

ARTICLE I: MODERATION

SECTION 1: Establishment of Moderator Offices

- (a) There shall be one “Head Moderator”, three “Head Clerks” whom shall form a “Triumvirate”, and one or more “Deputy Clerk(s)”.
- (b) There may be positions inferior to the Deputy Clerks established by the Head Moderator or by the Triumvirate at their discretion and pleasure.
- (c) The phrases “moderators” or “moderating team” or “moderation” or “moderation team” in this Constitution shall refer to the summation of these offices.

SECTION 2: Head Moderator

- (a) The Head Moderator shall be considered the highest moderation official on /r/ModelUSGov, and he or she shall possess appellate authority over all decisions made by other moderators, excepting those pertaining to the removal of the Head Moderator, and shall be charged with stepping in to solve any crises that should arise beyond the abilities of the other moderation.
- (b) The Head Moderator shall be responsible for the conduction of elections and the maintenance of the electoral roll, and the Head Moderator shall also create the simulation states (the political subdivision of the simulation that act as state governments, as opposed to real state borders) and districts with the advice and consent of the Triumvirate.
- (c) The Head Moderator may develop policies and rules for /r/ModelUSGov subordinate to and inferior of this Constitution with the advice and consent of the Triumvirate.
- (d) The Head Moderator shall appoint his or her successor, who must then be approved by a vote of the community, but if the Head Moderator shall leave office before appointing a successor, then the Triumvirate shall appoint a successor, subject to the same community approval.
- (e) The Head Moderator may be removed for misconduct, inactivity, or other grave and stated public cause by a two-thirds vote of the Triumvirate and a two-thirds vote of the community. Between the time of a vote of the Triumvirate for removal of the Head Moderator and the end of the vote of the community for the same, the Triumvirate, in corpore, shall act as Head Moderator.
 - (1) If the Head Moderator has not made a post on reddit within the last 90 days, then he or she shall be deemed inactive by that fact alone, and the office shall become vacant, unless two-thirds of the Triumvirate vote to override this.

- (2) If the Head Moderator has not begun elections in a timely manner (within 7 days of the planned day), then the Triumvirate may run elections until the reappearance of the Head Moderator.
- (f) The Head Moderator shall not hold any political office within the simulation nor be a member of any party in the simulation, but shall be as non-partisan and impartial as humanly possible.
- (g) The first Head Moderator under this Constitution shall be /u/DidNotKnowThatLolz.

SECTION 3: Triumvirate of Head Clerks

- (a) The three Head Clerks, which form the Triumvirate (making each a Triumvir), shall be considered the highest ordinary moderation officials on /r/ModelUSGov, running and organizing the day-to-day operations of /r/ModelUSGov. Unlike the Head Moderator, the Head Clerks shall be allowed to maintain their political offices and partisan affiliations within the simulation, but the abuse of moderator authority for the benefit of their parties, coalitions, or caucuses shall be seen as a grave and serious violation of their fiduciary duty to the community and shall warrant removal from their position and other just punishments.
- (b) The Triumvirate shall consist of three individual offices: Head Federal Clerk, Head State Clerk, and Head Censor.
 - (i) Head Federal Clerk
 - (1) The Head Federal Clerk shall be tasked with the oversight and organization of /r/ModelUSGov at the federal level, including the House of Representatives, Senate, Executive branch, and the Supreme Court.
 - (2) The duties of the Head Federal Clerk shall include, but are not limited to, the posting of legislation, the counting of legislative votes, the smooth functioning of legislative bodies and their committees, and such other activities as are necessary or useful for the thriving of the simulation and the community more generally.
 - (3) The Head Federal Clerk shall be responsible for the selection, hiring, and supervision of Federal Deputy Clerks, who will be employed to assist with his duties. This includes roles such as House and Senate Clerks and the Clerk of Court.
 - (ii) Head State Clerk
 - (1) The Head State Clerk shall be tasked with the oversight and organization of /r/ModelUSGov at the state level, including the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the states and their effective operation.
 - (2) The duties of the Head State Clerk shall include, but are not limited to, the posting of legislation, the counting of legislative votes, the smooth

functioning of legislative bodies and their committees, and such other activities as are necessary or useful for the thriving of the simulation and the community more generally.

- (3) The Head State Clerk shall be responsible for the selection, hiring, and supervision of State Clerks, who will be employed to assist with his duties.

(iii) Head Censor

- (1) The Head Censor shall be tasked with the oversight and execution of the rules of /r/ModelUSGov at the Reddit and Discord levels. This includes the main subreddit, main Discord, and all officially sanctioned offshoots.

- (2) The duties of the Head Censor shall include, but are not limited to, removing comments in violation of the rules, maintaining community forums and subreddits and live internet chat channels and other mediums of communication for pleasure or strategy, issuing more minor punishments and bans for rule infractions, and such other activities as are necessary or useful for the thriving of the simulation and the community more generally.

- (3) The Head Censor shall be responsible for the selection, hiring, and supervision of Deputy Censors and Discord Clerks, who will be employed to assist with his duties.

