



CAROLUS XIII
ROYO Y IMPERAD
A.S. 322

No.18 of 2024

An Act to Safeguard, Protect and Define Sarovian Democracy and Elections.

Given Sanction on the 6th of December, 2024



SARHOLM



aya seo donir plisir eun Seito Majis Imperial y Stefanica, pur Seito Majis y pul y pur tel consei y sazion eui tel Parlamente eui tel Rozirre, comaria tel segeoare:

- 1. Short Title** This Act shall be known as the *Sarovian Electoral Act* in short.
- 2. Preamble**

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 effective 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 the 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.
- 3. Requirements to Apply** Any registered citizen within the New Sarovian Empire may run, at any point and time should a vacancy exist, for any seat in a Provincial Legislative Assembly or the House of Commons for the New Sarovian Empire. There will be no limitations dictated on any terms other than the citizenship of the candidate. No citizen may be a dual citizen of any other nation except for a Sarovian Commonwealth nation.
- 4. Running for Office** Any individual may run for any elected office if they meet the necessary criteria of the office. No candidate except Members of the Provincial Legislative Assemblies may be barred from running on the grounds of their location, and Members of Parliament may run from any province. Any individual who wishes to serve in an elected capacity must announce their candidacy with Elections Sarovia.
- 5. Elections Sarovia** Whereas the formal need arises to declare that Elections Sarovia is a neutral government institution, Elections Services Sarovia (ESS) or Elections Sarovia (ES) will be the governing body. All political parties must register the following with Elections Sarovia no less than one week after being formed:
 - a) A party platform;
 - b) A party structure;
 - c) A party colour and party logo; and
 - d) A party slogan, motto or cheer.
- 6. Legitimacy and Management** Elections Sarovia is the legal institution to verify candidacy of candidates in all elections. It will be overseen by neutral members of government, which will consist of the Elections Services Sarovia Board of Directors (ESSBD). This board will consist of:
 - a) Two politically neutral members of the Imperial Sarovian Constabulary;
 - b) Two senior members of the Civil Service;

- c) Two politically active members of all registered parties (who are observers, but possess no vote); and
- d) The Emperor or the Prince of Cuive, or a neutral representative appointed by the Emperor or the Prince of Cuive, who will serve as the Chief Electoral Officer.

The Board will run elections in the traditional style which, on the day of the writ drop, begin meeting in a daily manner. Board members will report infringements on electoral laws herewith. On the day of the election, all Board members must be given the vote counts of each individual riding by the Chief Electoral Officer. All Board members must agree that the election results are fair before the election result is announced. If there is disagreement in the validity or fairness of the election wherein two or more members of the Board are suspicious in a certain circumstance, the Chief Electoral Officer will run a recount.

7. Special Elections

Special elections or byelections are held to fill the vacancies that occur when a member of the Imperial Parliament dies, is incapacitated or ineligible to be an MP, before the completion of their term. The Speaker may announce a by-election, to be conducted on the grounds necessary by their office, or the Prime Minister may request an individual to be acclaimed. The Rozirre reserves the right to appoint people to fill vacancies in the Imperial Parliament and acclaim a member to the role. His Imperial Majesty is advised to choose from a list of people, provided to him from the Prime Minister, but is not required to pick an individual on the list. To ensure fair opportunity the Prime Minister must choose at least one candidate of the opposite party should there be an opposition. Upon the death, incapacitation or ineligibility 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.

8. Ballot Appearance

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

9. Receiving and Submitting Ballots

Most people will receive their ballots on election day. Every eligible citizen will receive a ballot on election 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. Votes shall, in almost all circumstances, be held via Discord to ensure ease of access and minimise voter fraud.

10. Voter Fraud and Suppression

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. Anyone who commits or attempts to commit voter fraud shall be barred from voting in the future, and barred from ever holding political office. Individuals who are found guilty of voter fraud or suppression will be charged under Disturbing the Peace in the MCL. Examples of voter fraud and suppression 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;
- e) Intentionally misleading candidates via name changes to vote for someone they did not intend to vote for;
- f) Disrupting Elections Services Sarovia from conducting their work;
- g) Aggressively questioning voters about their citizenship, in a manner intended to interfere with the voters rights, or attempting to force others into ineligibility to vote;
- h) Aggressively questioning voters about who they are going to vote for, in a manner intended to interfere with the voters rights; and
- i) Purposefully displaying false or misleading information about elections, or citizenship.

II. Electoral Districts and Representation by Population

The Imperial Parliament is committed to the ideal of representation by population. Elections Sarovia will increase or decrease seats in the House of Commons based on the population of the civilians within. Every 100 citizens within a singular province, excluding the City of Sarholm, will increase a seat in the House of Commons from a base of no less than fifteen.