

NB: ~~text like this~~ is currently part of the Meta Constitution/Rules and will be removed by this amendment. *Text like this* will be added by this amendment.

Meta Constitution

In Article 3, repeal clause 4 and insert a two new clauses:

~~4. Upon a Governor General's resignation they may nominate a replacement~~

- ~~a. If the Governor General is removed from power, then a member of the Moderation Team will nominate a replacement instead.~~
- ~~b. Upon selected a replacement, the meta vote process is to be held with the new Governor General requiring a three quarters majority.~~
- ~~c. Upon the election of a new Governor General, the outgoing Governor General must relinquish all powers granted on official subreddits.~~

5. Upon the Governor-General's resignation or removal any simulation member may nominate a replacement.

- d. If there is only one nominee, they will advance to a vote of confidence which requires a two-thirds majority to pass.*
- e. If there are multiple nominees, an election using the alternative vote will be used to select one nominee, who will then advance to a vote of confidence which requires a two-thirds majority to pass.*
- f. If a nominee fails a vote of confidence, the process will start anew.*

6. The position of Governor-General may not be held concurrently with the positions of Chief Electoral Officer, or Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Insert a new Article following Article 3, subsequent articles to be reordered

Article 4 | Chief Electoral Officer

- 1. The Chief Electoral Officer will be the chief authority over elections. They will be responsible for leading the Electoral Commission and operating elections.*
- 2. They may not be removed from their position without their consent, unless any of the following requirements are met:*

- a. *No member of the moderation team is able to make simulation-related contact with the Chief Electoral Officer within the previous fifteen days.*
 - b. *The Chief Electoral Officer fails a vote of no confidence.*
- 3. *Upon the Chief Electoral Officer's resignation or removal any simulation member may nominate a replacement.*
 - a. *If there is only one nominee, they will advance to a vote of confidence which requires a two-thirds majority to pass.*
 - b. *If there are multiple nominees, an election using the alternative vote will be used to select one nominee, who will then advance to a vote of confidence which requires a two-thirds majority to pass.*
 - c. *If a nominee fails a vote of confidence, the process will start anew.*
- 4. *The position of Chief Electoral Officer may not be held concurrently with the positions of Governor-General, or Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

Amend Article 4 (now reordered to Article 5) to read:

Article 5 | Community Commission

- 1. The Community Commission (~~herein referred to as the Commission~~) is a grouping of five members of the simulation which will consider amendments to the Constitution and Meta Rules, and consider rules used in elections.
- 2. ~~This~~ *The Community* Commission will consist of five members:
 - a. The Governor-General,
 - ~~b. The Speaker of the House of Representatives,~~
 - c. *One total representative from the Electoral Commission, Speakership and Events Team.*
 - i. *This representative will be elected internally, with a vote conducted by the Governor-General.*
 - ii. *The preferential voting system must be used.*
 - iii. *This representative may not serve consecutive terms; however, they may serve any number of nonconsecutive terms.*
 - d. Three simulation members elected in a meta vote.
 - i. This meta vote will be conducted by the Governor-General.

- ii. The single transferable vote system must be used.
 - iii. The elected members of the community commission may not serve consecutive terms; however, they may serve any number of nonconsecutive terms.¹
- 3. The Commission is to be elected no more than 14 days after the preceding General Election.
- 4. Members must be eligible to vote in a meta vote.
- 5. If there is a vacancy on the Commission, the Governor-General will conduct a by-election to replace them
- 6. The Community Commission will conduct official business on /r/ModelNZMeta
- 7. The business of the Commission must be recorded in a spreadsheet.

In Article 5 (now reordered to Article 6) amend clause 1 to read:

- 1. The *Moderation Team* consists of the Governor-General, *the Chief Electoral Officer*, the Speaker of the House, and any other moderators as appointed by the Governor-General.

In Article 6 (now reordered to Article 8), insert a new clause after (3), and a new clause after (6) and reorder subsequent clauses.

4. The position of Speaker of the House of Representatives may not be held concurrently with the positions of Governor-General, Chief Electoral Officer, or Chief of Events.

8. If at any time the Speakership is unavailable, the duties of the Speakership may be performed by the Governor-General.

Amend Article 7 (now reordered to Article 8) to read:

Article 8 | Electoral Commission

- 1. All canon elections will be operated by an Electoral Commision.