- (c) The duties of the Triumvirate as a unit shall include issuing more lengthy bans to rulebreakers, meteing out other justly deserved punishments, the maintenance of the subreddit wiki, the maintenance of the subreddit sidebar and CSS, the maintenance of flairs and other images, maintaining the approved submitters list, overseeing press and media outlets, and such other activities as are necessary or useful for the thriving of the simulation and the community more generally.

- (d) The Triumvirate, by a two-thirds vote, may develop policies and rules for /r/ModelUSGov subordinate to and inferior of this Constitution with the advice and consent of the Head Moderator.

- (e) Except for routine and clerical actions, for which a single Head Clerk may act on their own authority, the actions of the Triumvirate shall require a two-thirds vote unless otherwise stated.

- (f) When the office of a single Head Clerk shall go vacant, the remaining two Head Clerks shall appoint a replacement, subject to the confirmation of the Head Moderator. If two or more offices of Head Clerk shall go vacant, then the Head Moderator shall appoint the replacements.

- (g) A Head Clerk may be removed for misconduct, inactivity, or other grave and stated public cause by a two-thirds vote of the Triumvirate or on the concurrence of a Head Clerk and the Head Moderator. However, if the remaining Head Clerk or the Head Moderator believes the Head Clerk in question to be wrongly accused or otherwise not

deserving of removal, then they may permit them an appeal to the party chairs (or similarly designated party official if a conflict of interest arises or if a party has a nonsingular office at its top), who may overturn the removal by a unanimous minus one vote.

- (1) If a Head Clerk has not made a post on reddit within the last 90 days, then he or she shall be deemed inactive by that fact alone, and the office shall become vacant, unless the remaining two Triumvirs override this.

SECTION 4: Deputy Clerks

- (a) The Deputy Clerks shall be assistants to and advisers of the Head Clerks, and when called into service by him or her, of the Head Moderator also.
- (b) The Triumvirate shall determine the number of Deputy Clerks and what powers and duties to delegate to each, and each Deputy Clerk shall serve at the pleasure of the Triumvirate, who may remove one at any time for any reason by a two-thirds vote.
- (c) Deputy Clerks shall be allowed to maintain their political offices and partisan affiliations within the simulation, but the abuse of moderator authority for the benefit of their parties, coalitions, or caucuses shall be seen as a grave and serious violation of their fiduciary duty to the community and shall warrant removal from their position and other just punishments.

SECTION 5: Approved Submitters

- (a) The President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Press Secretary, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall be approved submitters, alongside all moderators, and anyone the Head Moderator or the Triumvirate determines to be necessary as an approved submitter.
- (b) If the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Press Secretary, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, or another officeholder whom the Head Moderator or Triumvirate has deemed as needing to have approved submitter status abuses the privilege, then the Head Moderator or the Triumvirate may develop an alternate scheme of approval of posts for that individual while they hold that office.

SECTION 6: Outside Subreddits

- (a) Core subreddits must have Head Moderator and the three Head Clerks as moderators with full permissions.

- (b) Core subreddits will be defined as /r/ModelUSGov, /r/ModelUSHouse, /r/ModelUSSenate, /r/ModelSupCourt, /r/ModelWhiteHouse, all state subreddits, and all other public subreddits directly related to the running of the government or the simulation.
- (c) Press subreddits may be banned from posting in /r/ModelUSPress or /r/ModelUSGovPress by the Head Moderator because of abuse of press privileges, harassment, demeaning content, or other grave reason.
- (d) Press subreddits will be defined as public subreddits that produce content related to /r/ModelUSGov and which link to /r/ModelUSPress or /r/ModelUSGovPress.
- (e) Party subreddits must have the Head Moderator as a moderator with full permissions.

ARTICLE II: ELECTIONS

SECTION 1: Federal Election Frequency and Structure

- (a) There shall be a federal election every 2 months, during which every member of the House of Representatives and one third of the Senate shall be up for election, so that Representatives serve 2 month terms and Senators serve staggered 6 month terms. During every other federal election, the President and Vice President shall also be elected, so that each shall serve a 4 month term concurrent with the other.
- (b) The members of the House of Representatives shall be elected through D'Hondt list proportional representation within each state. Representatives shall be assigned based on electoral finish to districts created by the Head Moderator and Triumvirate and published to the community in advance, though each district shall be contained within a single simulation state.
- (c) The members of the Senate shall be elected through First-Past-The-Post elections by entire simulation states. Whenever a new simulation state is created, two Senators shall be elected, and the candidate receiving the most votes shall serve a 6 month term and the candidate receiving the second most votes shall serve a 4 month term.
- (d) The size of the House of Representatives shall be determined by the Head Moderator and the Triumvirate, with public notice given before the federal election in which the change takes place. The size of the Senate shall be determined by the number of simulation states multiplied by two.
- (e) The Head Moderator, with unanimous approval from the Triumvirate, may determine to extend any 2 month period under this constitution from 60 days to up to 120 days for the purposes of elections, provided said decision is made prior to the election and announced to the community.

SECTION 2: Senators

- (a) Senators may be associated with a party, but are considered to be individual candidates.
- (b) If a senator chooses to resign or is expelled by the Senate, then they will be replaced based on the laws of the state from which they were elected within the limits of the United States Constitution.

