



Guide to the Government: **Jovian Senate**

A Department of History Project

Part 1: What is the Senate?

The Jovian Senate is the people's branch of the Kingdom of Jupiter. It is the prime legislator of Jupiter (the King and National Policy Council (NPC) have some legislative power). The Senate is created by Article 3 in the Constitution.

Part 2: How does a person become a Senator?

Senators are elected in a general election every quarter. Each Senator is elected at large. It is tradition that if there are no challengers all Senators keep their seats. There is one Senator from Wynbrook.

Part 3: How does the Senate meet?

The President, Vice President or if none are available the King can call a meeting. At least three senators must be present. The meeting can take place in Skype, Google Hangouts, or in person. The official meeting place for in person meetings of the Senate is Assembly Hall in the Royal House, but meetings can happen anywhere. All Senators must be notified three days prior to the meeting.

Part 4: What does the Senate decide on?

The Senate can vote on

- Bills, Acts, and other laws
- Proclamations or the official opinion of the Kingdom
- Senate Interior Bills (SIB)
- During the first meeting after an election they vote on President.
- Committee assignments
- Can overrule Royal Decrees
- Others

Part 5: How does voting work

Each Senator gets a half of a vote for President to make five total. Any Senator can be nominated by another Senator for President. The past Vice President presides until the new President is elected. On anything else each Senator gets one vote. Due to the possible of a tie the President (or in certain cases the Vice President) has two votes for eleven in total. Any legislation or other (see Part 4) needs a simple majority, or more than fifty percent, of the Senators in attendance. If there is a tie the legislation or other fails.

Part 6: What are abstentions?

Abstentions are simply a lack of vote; they are not a vote for or against on the vote. There are many ways to do this. The first is just not showing up to the meeting. This is counted as an abstention on every vote. The second is saying abstain or staying quiet during a vote. During ballot voting not casting a ballot and during caucus voting standing behind the vote counter are the other ways to abstain.

Part 7: What are the President's and Vice President's powers?

The President has the following role and responsibilities

- Presiding over the Senate
- Avoiding ties by having two votes during general votes
- Appointing Vice President
- Serving on the Cabinet of the King (non-voting)
- Serving on the NPC

The Vice President takes the role of the President if the President is not present and advise the President.

Part 8: What are committees?

Committees are small groups within the Senate specializing in certain topics. They tend to only be two people, a chair and vice chair. There currently are two, the Senate Committee on Health and Preparedness and Response (SC-HPR) and the Senate Committee on Education and Community Outreach (SC-ED). The Constitution allows the Senate to do this.

Part 9: What does the Seal represent?

The torch in the Great Seal of the Jovian Senate represent the democracy. It is similar to the Statue of Liberty's torch. There are ten stars around it representing the ten Senators. The President is the dark blue and the Vice President is the light blue.

This was created to help Senators, citizens, and not citizens understand how the Jovian Senate functions.

Published on April 21, 2017