¹ Subclause (c,iii) inserted by Amendment 2.

2. ~~The Governor General will lead the Electoral Commission and~~ *The Electoral Commission will be lead by the Chief Electoral Officer, who will* have final say on all decisions relating to elections.
3. The ~~Governor General~~ *Chief Electoral Officer* may nominate up to three non-partisan members to the Electoral Commission who must pass a meta vote of confidence before their appointment.
 - a. ~~These members~~ *Once these members leave the Electoral Commission, they* will be barred from standing in any canon election for a period of three months or until after the next general election, whichever is longer.
4. *In addition to the three non-partisan members, the Governor-General will have an advisory role on the Electoral Commission.*

Amend Article 9 (now reordered to Article 10) to read

Article 10 | Removal of Team Members

1. Votes of no confidence may be brought against the following meta positions:
 - a. The Governor-General.
 - b. *The Chief Electoral Officer*
 - c. Any member of the Speakership.
 - d. Moderators.
 - e. *Repealed*
 - f. Members of the Community Commission.
 - g. Members of the Electoral Commission.
2. To remove the Governor-General, a petition must be presented to the Moderators which outlines the justification for the vote of no confidence, as well as the signatures of at least five community members who are eligible to vote in a meta vote,

If this petition is accepted, the Moderators will present the petition to the Governor-General and ask them to resign.

If the Governor-General refuses to resign, the Moderators will conduct a vote of no confidence.

 - i. Simulation members will debate the vote of no confidence for a period of at least four days. The Governor-General may participate in this debate.

- ii. After the debate, a vote will be taken. This vote will require a quorum of half of all eligible simulation members and a two-thirds majority.

If the vote of no confidence passes, the Governor-General will be relieved of their powers.

3. To remove *the Chief Electoral Officer*, a member of the Speakership, Moderators, members of the Community Commission, or members of the Electoral Commission, a petition must be presented to the Governor-General which outlines the justification for a vote of no confidence, as well as the signatures of three community members that are eligible to vote in a meta vote.

If this petition is accepted, the Governor-General will conduct a vote of no confidence, pursuant to Article 3.

Meta Rules

In Part 2, amend Subpart A to read:

Subpart A | Political Parties

1. A *political party*, or a *party*, is defined as any grouping of simulation members that may run candidates for Parliamentary elections, which includes nominating electorate candidates and standing for the party list.
2. To be considered a political party, a group must meet the following requirements:
 - a. An acceptable name.
 - b. A number of members eligible to vote in meta votes equal to the greater of three or one tenth the size of parliament.
 - c. A brief manifesto outlining a distinct policy platform.
 - d. A basic party constitution, fulfilling the requirements in Part 2(A)(5).
3. New parties may be refused for any of the following:
 - a. Excessive similarity to an existing political party.
 - b. Offensive, satirical or otherwise inappropriate nature.
4. ~~The Commission may dissolve a political party~~ *Parties may be dissolved* for repeated violations of community rules, inactivity, or for any other valid reasoning.

5. New and existing parties must have a constitution which provides processes for the following:
 - a. The removal and replacement of the party leadership.
 - b. Approval of coalition deals, party mergers or any other inter-party agreements.
 - c. Party input on policy decisions.
 - d. The expulsion of party members.
 - e. The amendment of the party constitution.
6. Existing parties will have four weeks following the adoption of this constitution to produce a constitution fulfilling the requirements in (5).
7. Party manifestos and constitutions must be publicly available.
8. *No parties may be created or continue to exist that bring the simulation into serious disrepute or are used as a front for offensive mockery or casual bigotry or being toxic, abrasive, or creating a hostile environment in general.*
9. *Registration of parties will be operated by the Electoral Commission but the Governor-General will have final say over the registration or deregistration of a party.*

Amend Subpart B to read:

Subpart B | Elections

1. Elections will be called by the Governor-General.
2. A General-Election must be held between ten and fourteen weeks after the previous election.
 - a. At least two weeks' notice must be provided before a General Election.
 - b. An early election may be held if parliament passes a motion allowing for one by a two-thirds majority.
3. The size of parliament, as well as the proportion of electorate and list seats must be determined by the ~~Governor-General on the advice of the Commission.~~ *Electoral Commission and Community Commission at least two weeks in advance of the election.*
4. The electorates are to be determined by the ~~Commission and the Governor-General~~ *Electoral Commission*, and must adhere to the following basic guidelines:
 - a. All electorates are to have equal populations, subject to a margin of error of 10%, plus or minus the ideal population.