Section 3: Representatives

- (a) Representatives are elected on party lists; however, seats shall belong individually to the Congressmen that hold them.
- (b) If a Representative resigns or is expelled by the House of Representatives, they shall be permitted to name their own successor to their seat in the House.
- (c) If a Representative is removed for inactivity or missing votes, they will be replaced by the party they were representing at the time of their removal. The replacement shall own their seat just as their predecessor did.
- (d) When a party puts forward candidates, they must rank them, and the seats will be distributed out via D'Hondt calculations in each state. Electors will vote for a party, not a candidate.
- (e) If a party receives enough votes in a state to earn more seats than they have candidates on their party list for that state, then they shall forfeit those seats to the next party in the D'Hondt calculation.
- (f) Elected Congressmen will select the district they wish to represent in the order they were elected as per the D'Hondt calculation

SECTION 4: President and Vice President

- (a) The President and Vice President may be associated with a party, but are considered to be candidates outside of their party.
- (b) Candidates for President and Vice President shall run on a joint ticket.
- (c) The President and Vice President shall be elected through the Electoral College, with each state receiving a number of electors equal to their number of representatives plus their number of senators. In order to be elected President and Vice President, a ticket must receive a majority of the electoral votes.

SECTION 5: State Election Frequency and Structure

- (a) There shall be a state election every 2 months, closely following the end of the federal election, during which 3 governors, lieutenant governors, and other elective state offices,

and every state legislator shall be up for election, so that legislators serve terms of 2 months and governors, lieutenant governors, and other executive positions serve terms of 4 months.

- (b) Unless a state otherwise prescribes, and the Head Moderator accepts, elections for state legislatures shall be based on the entire state and shall use D'Hondt list proportional representation.
- (c) Unless a state otherwise prescribes, and the Head Moderator accepts, elections for the governor and lieutenant governor of each state, which each state, upon the acceptance of the Head Moderator, may determine if they run jointly or separately, shall be conducted using First-Past-The-Post elections.
- (d) States, upon the acceptance of the Head Moderator, may create other elective positions such as attorney general, secretary of state, education commissioner, state board of education, or comptroller at their discretion.

SECTION 6: State Officials

- (c) Governors and lieutenant governors may be associated with a party, but are considered to be individual candidates.
- (d) If a governor or lieutenant governor chooses to resign or is convicted on articles of impeachment, then they will be replaced based on the laws of the respective state.
- (e) State legislators are elected on party lists; as such, seats in state legislatures belong to the parties.
- (a) If a legislator chooses to resign or is expelled by their state legislature (or is otherwise removed according to the constitution, laws, and rules of their state), then their party must choose a replacement, but if their party fails to choose a replacement in a reasonable time (as determined by each state, but one week if a state is silent on the matter), then there shall be a by-election (unless a state shall prescribe another method). If they are an independent candidate, or if the party fails to replace them in one week, a special by-election will be held in the manner to be determined by and at the discretion of the Head Moderator (unless a state shall prescribe another method).

(1) The Head Moderator may permit independent candidates for the state legislatures to submit an ordered list of up to five people who will replace them should their seat go vacant, but such a list must be published to the community before the election takes place to ensure the community voting on them is aware of who their potential replacement might be.

SECTION 7: Advertisement

- (a) During congressional terms, when no date for the next federal election has been announced, there will be no limit to advertising offline and through posts on reddit subreddits under 150,000 subscribers.
- (b) Between the announcement of the date of a federal election and the end of state elections, there shall be no advertising by means of non-reddit online advertisements and private messages on reddit (not including messaging declared members of your own party), but advertising on subreddits under 100,000 subscribers shall be allowed.
- (c) At no time may any person advertise in model governments not approved by /r/rmun, through non-reddit advertisements not approved by the Head Moderator, or through private messages on reddit (not including messaging declared members of your own party).
- (d) The Head Moderator, with the consent of the Triumvirate, may further restrict or even abolish advertising during certain periods or altogether, and the Head Moderator may apply these rules to byelections at his or her discretion.

SECTION 8: Qualification of Electors

- (a) To vote in any election, the reddit account voting must:
 - (1) be at least three (3) months old on the day of voting and made at least three (3) posts on subreddits within the simulation;
 - (2) be at least two (2) weeks old and have joined a party at least one (1) week prior to the announcement of the election; **or**
 - (3) be at least two (2) weeks old and have declared their status as an independent in the simulation at least one (1) week prior to the announcement of the election.
- (b) No person may use more than one account to vote, and any such person doing so shall subject themselves to a permanent ban from the subreddit or other punishment as determined by the Head Moderator or by the Triumvirate.
- (c) The Head Moderator, or a unanimous Triumvirate, reserves the right to reject votes deemed highly suspicious because of inactive accounts or other signs that they are a bot, alternate, fraudulent, or obtained through illegal advertising or other illegal means.

SECTION 9: Right of Moderators to Investigate Elections

- (a) The moderators reserve the right to investigate elections for up to five days after their announcement before certifying them for use of alternates, fraud, bots, illegal advertising, or other abuse which threatens their integrity, and they may dole out punishments, such as cutting or removing votes, appropriately.

