

The Rules of the First Dixie Assembly

Section I. Preamble

(1) The purpose of these rules is to:

- (a) Ensure a fair and efficient legislature;
- (b) Facilitate lively debate;
- (c) Create consistency among the several states while protecting Dixie's individuality.

Section II. Assembly Officers

(1) There shall be two officers of the Dixie Assembly, the Speaker of the Assembly and the Minority Leader. To serve as an officer of the Dixie Assembly one must be a dutifully elected Assemblyperson as outlined in Section III of this document.

(a) The Speaker of the Assembly shall be charged with presiding over and leading the Dixie Assembly. The powers of the Speaker shall be as follows:

- (i) To interpret the Rules of the Dixie Assembly and act as the final legislative decision maker in times of dispute over said rules.
- (ii) To unilaterally decide the special orders calendar as prescribed later in this set of rules.
- (iii) To close a particular portion of the legislative cycle as they deem necessary. The Speaker may close a vote early only if all members have voted.

(b) The Minority Leader shall be charged with representing the minority voices of the Dixie Assembly. The Minority Leader shall have limited powers as outlined later in this piece of legislation.

(2) The two officers of the Dixie Assembly shall serve until the end of the term, unless one resigns or there is a successful Recall Petition as outlined in Section X of this document.

(3) In the event the office of the Speaker is vacated for any reason, there shall be a leadership election. In the event the office of the Minority Leader is vacated for any reason, the Speaker shall appoint an Assemblyperson from a party separate from their own and their electoral coalition to serve as Minority Leader.

Section III. Assembly Membership

(1) The official title of a member of the Dixie Assembly shall be “Assemblyperson.”

(a) If an Assemblyperson so chooses they may use a gendered version of their title.

(2) For a person to be considered an Assemblyperson, they must hold an elected Assembly seat within the State of Dixie.

Section IV. Infractions

(1) Any Assemblyperson who reaches a total of 3 voting sessions worth of infractions shall have their membership status revoked.

(2) The Clerk of the State of Dixie shall have the right to define and distribute infractions as they see fit within reason.

Section V. Legislative Items

(1) Any person may submit a piece of legislation to the Dixie Assembly, this person shall be considered the legislation’s sponsor. Said legislation must be categorized as either a Bill, Resolution, or Constitutional Amendment.

(a) A Bill shall be defined as an item that seeks to implement a specific policy.

(i) Budget proposals shall be considered a Bill under this set of rules.

(b) A Resolution shall be defined as an item that expresses the opinion of the legislature without taking action on a specific issue.

(i) Articles of Impeachment shall be considered a Resolution under this set of rules.

(c) A Constitutional Amendment shall be defined as an item that seeks to amend or replace the Constitution of the State of Dixie.

(2) Any person may cosponsor a piece of legislation if the original sponsor is comfortable with them doing so.

(a) Only the initial sponsors and the first three additional co-sponsors shall be recorded in the journal of the Assembly.

(3) For a Bill to be adopted by the Assembly, only a simple majority of a quorum must vote in the affirmative.

(4) For a Resolution to be adopted, a simple majority of a quorum must vote in the affirmative.

(a) Articles of Impeachment shall require a supermajority of two-thirds of a quorum voting in the affirmative in order to be adopted.

(4) For a Constitutional Amendment to be adopted, a supermajority of two-thirds of a quorum must vote in the affirmative.

Section VI. Legislative Docket

(1) Upon the submission of a piece of legislation it shall be automatically placed at the top of the legislative docket.

(2) Certain piece of legislation shall take precedent and shall immediately proceed to the floor, regardless of the decisions of the Assembly Speaker:

(a) Budget proposals submitted by the Governor of the State of Dixie.

(b) Articles of Impeachment against an executive official which have the signatures of a majority of Assemblypeople in support.

(3) Legislation that is not debated during a particular term shall remain on the docket for no more than one term following the term in which it was initially submitted.

(a) Following a particular bill's expiration it shall be considered failed by the Assembly.

(b) This clause shall apply retroactively.

Section VII. Legislative Cycle

(1) The Dixie Assembly shall adhere to the following legislative cycle:

(a) The first day of each cycle, no less than one piece of legislation shall be posted on /r/ModelSouthernState for debate. Any person may debate on said piece of legislation if they so choose.

(b) An amendment proposal thread shall be posted on /r/ModelSouthernChamber concurrent with the posting of a piece of legislation for debate. Assemblypeople may propose amendments for a period of no less than forty-eight hours.

(i) Any proposed amendment must be seconded by another Assembly member in order to be considered.

(c) An amendment voting thread shall be posted on /r/ModelSouthernChamber after the conclusion of the amendment proposal period. Assemblypeople may vote on proposed amendments for a period of no less than forty-eight hours.

