

**Constitution of the**  
**Midwest State of the**  
**Junior State of America**

**Preamble**

We, the members of the Midwest State of the Junior State of America, In order to form a more perfect Midwest Junior State program, achieve high standards of citizenship, increase student understanding of democratic processes, develop responsibility in the individual, and promote involvement in our democracy, do hereby ordain and establish this Constitution of the Midwest State of the Junior State of America.

**Article I**

- Section 1.** This organization shall be called the Midwest State of the Junior State of America and shall exist as an autonomous division of the Junior State of America (J.S.A.).
- Section 2.** The jurisdictions of the Midwest Junior State shall include the states of Illinois, Indiana (all chapters west of Indianapolis), Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.
- Section 3.** A Junior State chapter shall be formed in the Midwest Junior State when a minimum of eight (8) students of a respective high school pay their annual national membership tax and their chapter constitution has been approved by the Midwest Governor. Each chapter shall have a sovereign government, subject only to the State government, the national government, and school rules, that shall not deny the members thereof a republican form of government.
- Section 4.** The Midwest Junior State shall grant membership to any high school student who has paid the Junior State's annual national membership tax and is a member of an official chapter. A high school student is defined as an individual in grades nine through twelve.
- Section 5.** The Midwest Junior State shall have the power to divide itself as it sees fit. Such divisions shall be known as regions and may be formed when regional boundaries and their proposed constitution are approved both by a two-thirds vote of the Council of Chapter Presidents and the Midwest Governor.

**Article II**

- Section 1.** The legislative powers of the Midwest Junior State shall be vested in the Council of Chapter Presidents.
- Section 2.** Members of the Council of Chapter Presidents shall meet at least twice each year, including meetings at Fall and Spring State.
- Section 3.** The Lieutenant Governor shall serve as the President of the Council and preside over Council meetings, but shall have no vote on any matter before the Council unless that body is equally divided. The council shall also elect a President Pro-Tempore, who shall preside over Council meetings when the Lieutenant Governor is unable to, and a Secretary, who shall be the official record keeper.

**Section 4.** The administrator of the Council shall hold the right to invite special guests to the meeting, such as the Midwest State's Governor, to speak on issues they deem pertinent to the invitee.

**Section 5.** The Governor and Lieutenant Governor jointly, or one-half of the total membership of the Council, may convene a special meeting of the Council of Chapter Presidents.

### **Article III**

**Section 1.** The Council of Chapter Presidents shall have the power to enact any resolution, bill, Constitutional amendment, et cetera, which it feels is fitting and appropriate for the Midwest Junior State.

**Section 2.** All Midwest State bylaws must be in the form of a bill, and before any bill becomes a bylaw it shall have to first pass the Council by a majority vote, unless otherwise specified, and be signed by the Governor.

**Section 3.** The Governor shall have the power to veto any bill, resolution, Constitutional amendment, et cetera. passed by the Council and send it back with objections.

**Section 4.** If, after reconsideration of legislation vetoed by the Governor, the Council passes said legislation over the Governor's objections with a two-thirds (2/3) vote, the legislation shall be enacted.

**Section 5.** If a bill is neither returned to the Council by the Governor with objections nor signed by the Governor within thirty days of it being presented, the bill shall automatically be enacted.

### **Article IV**

**Section 1.** The Council of Chapter Presidents is further empowered to:

- A) Adopt a Platform of the Midwest State of the Junior State of America. This platform shall be the official stance of the Midwest Junior State on youth-related issues and shall be adopted by a two-thirds vote.
- B) Establish its own rules and procedures in accordance with parliamentary law; punish its members for misbehavior; and, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, expel a member.
- C) Establish and elect additional officers for itself.
- D) Impeach any State officer by a three-fourths (3/4) vote; impeachments shall be ran by the acting president of the Council.
- E) Confirm by a majority vote the Governor's appointments to the Midwest Cabinet.

### **Article V**

**Section 1.** The executive powers of the Midwest Junior State shall be vested in a Governor of the Midwest State of the Junior State of America who, along with the Lieutenant Governor, shall be elected at each Spring State. The terms of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, as for all elected officials, shall begin June 1.

**Section 2.** The elections for all elected officers shall be governed by a Fair Elections Committee (F.E.C.). No member of the Junior State who is a declared candidate for elective office may serve as a member of the F.E.C.

**Section 3.** The Lieutenant Governor shall appoint the Fair Elections Committee with advice from the Council and Governor.

- Section 4.** In addition to the appointees prescribed for in the previous section, the Lieutenant Governor shall serve as a member of the Fair Elections Committee and serve as its chairman. In the event that the Lieutenant Governor is running for an elective office, the Lieutenant Governor shall appoint a F.E.C. Chairman with approval from the Governor or the Council of Chapter Presidents.
- Section 5.** The Fair Elections Committee chairman, or his/her designee, shall moderate all election activities at Spring State.
- Section 6.** Any tax-paid member of the Junior State who resides within the jurisdiction of the Midwest State, and will be in grades nine through twelve during their term of office, shall be eligible for all elective offices.
- Section 7.** In order to be elected to the offices of Governor and Lieutenant Governor, a candidate must receive a majority of all votes cast for the office they are running for.
- Section 8.** Before assuming office, all elected officials shall take the following oath (or affirmation) as administered by the Governor:

*“I, [name of person taking oath], do solemnly swear that I will support and uphold the Constitution of the Midwest State of the Junior State of America; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same as well as To the principles of the Junior State of America; that I take This oath without mental reservation or purpose of evasion; And, that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office upon Which I am about to enter.”*

## **Article VI**

- Section 1.** The Governor may, with the advice and consent of the Council, establish all departments, agencies, offices, et cetera, that they may deem necessary for the proper administration of the State.
- Section 2.** In the event that the office of Governor becomes vacant, the Lieutenant Governor shall attain said office. In the event that the office of Lieutenant Governor becomes vacant, the Governor shall appoint a replacement to said office with the advice and consent of the Council of Chapter Presidents.
- Section 3.** The Governor shall, when wishing to do so or when instructed to do so by a majority of the Council of Chapter Presidents, report to the Legislature concerning the state of the State and its affairs. The Governor may also recommend to the Legislature such measures as he/she shall judge and in the best interest of the State.

## **Article VII**

- Section 1.** This Constitution, or specific parts thereof properly approved, shall take immediate effect upon ratification by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Council and signature by the Midwest Governor.
- Section 2.** Amendments to this Constitution shall take effect upon ratification by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Council of Chapter Presidents.

**Section 3.**

Passed legislation shall be posted in a public arena for the Council once ratified by the Governor of the Midwest State.