- (b) Even after an election is certified, the moderators reserve the right to continue to investigate and make changes because of abuse, fraud, and other illegal activities, but in the meantime, the Congress and the government will be allowed to function.
- (c) Punished parties, candidates, and community members shall have the right to examine and contest the evidence against them.

SECTION 10: Prohibition of Dual Mandate

- (a) No person may hold a federal position – defined in this section as President, Vice President, Member of the Cabinet, a head or board member of a non-cabinet or independent agency (e.g. Federal Reserve, Federal Communications Commission, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation), Member of Congress (including both Senators and Representatives), Justice of the Supreme Court, or Federal Judge – or a major state position – defined in this section as Governor, Lieutenant Governor, member of a state cabinet, or presiding officer of a state legislature (e.g. Speaker of the Assembly) – if they are serving in an elected office on another major /r/rmun simulation (e.g. /r/MHoC), such as Member of Parliament (including both members of the House of Commons and the House of Lords). What constitutes a major /r/rmun simulation is controlled by the Head Moderator.
- (b) No person may hold a federal position and a major state position or state legislator position concurrently, and no person who serves as a justice or judge – whether federal or state – may serve in any other position, state or federal (excluding party officers or a moderator role).
- (c) Individuals who have a prohibited dual mandate shall resign from one or more positions, at their choosing, until such a conflict no longer exists.
- (d) The Head Moderator, with the advice and consent of the Triumvirate, may relax, abolish, strengthen, or clarify the provisions of this section, provided such decision is published to the community and the rules are enforced in a universal and equitable manner.

ARTICLE III: THE ELECTORAL ROLL

SECTION 1: Purpose

- (a) The Electoral Roll is set in place in order to restrict the ability of the electorate to constantly shift and allow for a more realistic constituency-based system.
- (b) The Electoral Roll, at the discretion of the Head Moderator, but only if announced in advance, may be used to restrict voting to those who have some actual presence in the

simulation (e.g. those who have declared membership in a party or independent status) or to prohibit those who vote in another /r/rmun simulation (e.g. /r/MHoC).

SECTION 2: Mechanisms

- (a) Electors must register in a real life state (Michigan, New York, Virginia, et cetera) or the District of Columbia.
- (b) Whichever district and simulation state the real life state is a part of is where the elector must vote from.
- (c) Once registered, electors will have the opportunity to move states. Restrictions regarding how many times they may move or when is to be set by the Head Moderator and the Triumvirate. These restrictions may be changed at any time, but public notice must be given.

SECTION 3: Registration

- (a) In every federal or state ballot, new electors will be given the opportunity to register in a state before they vote.
- (b) Any elector who votes without having registered in the Electoral Roll shall have their vote invalidated.
- (c) Any elector who has registered but votes where they are not currently registered shall have their vote invalidated.
- (d) Any elector who is registered but registers once again while voting, shall have their vote invalidated.
- (e) Any elector who registers and votes but has their vote invalidated for not verifying shall not be officially registered in the electoral roll.
 - (1) What is considered necessary for verification shall be stated publicly by the Head Moderator as a part of each election ballot post, link, or program.

SECTION 4: Publicity

- (a) Any elector may, at any time, request to know where they are registered if they have forgotten.
- (b) The Head Moderator and the Triumvirate shall keep an up to date list of who is registered where.
- (c) The Electoral Roll may be accessed by anyone when there is not a federal or state election underway.

- (d) The Electoral Roll can be made private at most 30 days before the estimated beginning of an election in order to prevent the abuse of the electoral roll by way of mass messaging and spam.

SECTION 5: Voting

- (a) The Head Mod and the Triumvirate shall conduct elections and referendums held at the meta, federal, and state levels.
- (b) The Head Mod and the Triumvirate shall design and operate a voting system that ensures voter privacy and guards against voter fraud.
- (c) All votes shall be private, and no voting records showing how an individual has voted shall be made available to anyone other than the Head Mod and Triumvirate. Under no circumstances shall a record of how an individual has voted be used to coerce, harass, or intimidate.

(1) Violations of this rule shall result in a ban not shorter than 30 days.

- (d) Results of votes shall be released promptly and publicly.
- (e) Parties, groupings, and other sim organizations may conduct and manage internal elections and votes as they see fit, however the Head Mod and Triumvirate may monitor and invalidate internal party or organizational votes based on evidence of vote rigging, harassment, or the use of other improper means to influence the vote.

ARTICLE IV: STATES

SECTION 1: Borders and Structure

- (a) The simulation states and districts shall be constructed by the Head Moderator with the advice and consent of the Triumvirate, but no such redistricting or state reconfiguration shall take effect until the following election after which they are published.
- (b) No real life state shall be divided to form a simulation state, but multiple real life states may be merged to form a simulation state, and the “building blocks” of simulation states shall be real life states, which people shall register in through the Electoral Roll.
- (c) Each state shall have its own subreddit, and it may utilize additional ones for courts, legislative activities, and similar things.
- (d) Each simulation state shall adopt its base laws from a real life state (its “base state”), and whenever a simulation state is destroyed, it shall have a successor state which shall maintain the simulation laws, rulings, executive orders, and other actions made and developed there within the simulation.
- (e) The Model United States is currently split up into six states: Western, Midwest, Central, Southern, Eastern, and Northeast.

