Sovrin Steward Council Charter

Version 2
2020-04-22

Steward Council

This charter contains the content required by Sovrin Governing Body Policies. This charter was approved by the Sovrin Foundation Board of Trustees on 22 April 2020 and is listed in Sovrin Governing Bodies. All terms in First Letter Capitals not defined in this document are defined in the Sovrin Glossary.

To participate directly in this Sovrin Governing Body, please visit its meeting page.

Charter Version and Date

Version: 2

Date approved by Sovrin Board of Trustees: 2020-04-22

Link to the Sovrin Board of Trustees meeting minutes

Governing Policies

All Sovrin Governing Bodies inherit the base set of policies defined in *Sovrin Governing Body Policies*, including chartering, membership, chairpersons, facilitators, subgroups, funding, voting, intellectual property rights, meetings, and meeting pages. This charter defines extensions to these policies specific to this Sovrin Governing Body.

Status

This Sovrin Governing Body is organized as a **council** as defined in *Sovrin Governing Body Policies*.

Purpose

The purpose of the Steward Council is to oversee the operation, availability, and security of the Sovrin Public Ledger. It is also to give voice to the interests, concerns, and expertise of Sovrin Stewards in the activities of the Sovrin Foundation, the evolution of Sovrin Infrastructure, and in the roles and responsibilities of the Stewards themselves.

Principles

All Sovrin Governing Bodies operate under the Core Principles in section 2 of the [Sovrin Governance Framework V2](#).

Activities and Duties

1. Provide an inclusive, remote-first forum for all Sovrin Stewards to identify, research, collaborate, and make decisions about topics of mutual interest.
2. Help organize regular face-to-face or virtual conferences for Sovrin Stewards.
3. Assist Stewards who wish to gather in regional face-to-face gatherings and conferences.
4. Assist Stewards in best practices in operational matters regarding their validator nodes.
5. Determine non-compliance of Stewards and their nodes and make recommendations to the Board of Trustees for termination of those Steward Agreements.
6. Facilitate an environment for Stewards to discuss their insights, suggestions or concerns and provide a conduit for sharing those points with the Sovrin Board of Trustees and other Sovrin Governing Bodies.
7. While the Council is not directly responsible for any [Controlled Documents](#), it is responsible for gathering and distilling the input and feedback of Stewards on any revisions to the [Sovrin Governance Framework](#) or its Controlled Documents.
8. In cooperation with the Technical Governance Board, the Steward Council will jointly create and maintain criteria for code releases to the Sovrin MainNet and verify that the proposed code releases each month meet these criteria before it is deployed.

Membership

1. All Sovrin Governing Bodies must have at least five members, including chairpersons.
2. The Steward Council will consist of no more than 15 members, nominated and elected by the body of Stewards. Prospective members may self-nominate. Each Steward organization may cast one vote.
3. Members of the Steward Council shall not simultaneously serve on the Steward Qualification Committee.
4. There shall not be more than one member of the Council representing the same organization.
5. All members shall serve one-year terms, renewable at the option of the member and the body of Stewards.
6. For the inaugural year of the Council, 5 members will serve a two-year term. These 5 will be those who received the most votes in the initial election.

7. All members must represent exactly one Sovrin Steward with an active Steward Agreement. If the Steward with an active council member is no longer in good standing, or the member leaves that organization, the member must resign.
8. If active members move between Stewards in good standing, the Steward Council will determine the need for reelection.
9. A member shall participate at their own cost. There are no reimbursements of time, travel or other costs.

Chairperson(s)

The Council shall have at least one and no more than three Chairpersons. All Chairpersons must be members of the Council. One Chairperson must be elected by the Steward Council to serve as an ex-officio member of the Sovrin Board of Trustees if said Chairperson is not already a Trustee. Additional Chairpersons may be elected by the Council members.

Facilitator(s)

The Steward Council may select one or more members to serve as facilitators as determined by consensus or a vote of the members.

Voting

All Sovrin Governing Bodies shall strive to reach decisions by consensus. When necessary, voting will be conducted as specified in *Sovrin Governing Body Policies*.

Funding

The Council may seek funding from the Sovrin Foundation as required to fulfil its duties.

Meeting Schedule

The Council shall hold regular virtual meetings either monthly or as frequently as needed on a day and time determined by consensus or a vote of the members and recorded on the meeting page. The Council shall also hold face-to-face meetings as needed with notice and details provided on the meeting page.

Meeting Page

All Sovrin Governing Bodies are required to maintain a meeting page with full information about the group, current documents, and how to participate in meetings. Follow this link to the Steward Council meeting page.

Version History

As required by *Sovrin Governing Body Policies*, this table is a history of all versions of this charter.

Version	Date	Link and Description
2	2020-04-22	This document
1	2019-03-27	This document