OpenGov Voting Bot

William, 2024-07-26

The OpenGov Voting Bot is a Discord bot that enables a Discord community to discuss and vote on OpenGov referenda. It originated out of ChaosDAO, and in early 2024, the bot's author, Jordan (n4dro J), was funded by OpenGov to work on the bot full time.

The bot is in use across a few communities in Polkadot, including: ChaosDAO, the Kusamarian, Scytale and Lucky Friday. ChaosDAO, Scytale and Lucky Friday use the bot to streamline their Decentralized Voices delegations. The Kusamarian runs an instance of the bot that any member of the Polkadot ecosystem can join.

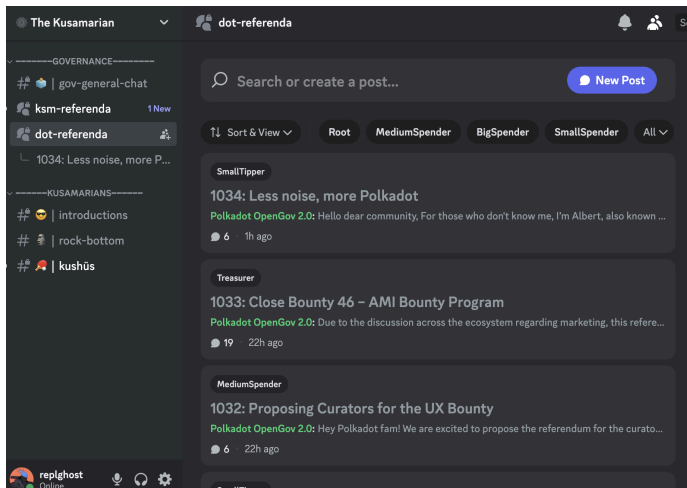There are a number of potential benefits to running the bot:
1. **Easy onramp to OpenGov**: It's a much easier interface to voting for users, as they just have to click a button in Discord and do not have to manage a wallet or interact on-chain. This helps users learn not just about OpenGov voting, but also learn about what is happening in Polkadot.
2. **Promotes discussion and community engagement**: Discussions form naturally as community members explain proposals and advocate for or against referenda.
3. **Magnified voice**: By pooling representation and attracting delegations, the community members feel like they have a larger weight in voting.
4. **Onboard to Polkadot**: Participation in governance via the voting bot demystifies Polkadot governance, and eases members into the process of submitting proposals.

How it works

The voting bot has a server that is always running and monitoring governance. Every three hours, it will check to see if a new referenda has been posted, and if so, it will pull the information and put it in a forum in Discord.

Example: The bot will check at two intervals (7 days, 20 days) and issue a vote on-chain if needed. For instance, at 7 days, if the vote is positive, the bot will issue an "AYE" vote for the referendum. At the 20 day mark, if the vote remains positive, then no action will take place, given the result is the same.
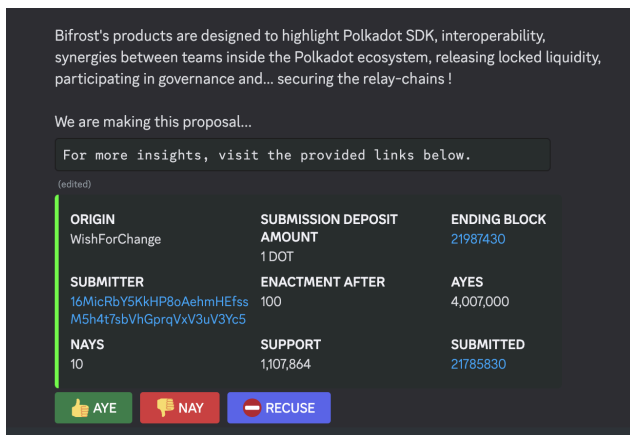
Visit the Kusamarian Discord if you are interested in trying out the bot for yourself.

Screenshot of the voting bot's interface in the Kusamarian Discord server.

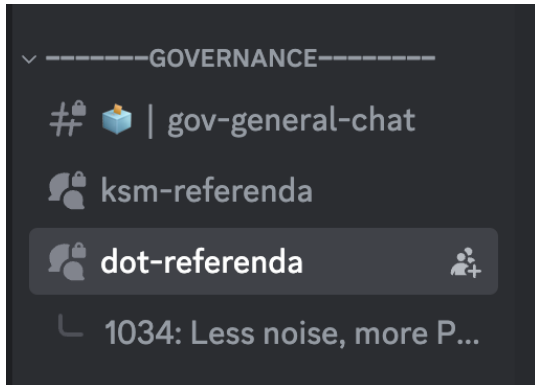Screenshot of the detailed forum view

Screenshot of the voting buttons

Configuration

Discord Configuration

The "community server" setting needs to be enabled so that a forum can be created for voting.

Then, a forum needs to be set up for each network (e.g. Polkadot and Kusama)

Screenshot of the governance section of the Kusamarian discord

A role needs to be chosen to specify who is able to vote. For instance, this may be a subset of all server members.

Bot Configuration

There are some parameters that can be set to modify how the voting works:

minParticipation - The minimum number of votes that have to be cast for the bot to act. This eliminates the problem where the bot may cast a vote that doesn't adequately represent the community's will due to low participation.

On-Chain Configuration

A main account will need to be set to be the voting address. It's recommended that this is a pure proxy backed by a multisig..

An identity should be set on the account so that people know the party/community that is voting.

A governance proxy should be set up for the main account, who's private key can be stored in the voting bot server.