- b. Maintaining the boundaries of the previous electorates.
 - c. Local communities of interest, such as town or city boundaries, or communities within individual cities.
 - d. The political leanings must be based on a mixture of recent real life and simulation results.
- 5. The method and calculation of the election results are to be determined by the Electoral Commission.²
 - a. *repealed*³
 - b. All elections must be fully simulated, and should consider all canon parts of the simulation.
 - c. The exact value of individual actions within the simulation must remain confidential, to prevent any exploitation of the system.
- ~~6. Each party may submit their candidates using an official form distributed by the Governor General, and any independent candidates must declare their candidacy to the Governor General before a deadline set by the Governor General.~~ *Parties and independent candidates must submit their candidates using an official form distributed by the Electoral Commission before a deadline set by the Electoral Commission.*
 - a. Banned members from the simulation are not permitted to stand for election.
 - b. Candidates cannot be changed or withdrawn following the beginning of campaigning.
- 7. ~~The Governor General is to~~ *Electoral Commission will* designate a subreddit which is to be used as the official campaigning subreddit for that general election.
- 8. Any party that is determined to be in violation of campaign rules will incur an electoral penalty as deemed to be necessary, based on the severity of the violation and the type of violation itself.
 - a. This penalty must be publicly explained, as much as its explanation does not reveal confidential details about the electoral calculations.
- 9. All political parties are required to submit a manifesto which details their policies for the next Parliament to the official campaign subreddit which must be submitted before the end of the campaign period.

² Clause 5 modified by Amendment 13.

³ Subclause 5 (a) repealed by Amendment 13.

10. Campaign posts may not plagiarise other campaign posts from any government simulation.
 - a. The use of logos and similar materials from real life parties is permitted.
 11. After every election, the ~~Governor-General~~ *Electoral Commission* will release the results of the election.
 12. The same process will be used for by-elections; however, no manifestos are required.
-

Explanatory note:

The purpose of this amendment is to separate the Governor-General from elections. This actually requires very little restructuring of the constitution, since running elections is already delegated to the Electoral Commission, of which the Governor-General is simply the head.

This amendment creates the new position of Chief Electoral Officer, who replaces the Governor-General as head of the Electoral Commission. It also replaces all references to the Governor-General with the Electoral Commission wherever this refers to elections. It also clears up a few ambiguities of the GG's position, splitting them between the EC and the GG where appropriate. One thing to note is that the GG remains responsible for calling elections and appointing governments since they retain the canon responsibilities of the Governor-General.

This means the Governor-General remains head mod and the canon Governor General, while the Chief Electoral Officer takes the role of head of the EC. The Governor-General is the most senior person in the simulation and is responsible for conducting votes of confidence, operating votes for amendments, overseeing moderation and performing the canon duties of the Governor-General, such as granting royal assents, appointing governments, giving the speech from the throne and granting honours. The Chief Electoral Officer is in charge of operating elections, choosing appointments to the Electoral Commission, making polls and the like.

The purpose of this amendment is to reduce the workload currently placed upon the Governor-General. As it is, the workload of the Governor-General is beyond what one person can carry out, including the incumbent. This state of affairs is unsustainable and needs to be addressed. The most appropriate solution is to separate the running of elections from the unrelated jobs of moderation and the canon GG.

This amendment also makes some relevant minor changes, such as fixing a mistake with the clause which bars former EC members from standing in elections immediately following their departure.

Things for discussion:

Should the GG be allowed on the Electoral Commission? I personally think the GG should be allowed on the EC but not as CEO.

~~Should the Community Commission be renamed to avoid confusion with the Electoral Commission? The Electoral Commission's name is taken from its IRL counterpart and for this reason I think it has the right to the name "commission". The name of the Community Commission is inconsequential and could be anything. nah~~

~~How should party registration be handled? This is a power currently held by the Governor General, but its place within an elections head mod distinction is unclear. The way this amendment is currently written gives the power to the Electoral Commission (which is distinct with IRL, where the EC registers any valid party) but gives veto power to the Governor General. Do extra sim only concerns mean this power should be fully held by the Governor General? - this has been settled in general~~