- (1) Western State consists of Alaska, Hawaii, California, Oregon, and Washington. Its base state of Western State is California.
- (2) Midwest State consists of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Utah, Colorado, Nevada, Wyoming, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota. The base state of Midwest State is Texas.
- (3) Central State consists of Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, and Ohio. The base state of Central State is Illinois.
- (4) Southern State consists of Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, and Florida. The base state of Southern State is Florida.
- (5) Eastern State consists of Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, West Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. The base state of Eastern State is Virginia.
- (6) Northeast State consists of New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine. The base state of Northeast State is New York.

SECTION 2: State Moderation

- (a) The authority of the Head Moderator and Triumvirate extends to the states and their subreddits, but the authority of the Deputy Clerks shall do so only at the discretion of the Triumvirate.
- (b) The Triumvirate, by a two-thirds vote, shall appoint a State Clerk for each state, who shall be tasked with running the state subreddit from day-to-day, including removing comments in violation of the rules, the posting of state legislation, the counting of legislative votes, the maintenance of the state subreddit wiki, the maintenance of the subreddit sidebar, the maintenance of flairs and other images, the smooth functioning of legislative bodies and their committees, maintaining the approved submitters list, maintaining community forums and subreddits and live internet chat channels and other mediums of communication for pleasure or strategy, and such other activities as are necessary or useful for the thriving of each state and the state's community more generally.
- (c) Each State Clerk may employ one or more Deputy State Clerks, but any such appointment may be vetoed by the Triumvirate, or by the Head Moderator.

SECTION 3: State Constitutions and Laws

- (a) Each state shall use the constitution of its base state but may also employ a meta constitution that overrides the state constitution in the prescribed for instances, including in political aspects, but whenever the meta constitution is silent, the real life state constitution shall prevail.
- (b) Each state shall maintain the laws, resolutions, executive orders, and court orders produced by its activities in a wiki, and such things shall endure with the base state of that state, so that wherever the base state goes among the simulation states, such activities and history follow it.

SECTION 4: State Officials

- (a) At minimum, each state shall have a legislature, a governor, and a lieutenant governor.
 - (1) The Head Moderator, with the advice and consent of the Triumvirate, may also require each state to have at least one court if he or she deems the federal judiciary to be burdened.
- (b) The Head Moderator, with the advice and consent of the Triumvirate, may standardize the sizes and mode of election of legislatures and governors to make state elections easier to conduct. However, the Head Moderator should attempt to respect reasonable differences among states.

ARTICLE V: LEGISLATION AND CONGRESS

SECTION 1: Submission of Legislation

- (a) Members of Congress who desire to submit legislation shall submit it to the moderator mail of /r/ModelUSHouse or /r/ModelUSSenate, whether they are a member of the House of Representatives or Senate, respectively.
 - (1) The moderating team may request an alternative means of submission to this, and such a request shall overrule this subsection.
- (b) The Head Moderator and the Head Clerks may decline the submission of a piece of legislation if it is not serious, has formatting too dissimilar to the example format, or if a very similar piece of legislation has already been voted on in the same Congress (but a piece of legislation that was vetoed by the President, and the passage of a new form of which was negotiated by the President and Congressional leadership shall be allowed).
- (c) The Head Clerks, the Deputy Clerks, or the Head Moderator shall have the goal of posting at least one piece of legislation from the House and one piece of legislation from

the Senate each day, except when the Head Moderator or the Triumvirate declares a holiday, such as for Christmas or Independence Day, and when Congress is not in session. However, despite this goal, the moderators shall enjoy flexibility in the posting of legislation, doing so at their discretion.

SECTION 2: Example Format for Legislation

- (a) Look Here for the Example Format for Legislation:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/18pErKzgz8Ke3yCHkwdfMVjmTSbglYEczWLA24_AXczw/edit?usp=sharing
- (b) Moderators may field questions about legislation formatting.

SECTION 3: Amendment of Legislation

- (a) If committees are present, once the legislation has passed out of committee and to the floor of either house, amendments can be proposed by any member of the house the bill is currently in, regardless of the house of origin. If committees are not present in a house, then such amendments can be offered as soon as the legislation is posted in such house.
- (b) Legislation may be amended at any time by the approval of the submitter of the legislation before amendments to said legislation or the legislation itself goes to vote in committee, or absent committees, before the whole house in question.
- (c) Upon the floor of either house, the failure to vote on an amendment by a member of Congress shall be considered abstention in absentia.
- (d) Each house and committee shall determine the length of periods to offer and vote on amendments by their own rules.

SECTION 4: Passage Through Congress

- (a) Legislation will be voted on a single time in either house. If they pass through the first house, then they will be voted on a single time in the other house, unless it fails in committee.
- (b) The leadership of either house or of committees shall be able to expedite and delay legislation according to the rules of their house.

SECTION 5: Voting Procedures

- (a) Members of each house are to comment their votes on any bill, resolution, amendment, or other motion in the House or Senate subreddit.

