

Baronial Polling Process Policy

**of the
Seneschals Office
for the**

**Kingdom
Of
Trimaris**

Kingdom Seneschallate Baronial Polling Process Policy

OVERVIEW

When directed by the Crown Trimaris to conduct an opinion polling of a Barony to assist the Crown in selecting the successors to the Baron and Baroness of the Barony, the Seneschal will consult with the Crown and applicable Baronial Nobles and select one of the following methods by which to conduct the polling. The method selected and the appropriate dates will be published in Baronial newsletter. Other reasonable efforts will be made to inform the populace of the Barony which method has been chosen and the appropriate dates. These efforts should include, but are not limited to, announcements at Baronial business meetings, notices in event fliers, and announcements in other media such as Baronial websites and email groups.

POLLING METHOD 1 – Polling at an Event

For use when the Polling will take place at an event. This is the preferred method

A polling of the current members of the Barony will be conducted at an official SCA event. This event will preferably be one hosted by the Barony selecting new nobles. The Polling will be held from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm. If, in the opinion of the Crown Trimaris, the results of that polling do not show a clear preference, runoff polling may be held immediately following the closing and tabulation of ballots from the first poll. Members are encouraged to remain onsite should a second poll be necessary.

Persons wishing to participate in the polling must meet both of the following criteria:

- 1) Must be a paid member of the SCA Inc.
- 2) Membership address must be in one of the zip codes assigned to the Barony (including Cantons if applicable) being polled.

Membership and zip codes will be verified at the polling site with the membership list provided by the SCA office of the registrar. If the person wishing to submit polling is not on the membership list provided by the SCA office of the registrar, they must provide acceptable proof of current membership before being permitted to complete a polling form.

A Driver's License or government picture ID will be required to be shown to prove identity.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Proxy ballots are **NOT** allowed. If you are unable to attend the polling, you may follow the procedures below to submit an Absentee Ballot. No exceptions will be made to the timeline or contents for an Absentee Ballot to be counted, so review the requirements carefully, and send your letters in as soon as the candidates are announced.

You must send your Absentee Ballot to the person chosen by the Crown to administer the polling. Your absentee ballot must be **RECEIVED** by the date published in the Baronial newsletter to be counted. **DO NOT require a signature at delivery on a mailed ballot**, as that may delay delivery. If there is a second polling, absentee ballots will only be counted if the preferred candidates remain in the run-off polling.

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Any Absentee Ballot must be legible and contain ALL of the following information:

- 1) Your modern name, your SCA name, your membership number, the expiration date of that membership, and your mailing address, including zip code.
- 2) Photocopy of Driver's License or government picture ID showing your modern name, zip code. In the case that the zip code is incorrect on the Driver's License or the usage of a government picture ID with no zip code a current utility bill may be used to verify the zip codes (family members, or persons residing in the same residence may use the same bill for verification).
- 3) Your order of preference for the announced slate of candidates. List your preferred candidates first, followed by your second choice, etc.
 - a. You may provide any commentary on the suitability of each candidate in this section. Commentary should be whatever you feel might better inform the Crown in Their decision

Absentee ballots are to be mailed by U. S. Postal Service to the address specified by the Crown and must be received before the published date.

POLLING METHOD 2 – Polling via Post **For use when Polling will take place via US Post.**

This method is more expensive and should be only chosen after careful consideration. Factors to be considered before selecting this method include but are not limited to:

- 1) The Barony involved requests that the polling be via post. This request must be conveyed to the Crown and the Seneschal via either a petition by the Baron & Baroness or by a petition from all the greater officers of the Barony, or by a petition from one third or more of the members of the Barony.
- 2) The Seneschal, in consultation with the Crown, determines that the kingdom and baronial event calendars do not offer a suitable official SCA event at which to hold a polling of the barony. Usually this will be due to the timing of the events and a desire to have successors named prior to the expiration of the term of the current nobles.

Should Polling via Post be the method chosen to conduct the opinion polling; the barony being polled will bear the costs of conducting said polling. These costs include but may not be limited to postage, envelopes and other miscellaneous office supplies required.

The process of Polling via Post is:

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- 1) The Baronial seneschal will cause the postmark deadline of the polling to be published in the Baronial newsletter.
- 2) The Kingdom Seneschal or their deputy designated to administer the polling will send the polling to the address of record for every paid member of the Society residing within the established borders of the Barony.
- 3) The Kingdom Seneschal will provide a list of all persons receiving the polling to the Crown, or Their representative, for the purpose of validation of the returned polling.
- 4) All polling responses will be sent directly to the Crown, or Their representative, by the published date.
- 5) Should the Crown designate a representative to receive the responses, said representative will tabulate the responses and present a report of the results to the Crown on a mutually agreed to time table. The exact form and content of the report will be mutually agreed to by the Crown and their representative. At anytime, the Crown may require a complete set of all responses for their records.