(i) Amendment votes shall not be considered a recorded vote and therefore may not be counted towards infractions.

(ii) A simple majority of those voting is all that is necessary for the adoption of a particular amendment. A quorum is not necessary for amendment adoption under any circumstance.

(iii) If there are no amendments proposed on a particular piece of legislation, it shall forgo the amendment voting process and proceed directly to a final floor vote.

(d) A final floor votes thread shall be posted on /r/ModelSouthernChamber after the conclusion of the amendment voting period or the amendment proposal thread depending on the circumstances. Assemblypeople shall be expected to vote on the final version of the legislation on the special orders calendar.

(e) The posting of the results from a final floor vote shall be considered the conclusion of a particular legislative cycle. There shall always be one day between the end of a particular legislative cycle and the beginning of the next legislative cycle.

(i) The State Clerk may wave the one day requirement based on their better judgement and in the interest of keeping the state fully functioning.

Section VIII. Special Order Calendar

- (1) The Speaker of the Assembly will unilaterally set the Special Order Calendar, which determines the sequence for consideration of legislation.
- (2) In the event that the Speaker is unable or unwilling to set the Calendar, the Minority Leader shall be allowed to propose two pieces of legislation for the next session.
- (3) In the event that no calendar exists, the State Clerk will set the calendar, or direct the Deputy State Clerk to set the calendar.

Section IX. Motions

- (1) There shall be a standing motions thread on /r/ModelSouthernChamber for members to propose motions. Any and all such motions proposed during a particular legislative cycle shall be voted on alongside the Special Order Calendar's items for that cycle.
- (2) In order for any motion to be considered, it must be seconded by an Assembly member.
- (3) Germane motions are as follows:
 - (a) Motions to table legislation shall require a simple majority vote of those present and voting for passage. Alternatively, the Speaker and Minority Leader may jointly move a motion to table which shall not require a vote and will be adopted automatically.
 - (i) The legislation must have already come to the floor in order for this motion to be made.
 - (b) Motions to suspend the rules and pass a piece of legislation shall require a two thirds vote of those present and voting for passage.
 - (i) The legislation must have already come to the floor in order for this motion to be made.
 - (c) Motions to subpoena shall require a simple majority vote of those present and voting for passage. This is how the Assembly can compel someone to come before the chamber and answer questions.
 - (d) Motions to override a Governor's veto shall require a two thirds vote of those present and voting for passage.

(4) In the event there is a motion to suspend the rules and pass a piece of legislation, said piece of legislation shall be posted on /r/ModelSouthernState for debate concurrent with the vote on that particular motion. Should the motion fail, the particular piece of legislation shall automatically be placed back on the docket.

(a) In the event a piece of legislation is later placed on the Special Order Calendar, that piece of legislation shall not be debated again but shall still follow the legislative process the same in every other way.

(5) All motions shall be considered non-recorded votes and therefore shall not count against a member's infraction total.

Section X. Discharge Petitions

(1) Should an Assemblyperson wish to see a particular piece of legislation rushed to the top of the legislative docket, they may file a Discharge Petition.

(2) For said Discharge Petition to be considered valid, it must include the following:

(a) The title and label of the particular piece of legislation the Assemblyperson wishes to see rushed.

(b) The signature of a majority of Assemblypeople attesting that they support rushing the particular piece of legislation at hand.

(3) A Discharge Petition shall be filed in the appropriate venue as prescribed by the State Clerk.

(4) If a Discharge Petition is deemed to be valid by the State Clerk, the particular piece of legislation at hand shall be rushed to the top of the legislative docket.

Section XI. Recall Petitions

(1) Should an Assemblyperson wish to call for a new election for the Speaker of the Assembly, they may file a Recall Petition.

(2) For said Recall Petition to be considered valid, it must include the following:

(a) The reasoning for why they believe a new election for the Speaker of the Assembly is necessary.

(b) The signature of a majority of Assemblypeople attesting that they support a new election for the Speaker of the Assembly.

(3) A Recall Petition shall be filed in the appropriate venue as prescribed by the State Clerk.

(4) If a Recall Petition is deemed to be valid by the State Clerk, a new election shall be held immediately.

Section XII. The Journal of the Assembly

(1) All references to the Journal of the Assembly in this legislation shall refer to the [State of Dixie Spreadsheet](#).

Section XIII: Adoption and Expiration

(1) This set of rules shall be considered adopted and binding upon the recorded vote of a simple majority of the Assembly.

(2) This set of rules shall be considered expired and non-binding upon the conclusion of the 1st General Assembly.

Authored by Dixie State Clerk CryDefiance.