- (1) The moderating team may request an alternative means of voting to this, and such a request shall overrule this subsection.
- (b) The moderation shall endeavor to inform members of each house of votes occurring within their house.

SECTION 6: Veto Override

- (a) Any member of Congress may begin a veto override vote in either house.
- (b) The voting on of the veto override shall be left to the discretion of the leadership of each house as prescribed by the rules of that house.
- (c) No veto override may occur more than 14 days after a veto nor after a session of Congress ends, but the same legislation may be submitted in a new Congress as if it was going through for the first time.

SECTION 7: Quorums

- (a) For a vote on legislation by members of either house of Congress to be considered “valid”, half plus one of members of each house must have voted “aye”, “nay” or “abstain” on it.
 - (1) This subsection applies to floor votes only, as amendment and committee votes are controlled elsewhere in this Constitution and by the rules of each house.
- (b) If a quorum is not reached, then the measure fails, but can be re-voted on at the discretion of the leadership of the house in question.

SECTION 8: Attendance of Members of Congress

- (a) If a member of Congress is inactive in voting, for more than a week, without advance notice, their seat will be vacated and filled appropriately.
- (b) When members of Congress give notice of their future inactivity, they may vote in advance by sending votes to the moderators before hand (including conditional votes of simple complexity) or they may appoint a proxy to vote on their behalf, subject to approval by the moderating team.

SECTION 9: Records

- (a) All laws, treaties, successful concurrent resolutions, successful House or Senate resolutions, and all successful joint resolutions (including successful constitutional amendments) shall be recorded in the subreddit wiki.

- (b) The Head Moderator and the Triumvirate shall maintain a public record of all the votes of each member of Congress on each measure voted on by each house on the floor of that house.

SECTION 10: Laws, Constitution, and Events

- (c) Except where changed by the simulation itself, the simulation adopts all the laws, regulations, rules, codes, orders, and other authorities of the United States government as its own within the simulation.
- (d) The simulation shall abide by the Constitution of the United States within the simulation, except where explicitly changed by the simulation.
- (e) No legislation, regulations, executive orders, constitutional amendments, or court orders passed or handed down in real life after the start of this simulation -- October 1, 2014 -- shall apply to this simulation, unless the moderating team deems it so important so as to make an exception, but such exceptions must be announced to the community.
- (f) Events that occur in real life, such as terrorist attacks, natural disasters, and similar events shall also occur within the simulation unless the moderation team deems them not to have, but such exceptions must be announced to the community.
 - (1) Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit the moderators from approving events pertaining to the simulation such as terrorist attacks, natural disasters, and similar events.

ARTICLE VI: CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES

SECTION 1: Creation

- (a) Each house of Congress can create or modify committees by the passage of a resolution.
- (b) Congress may establish conference committees and joint committees by resolutions.

SECTION 2: Overseeing Committees

- (a) The Congressional Leaders (i.e. Speaker of the House, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Majority and Minorities Leaders and Whips of each house) shall be the primary overseers of committees. They are responsible for overseeing any amendments or votes done in committee.
 - (1) To this end, the Head Moderator and the Triumvirate may give Congressional leadership moderator permissions in their respective house subreddits.

- (b) Once a bill has been fully amended by committees, the bill will be sent to the mods who will then put the bill up for vote, but Congressional Leadership may delay or expedite legislation according to the rules of their house.

SECTION 3: Activity

- (a) The Triumvirate can shut down committees if there is a lack of activity on behalf of the members of Congress or if Congressional Leadership has continually not been carrying out their duties.
- (b) Committees should be restored when activity is boosted or committees are amended to lower the activity required for them to function.

ARTICLE VII: POLITICAL PARTIES AND INDEPENDENT GROUPINGS

SECTION 1: Requirements of a New Party

- (a) (a) New parties can be formed if they can achieve at least twenty (20) members, have adopted a constitution regarding their operations, have adopted a platform or manifesto regarding their political positions or ideology, have established party leaders or spokesperson(s), and have their membership approved by the moderating team (e.g. the member of a party is not merely a brigade from another model government or the alternates of other members).
- (b) New parties' formation shall be accepted or rejected by the Triumvirate and the Head Moderator in order to restrict the formation of similar parties, non-serious parties, or those which they feel have no place in polite political discourse or in the current meta situation of the subreddit.
- (c) The Triumvirate and the Head Moderator may establish other requirements for the formation of parties, provided such requirements are published publicly to the community.

SECTION 2: Independent Groupings

- (a) Independent groupings are a group of independents who wish to create a new political party. It is the stage before a group becomes an official party, and independent groupings possess some, but not all, of the rights of a party.
- (b) Independent groupings require at least ten (10) members (screened by the moderating team to ensure they are not brigading members or the alternate accounts of other members), a constitution regarding their operations, a platform or manifesto regarding

their political positions or ideology, and one or more party leaders or spokespersons in order to be recognized.

- (c) Independent groupings may have a flair, be linked in the “Join a Party Thread,” and have their own subreddit.
- (d) In elections, Independent Groupings run as though they are independents. They will not be listed as a group on the D’Hondt lists.

