

# **The Constitution of the Southeast State of the Junior State of America**

## **Preamble**

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

## **Article I**

Section 1. This organization shall be called the Southeast State of the Junior State of America, may be referred to as the Southeast, the Southeast State, or SES, and shall exist as a self-governing division of the Junior State of America Foundation.

Section 2. The jurisdiction of the Southeast State shall include the US states of Florida, Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina, and Mississippi.

Section 3. The people of the Southeast State may found sovereign chapters.

Section 4. A chapter of the Junior State may be formed in the Southeast State when a minimum of eight (8) students of a respective high school pay their annual national and state taxes and have their constitution approved by the current Southeast State Governor.

Section 5. A Southeast State chapter shall have a sovereign government, subject only to the rules of the Southeast State, National Junior Statesmen of America, and the chapter's respective school.

Section 6. The Southeast State and its chapters shall grant membership to any high school student who pays his or her respective taxes and is a member of a recognized tax-paid chapter. A high school student is hereby defined as an individual currently in grades nine (9) through twelfth grade (12).

Section 7. The Southeast State is granted sovereignty to divide itself as it sees fit. Said divisions are hereby names Regions, and may be formed when and if approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the State Assembly and with the approval of the Governor.

## **Article II**

Section 1. The legislative powers of the Southeast State shall be vested in a State Assembly. The State Assembly will hereby consist of the three most senior cabinet members (as determined by the Southeast Governor) and the Presidents of every tax paid chapter in the Southeast State.

Section 2. The Lieutenant Governor shall serve as the ex officio President of the State Assembly and will preside over sessions. He or she will only be allowed to vote on a matter presented before the Assembly when the legislative body is equally divided. If the Lieutenant Governor is unable or unwilling to perform their duties as President of the State Assembly, the elected Ranking Member will fulfill the duties as President Pro-Tempore. The Assembly must also appoint a Secretary as the official record keeper of Assembly sessions.

Section 3. In the event that a Cabinet Assembly member is unable to fulfill his or her duties, the Southeast Governor shall appoint a replacement to fill said vacancy.

Section 4. The Southeast State Governor and Lieutenant Governor or a majority of members of the State Assembly may convene a special meeting of the State Assembly.

Section 5. The State Assembly shall have the power to enact any legislative order in which a majority vote is required, and the order is deemed beneficial to the wellbeing of the Southeast State.

Section 6. All legislation considered by the Assembly must be in the form of a bill or resolution. To be approved and declared official, said legislation must be passed by a majority vote of the State Assembly and signed into law by the Southeast Governor.

Section 7. The Southeast State Governor shall hereby be granted the authority to veto any piece of legislation approved by the Assembly and then return it with written objections. If the Southeast Governor vetoes the legislation, the Assembly is entitled to pass the legislation regardless, as long as a minimum two-thirds majority vote is achieved. In such a case, the legislation shall be enacted without the signature of the Southeast Governor.

Section 8. The State Assembly is further empowered to:

- Clause A. To Adopt a Political Platform that represents the Southeast State; said Platform shall be the Southeast State's official stance on its given issues, and shall be adopted through a two-thirds (2/3) vote by the assembly.
- Clause B. To establish its own rules and procedures in accordance with parliamentary procedure.
- Clause C. To expel a member of the State Assembly by a two-thirds vote.
- Clause D. To establish and elect additional officers for the Assembly.
- Clause E. Impeach any State elected official by a four-fifths vote.

Section 9. The Southeast Governor shall report to the Assembly on matters concerning the affairs of the Southeast State. The Governor is also hereby granted the power to recommend measures to the Assembly deemed in the best interest of the Southeast State and its people.

## Article III

Section 1. The Executive powers of the Southeast State shall be vested in an elected Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the Southeast State. Said offices shall be elected at each Spring State, and shall begin their terms on the first of June of the given year.

Section 2. The current Lieutenant Governor shall oversee the elections for all elected officers through the Fair Elections Commission, also known as the F.E.C. No member of the Junior State who is a declared candidate for any office may serve as a member of the F.E.C. In the case that the current Lieutenant Governor is running for an elected office, the Chief of Staff shall replace the Lieutenant Governor as the Chairperson of the F.E.C. The Fair Election Commission Chairperson, or their designee, shall moderate all election activities at Spring State.

Section 3. Any tax-paid member of the Southeast Junior State who, at the time of the election resides in the Southeast State, and will be in grades ten (10) through twelve (12) during their office term, shall be eligible for all elected offices.

Section 4. In order to be elected to the offices of Governor or Lieutenant Governor, a candidate must receive a simple majority of all votes cast for the office they are running for.

Section 5. Before assuming office, all elected officials shall take the following oath as administered by the Fair Election Chairperson:

*“I, [state your name], do solemnly swear that I will support and uphold  
the Constitution of the Southeast State of the Junior State of America;  
That I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same,  
as well as the principles of the Junior State of America;  
That I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of  
evasion, and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I  
am about to enter.”*

Section 6. The elected Southeast Governor is hereby granted full jurisdiction to establish any and all departments, agencies and offices deemed necessary for the proper administration of the Southeast State. The Governor’s collective Executive Branch shall be known as known as the Southeast State Cabinet.

Section 8. In the event that the office of Governor becomes vacant, the Lieutenant Governor shall fill said vacancy. In the event that the office of Lieutenant Governor becomes vacant, the Chief of Staff will replace said office as interim Lieutenant Governor until a Governor appointed candidate is approved by a majority vote of the State Assembly.

## **Article IV**

Section 1. This Constitution, and specific provisions thereof properly approved shall take immediate effect upon ratification by a two-thirds majority vote of the Southeast State Assembly and the signature of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, the Chief of Staff and the Speaker of the Assembly.

Section 2. Any and all amendments to this Constitution shall take effect upon the ratification by a three-fourths vote of the Southeast State Assembly.

Ratified on:

November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013 by Governor Raymond Rif, Lieutenant Governor Kenny Kent and the Southeast State Assembly before all Southeast State delegates at Fall State.