prior to the election date; such debate must allow citizens of Britannia to ask questions pertinent to candidates' potential service.**
2. **The following electoral procedures will be used to ensure fair voting:**
 - a. **A finalized ballot with the names of all candidates shall be published one quarter year prior to the election.**
 - b. **A valid voter must be a citizen of Britannia, have reached the majority age of fourteen years, have no outstanding warrants for arrest, have not been convicted of a crime within the last 10 years, or have ever been formally declared an Enemy of State.**
 - c. **An Electoral Administrator shall be appointed at the time an election is called to oversee the collection and tallying of ballots.**
 - a. **This individual shall be the longest serving Councilor who is not participating in the election, following the line of Councilor seniority if recused; or any member of the public so appointed by simple majority vote of the High Council.**
 - d. **An official mailbox for ballot collection shall be placed in a public building that is under direct supervision of the Electoral Administrator and a two-way teleportation device shall be placed at the High Council meeting chamber leading to the voting box by the Electoral Administrator.**
 - a. **The mailbox for ballots shall remain in place for three days prior to the prescribed close of the election.**
 - b. **If a voter can prove they will be away from the realm for the duration for the election they may submit an absentee ballot to the Electoral Administrator.**
 - ii. **Ballot collection shall be suspended five minutes prior to the scheduled start of the session of the High Council at which the results of the election are to be announced, the Electoral Administrator shall retrieve all votes from the voting box and verify and tally all legitimate votes cast by citizens of Britannia.**
 - a. **Votes are tallied, and the candidate with the highest number of votes cast in his favor assumes the office; in the case of a tie, a run-off election is held between tied candidates (which continues until a clear victor, even by one vote, is elected to office).**
 1. **Incumbent officers retain their office indefinitely, however, a soft term-limit of six years exists.**
 - A. **After an officer has served for five years, any Citizen or member of the High Council may call**

for an election. If an election is called, the electoral process begins.

- A. The election may be called for at any time after five years of service, and not specifically at six year intervals.

B. Councilors of the High Council are elected by public ballot.

1. In the cities of Virtue and Vesper, Councilors will be decided based upon the electoral vote results of the governor elections. The councilor will be appointed on one of the following criteria:
 - a. An elected governor may choose to sit upon the High Council as the councilor for the city.
 - b. An elected governor may choose to appoint a representative on his or her behalf to the Council.
 - c. Incumbent councilors retain their office until the next governor election cycle. Incumbents whom win re-election are not required to re-take the Oath of Office.
2. In cities that are not one of the original cities of Virtue or Vesper, councilors will be decided upon one of the following criteria:
 - a. An elected governor or mayor may choose to sit upon the High Council as the councilor for the city, village, or town.
 - b. An elected governor or mayor may choose to appoint a representative on his or her behalf to the Council.
 - c. A city, village, or town without an elected head of government must follow the following guidelines in order to receive representation upon the High Council:
 - i. Open offices will accept ballots for no less than one half year to allow potential candidates to step forth.
 - a. Potential candidates must be a citizen of Britannia, reached the majority age of fourteen years, have no outstanding warrants for arrest, must not be serving a sentence for a previous crime.
 - b. A public debate between all accepted candidates shall be held no less than one half year prior to the election date; such debate must allow citizens of Britannia to ask questions pertinent to candidates' potential service.
 - ii. A public vote is held whereby citizens registered are allowed to cast their votes for one of the names on the ballot. Specific details of the electoral process must be decided upon and posted no less than one half year prior to the election date.
 - iii. Votes are tallied, and the candidate with the highest number of votes cast in his favor assumes the office; in the case of a tie, a run-off election is held between tied candidates (which continues until a clear victor, even by one vote, is elected to office).
 - iv. Incumbent councilors from outside the original cities of Virtue or Vesper retain their office indefinitely; however, a soft term-limit of six years exists.

- a. After an officer has served for five years, any Citizen or member of the High Council may call for an election. If an election is called, the electoral process begins.
 - b. The election may be called for at any time after five years of service, and not specifically at six year intervals.
- C. An newly elected officer or Councilor must take an Oath of Office within three months of election in order to assume duty. Failure to swear the Oath of Office in the prescribed time will nullify the election, and the electoral process shall begin anew.
 - 1. Re-elected officers and Councilors are not required to retake the Oath of Office.