SECTION 3: Demotion or Promotion

- (a) The Triumvirate, in conjunction with the Head Moderator, shall have the ability to demote a party to an independent grouping or promote an independent grouping to a party based on the activity, membership, and seriousness of the party, and on other important factors.
- (b) The Triumvirate, in conjunction with the Head Moderator, shall have the ability to dissolve an independent grouping based on the activity, membership, and seriousness of the party, and on other important factors.

ARTICLE VIII: CONDUCT

SECTION 1: Rights Reserved by the Moderators

- (a) Moderators reserve the right, at any time, to delete a comment or post or to ban a member for a length of their choosing. In addition to this, moderators reserve the right, if they so choose, to contact the proper authorities at the sight of serious harassment or threats.
- (b) Appeals can often, but not always, be made to the Triumvirate and then to the Head Moderator, but serious enough offences may cause the privilege of appeal to be waived.

SECTION 2: Appropriate Conduct

- (a) Everyone is expected to maintain appropriate conduct in /r/ModelUSGov, its core subreddits, its press subreddits, its party subreddits, its live internet chat channels, and its other mediums of communication and simulation. Inappropriate conduct such as harassment, swearing, and severe insults will result in punishment.
 - (1) At first offense, a warning message from the moderation team.
 - (2) Further punishment will be determined by the moderating team or Clerk.
 - (3) Any bans will apply across all core subreddits.

- (b) The Triumvirate may oversee and change the punishments of those under them and from an individual Triumvir, and the Head Moderator may accept appeals from the Triumvirate.
- (c) The Head Moderator, in conjunction with the Triumvirate, may establish certain rules for the simulation and its subreddits, forums, and other channels.

SECTION 3: Honesty

- (a) At the moderators' discretion, those who are caught "cheating" (e.g. having duplicate accounts in separate parties, having multiple accounts to vote with, or having multiple accounts that hold office) will be permanently banned from /r/ModelUSGov.
- (b) After a long period, appeals may be heard by the Head Moderator as to why such a ban should be lifted, but an appeal is unlikely to be successful, and for good reason.

SECTION 4: Downvoting

- (a) Downvoting is considered tasteless conduct and is bannable.
- (b) If you do not agree with someone, refute them.
- (c) If someone is malicious, report it to the moderators.

SECTION 5: Poaching

- (a) Poaching of new members is not allowed in the "Join a Party" thread.
- (b) Only members of the party requested may respond to requests to join a party, unless a question about parties' views are asked.

ARTICLE IX: MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SECTION 1: Supreme Court Challenges

- (a) Community members should consult the Supreme Court rules before submitting a Supreme Court challenge against laws or other successful legislation.
- (b) Supreme Court challenges may not be filed against any moderator for action they took as a moderator.
- (c) Nothing in this section shall prevent moderators from seeking the advisory opinions of the Supreme Court on various meta decisions.
- (d) The moderators and the Supreme Court shall keep records of Supreme Court cases.

SECTION 2: Cabinet Activity Requirements

(a) Each member of the federal cabinet as well as other major appointees and the heads and boards of major non-cabinet and independent agencies shall maintain a minimum level of activity in that position, including:

- (1) proposing the creation, amendment, or repeal of a regulation or definition at least once each month. Such creation, amendment, or repeal shall be conducted through the notice and comment process as defined by the Administrative Procedures Act (including amendments such an act may receive within the simulation), unless another method is required under law for such a department, agency, board, or organ;
- (2) adjudicating or otherwise processing a real life or simulated case that would be handled by their department, agency, board, or organ (e.g. the approval or rejection of the Keystone XL pipeline) at least once each month;
- (3) arguing a case before or submitting an amicus curiae to the Supreme Court or another court (for the Solicitor General and Attorney General only) at least once each month;
- (4) changing monetary policy in some fashion (for the Federal Reserve only) at least once every two months;
- (5) issuing a report, projection, or series of simulated government data at least once each month;
- (6) conducting an investigation, with the findings of which being reported publicly, at least once each month;
- (7) giving an official advisory opinion to the President in /r/ModelWhiteHouse or a similar subreddit viewable by the public or at least the moderators at least once each month; or
- (8) engaging in some other activity or handling some other issue related to their department, agency, or organ approved by the moderating team.

(b) Each member of the federal cabinet as well as other major appointees and the heads and boards of major non-cabinet and independent agencies shall propose a budget for their agency to Congress, whenever Congress shall make a budget (at least once every six months) within a twenty-one day period after Congress, or one of its committees, requests such a budget.

(c) If a member of the federal cabinet, a major federal appointee, or the head or board of a major non-cabinet or independent agency shall fail in their obligations required by subsection (a) of this section, then they shall have vacated their office by that fact alone, unless they provide good and substantial reasoning to the moderators.

(d) If a member of the federal cabinet, a major federal appointee, or the head or board of a major non-cabinet or independent agency shall fail in their obligations required by subsection (b) of this section, then they shall have vacated their office by that fact alone, unless they provide good and substantial reasoning to the moderators.

(e) State meta constitutions may develop similar requirements for state cabinets, to be enforced by state clerks.

