



CONSTANTINE IX

ROYO Y IMPERAD

A.S. 278

FEBRUARY, 2021

No.3 of 2021

**An Act relating to the Election of the Sarovian House of
Commons**

Assented to on the 4th of February, 2021

SARHOLM, 2021



BE IT ENACTED, by the Office of the Prime Minister of the New Sarovian Empire and Her Colonies and Dominions, with the advice and consent of the Imperial Parliament thereof, as follows:

Introduction

1. One of the most important rights guaranteed to Sarovian citizens is the right to vote for the House of Commons. It is therefore of the greatest consequence that the purity and sanctity of the ballot should be guarded by the wisest and best legislation. Fairness and honesty in the conduct of elections will alone promote peace, good government and good order, and give stability to our institutions.

As Sarovians, it is part of our common creed that the government's legitimacy is based on the consent of the governed. Voting is one of the few opportunities for most Sarovians to weigh in and express one's preference on the direction of government. The electoral process is competitive and forces candidates or parties to expose their records and future intentions to popular scrutiny, elections serve as forums for the discussion of public issues and facilitate the expression of public opinion.

Requirements to Apply

2. To apply for candidacy for the Imperial Parliament one must first meet the following requirements:
- a) Be in the Empire for at least two weeks,
 - b) Be a registered citizen,
 - c) Be registered with a political party, or self declare as an independent.

Running for Office

3. To run for office you must speak with the leader of the political party you are registered with and get their approval for you to run. If you do not speak to the leader of your respective party then your run for office is invalid. One may run as an independent should they choose.

If the leader of your political party approves your run for office then they will bring your nomination for candidacy up at a party conference meeting. If your party's conference approves your run then your party leader will send you the application to apply for candidacy. Once you've filled out the candidacy application, you must inform your party leader, and upon filling it out you're an official candidate for the House of Commons in the Imperial Parliament.

Dropping Out

4. If you wish to drop out of the race you must inform your party leader no less than two days before the election. If you drop out of the race and do not inform your party leader, you may be barred from running in the next election. If you drop out of the election four days or more before the election, you must pay an inconvenience fee of 100 Saros. If you drop out less than four days before the election then you will be barred from running in the next election, and you must pay an inconvenience fee of 300 Saros.

Filing Deadlines

5. Candidates may start applying to run for office one week before the election. As with all elections there must be a filing deadline to apply to run. If you wish to run for the Imperial Parliament you must apply at least two days before the election, if you apply two days after the election your run for office is invalid.

Changing Residence

6. Citizens who would like to change their region of residence may do so by messaging the Civil Service or the Provincial Governor. They will decide whether or not you can change residence. You may not change your region of residence within five days of an election. You shall be able to change residence if you wish to run for office in another region. Elected members of the Imperial Parliament may request a change of their region of residence by speaking with the Prime Minister.

Special Elections

7. Special elections are held to fill the vacancies that occur when a member of the Imperial Parliament resigns before the completion of their one month term. His Imperial Majesty, Emperor Constantine IX reserves the right to appoint people to fill vacancies in the Imperial Parliament. His Imperial Majesty is advised to choose from a list of people, provided to him from the Prime Minister. However, he doesn't have to choose a candidate from the list. To ensure fair opportunity the Prime Minister must choose at least one candidate of the opposite party. Upon the resignation of a member of the Imperial Parliament, the Prime Minister has three days to provide a list of candidates to His Imperial Majesty. His Imperial Majesty then has two days to appoint someone to fill the vacancy from the list provided by the Prime Minister.

Appearance of a Ballot

8. The creation of an official format for a voter ballot, to give voters a simple, and organised ballot format. Parties will not be placed on the ballot to avoid blind following. Establishment of the following ballot format:

Member of Parliament for (District): Vote for only one:

(Candidate)

(Candidate)

Example:

Member of Parliament for Sarholm 4: Vote for only one:

John Smith

Karen Johnson

Receiving and Submitting an Election Day Ballots

9. Most people will receive their ballots on election day. Every eligible citizen will receive a ballot on election day. His Imperial Majesty, Emperor Constantine IX shall appoint officials to form the organisation of Elections Sarovia, to oversee all elections for the Imperial Parliament, and shall total all votes for every candidate. Elections Sarovia is to make the vote totals and results for each candidate public on election day or the following day. Once you receive your ballot, you have until the end of the election to respond. Simply message the name of the candidate you wish to vote for and your vote shall be recorded.

Voter Fraud

10. The right to vote in a free and fair election is the most basic civil right, one on which many other rights of the Sarovian people depend. The Imperial Parliament should guarantee that every eligible individual is able to vote and that no one's vote is stolen or diluted.

Voter fraud is a very serious offence and will be treated as such. Anyone who commits or attempts to commit voter fraud shall be barred from voting in the future, and barred from ever holding political office. Examples of voter fraud may include:

- a) Paying voters to cast either an election day or absentee ballot for a particular candidate
- b) Voting by individuals who are not Sarovian citizens
- c) Voting in the same election twice
- d) Voting in the name of other legitimate voters

Voter Suppression

11. Voter suppression is a strategy used to influence the outcome of an election by discouraging or preventing specific groups of people from voting. Like voter fraud, voter suppression is just as serious. Voter suppression efforts are aimed at making it too difficult, too confusing, or too risky to vote. Anyone who engages in voter suppression shall be barred

from voting, and barred from ever holding political office. You can report voter suppression to the Imperial Sarovian Constabulary.

No person shall intimidate, or threaten any other person for the purpose of interfering with the right of that person to vote or to vote as they may choose. Examples of voter suppression may include:

- a) Aggressively questioning voters about their citizenship, in a manner intended to interfere with the voters rights.
- b) Aggressively questioning voters about who they are going to vote for, in a manner intended to interfere with the voters rights.
- c) Purposefully displaying false or misleading information about elections, or citizenship