SECTION 3: Moderator Duty Towards Interest

- (a) The moderators shall endeavor to ensure the various offices (e.g. cabinet officers, committee chairs, et cetera) are relevant and interesting to the simulation.
- (b) The moderators shall endeavor to keep the interests of the community alive and well and spur a community of debate, respect, and fun.

SECTION 4: Unclear Situations

- (a) In cases where there are no provisions have been set by the /r/ModelUSGov Constitution or simulation rules, moderators may rule as they see fit, but they are obligated to submit an amendment to this Constitution for referendum as soon as possible, to create a simulation rule, or to keep a list of binding precedents and abide by stare decisis in the application of them, depending on what is applicable.

SECTION 5: Events Board

- (a) The Head Moderator and Triumvirate will establish a Events Board.
- (b) Members of the Events Board will initially be chosen by the Triumvirate and announced to the sim on the Meta Subreddit, /r/ModelUSMeta.
 - (i) Section 5, Subsection B will only apply to the members announced in the first week after the approval of this amendment.
- (c) The members of the Events Board will vote in a simple majority to choose a Chairman.
- (d) The Chairman of the Events Board will choose a Deputy Chairman should they wish.
- (e) The Events Board may add more members provided they are nominated by the Chairman and a simple majority of the Events Board agrees for them to be added.
 - (i) Should there be a tie in the vote, the Deputy Chairman of the Events Board shall break the tie.
 - (ii) Should there be a tie in the vote and no Deputy Chairman to break the tie, the Head Moderator will break the tie instead.
- (f) The Events Board will have two core purposes:

- (1) Formally establish real life events within ModelUSGov by posting the in-sim details as articles on /r/ModelReuters and cross-posting them to the Press Subreddit, /r/ModelUSPress.
- (2) Draft simulation-made events, and post the events on /r/ModelReuters and cross-posting them to the Press Subreddit, /r/ModelUSPress.
- (g) 15 members of the sim may petition the Triumvirate to consider retracting an event storyline.
 - (i) The Events Board will then vote to retract all articles related to the events.
- (h) All events will require approval of the Chairman of the Events Board before publishing articles or conducting discussions or actions.
- (i) Members of the Events Board may not be President, Vice President, or a Governor.
- (j) Cabinet members and others who sit on the Events Board must refrain from making events related to their jurisdiction.

ARTICLE X: AMENDMENT

SECTION 1: The Head Moderator Shall Amend the Simulation State Lists and Compositions

- (a) The Head Moderator shall amend Article IV, Section 1(c) of this Constitution whenever he or she shall reform the simulation states, and no community approval shall be necessary for such an amendment, but the Triumvirate must consent.
- (b) These amendments shall include the number, names, and composition of simulation states.

SECTION 2: General Amendment

- (a) The Constitution of /r/ModelUSGov shall be able to be amended or rewritten by the submission of the Triumvirate or the Head Moderator approved by referendum by the simulation community (or through the submission of a referenda by the community).
- (b) Timing of referenda:
 - (i) All community referenda must be Fully Publicized for no less than one full calendar week before voting can commence. During this period, a comment period shall allow for the community to discuss the merits of the referenda.
 - (1) “Fully Publicized” shall mean a sticky post on both the /r/ModelUSGov subreddit and the /r/ModelUSMeta subreddit, modmail submitted to each party and grouping subreddit (including a post on the independent

subreddit), and an announcement to @everyone on the ModelUSGov Discord chat.

- (ii) Voting on any referenda must be open for no less than one full calendar week before the results are counted and published.
- (c) Referenda Quorum:
 - (i) All community referenda must achieve a total of 50 votes from the community for the vote to be considered binding. If the referenda receives a total with less votes, the referenda may be resubmitted regardless of the percentage distribution of votes.
 - (ii) Before a community based referendum may be submitted, it must first acquire 50 signatures from the sim user community.
- (d) The moderation team can determine the qualifications for being able to vote in such a constitutional vote.

SECTION 3: Simple Constitutional Fixes

- (a) At any time, the Triumvirate or Head Moderator can change the Constitution in order to fix grammatical errors, fluency errors, spelling errors, or headers or to change formatting.
- (b) The Triumvirate or Head Moderator may not change the wording of any article, section, subsection, or other part or division so that it causes it to be interpreted differently.

SECTION 4: Emergency Constitutional Amendments

- (a) The Head Moderator, with the advice and consent of the Triumvirate, will be able to edit the Constitution, without holding any votes on the amendments, if it is deemed to be an urgently necessary amendment. They will have to announce the edit to the subreddit with justification.
- (b) The emergency amendment must be put to a vote of the simulation community within 72 hours of it being passed in accordance with Section 2 of this Article.
- (c) Any and all emergency amendments must be Fully Publicized in accordance with the process outlined in Section 2: General Amendment Subsection b(i)(1).

ARTICLE XI: ENACTMENT

- (a) This Constitution will be enacted immediately after $\frac{1}{2}+1$ of all voters select yes to the following question on a subreddit wide referendum. Question: “Do you support the enactment of the proposed constitution?”

(b) The moderation team can determine the qualifications for being able to vote in such a constitutional vote.

Respectfully submitted,
/u/MoralLesson, Author