



Middle Kingdom Policy for Baronial Polling:

Approved by TRM's Brannos and Rebecca

(Effective Jan-05)

Citations:

Corpora V.A.1.: "The Crown shall appoint a territorial Baron and/or Baroness according to the laws and customs of the kingdom when a branch is granted baronial status, or whenever a new Baron and/or Baroness is required. The barony's opinion on the matter must be requested and received in writing, and the appointments must not be substantively opposed by the populace of the barony. Territorial Barons and Baronesses are officers and must maintain appropriate membership status."

Middle Kingdom Law XV-100: "A letter of request from the populace and polling information from the Kingdom Seneschal's office shall be forwarded to the Crown for consideration of any appointment of a Territorial Baron and Baroness. The letter and polling must reflect the consensus of the members of the Society within the proposed Barony. The populace of a Barony and the resigning Baron/Baroness (if a Baron and Baroness are currently in place) shall in this way advise the Crown regarding the appointment of a new Baron/Baroness. Consideration of the letter and polling requires that the selection of the Baron and Baroness must not be substantively opposed by members resident in the Barony."

Middle Kingdom Law XV-200: "Pursuant to these considerations, the Crown shall appoint as Baron and/or Baroness those individual(s) deemed most fit to represent the Royal presence in the Barony."

Understanding the Law:

Simply put, the Crown is required to obtain written council from the paid members of the Barony. By corporate definition, 'paid members of the Barony' are those members who appear in the corporate database as residing within the zip codes that define the territory the Barony is responsible for. There are no specific requirements on what form that council must take save that it must be in writing. Subsequent to the required council and barring any 'substantive' opposition to a candidate, a candidate for Baron/Baroness may be appointed at the will of the Crown.

Polling Process:

1. When it becomes necessary for a Barony to select a new Baron/Baroness the group's Seneschal will, in writing, contact the Kingdom Seneschal's Office (Group Transition's Deputy) and notify that office of the need.
- 2: The Group Transition's Deputy will, by e-mail or post, notify the Kingdom Seneschal and the Crown of the pending action.
- 3: The Group Transition's Office will then contact the group's seneschal and determine a time, not to exceed 30 days, for those interested in becoming Baron and/or Baroness to submit their intentions in writing to the group's seneschal. Letters of intent will be accompanied by proof of membership.
 - 3a: The Transitions Deputy will coordinate with the group's seneschal to determine the zip codes of the area claimed by the group so that mailing labels for the paid members of the group can be obtained from Society.

3b: During this 30 day period, the Group Transition's Office will contact the corporate offices and obtain mailing labels for the paid members of the Barony. The Group Transition's Office will coordinate with the group seneschal and the Editor of the Pale and ensure that the next edition of the Pale carries 'official notification' to the populace that a Baronial Transition in Barony "X" will be taking place.

4: At the end of the submissions period the group's Seneschal will forward to the Group Transition's Office a list of all those who had given Letters of Intent and will attest that the candidates meet Society requirements to hold that office as set forth in Corpora and in Kingdom Law.

5: A copy of a standard poll will be prepared listing the names of the candidates and sent to each paid member of the Barony. A sample poll is attached.

5a: The poll shall contain, at a minimum, the following:

- A: The name of the Barony being polled
- B: A list of the candidates
- C: A method for indicating preference/opinion
- D: A space for comment
- E: A statement of the purpose of the poll
- F: A clearly printed 'return address' and the closing date of the poll

5b: Returned polls must contain the following to be considered valid:

- A: The name, address and membership number of the member.
- B: The signature of the member

6: The Group Transition's Deputy shall also prepare and forward to the group seneschal a copy of the poll that contains all of the information contained in paragraph 5a but distinct from that poll in form sufficient to be readily identified as a 'non-member poll'. These polls will be available to any who ask for them whether they reside inside or outside of the barony. These polls will be made available to any who ask for them. Electronic copies of these polls will be available at www.midrealm.org/seneschallorum/sheneschal.html in a clearly marked area of the web site. Copies may also be obtained by an individual sending a SASE and a request to the Group Transitions Office.

6a: Returned 'non-member' polls must contain the following to be considered valid:

- A: The name, address and signature of the sender
- B: The group and region of the sender

7: At the closing date of the poll the Group Transitions Officer will tabulate the returned polls and submit this information to the Crown and the Kingdom Seneschal. The original of the polls will be sent to the Kingdom Seneschal for review of any written comments and forwarded to the Crown for their review of the written comments. Polls will be tabulated by:

- A: Paid members within the barony
- B: Other council

Tabulation will include an average of the 'desirability number' for each candidate/pair of candidates. Tabulation will be separated by those 'members of the society within the barony' and all other council received.

8: Based on the Crown's good judgment and the council received, the Crown will then make their appointment.

SAMPLE POLL

Baronial Poll for the Barony of _____

In accordance with Corpora V.A.1., Middle Kingdom Law XV-100 and current Kingdom Policy, the council of the members of the society residing within the boundaries of the barony is being sought regarding the baronial transition currently underway. Please indicate your choices on this poll and return it prior to the established closing date for this polling. Space is provided below for any additional comments you may have.

This poll will close on: _____ (date)

Candidates: (Please indicate how well you feel each candidate would represent the Crown and your Barony. Circle one number for each candidate/pair of candidates)

	<u>High</u>		<u>Low</u>		
Candidate 1:	5	4	3	2	1
Candidate 2:	5	4	3	2	1
Candidate 3:	5	4	3	2	1
Candidate 4:	5	4	3	2	1
Candidate 5:	5	4	3	2	1
Candidate 6:	5	4	3	2	1
Candidate 7:	5	4	3	2	1

Comments: _____

SCA Name: _____ (MKA): _____

Address: _____

Member #: _____ Signature: _____

(Polls not returned will be considered to be an 'abstention' by the member.)

SAMPLE POLL

Baronial Poll for the Barony of _____

As the Crown of the Middle Kingdom wishes the widest possible council on matters relating to the Kingdom, the council of any who may have council of value is solicited on the matter of this Baronial Poll. Please indicate your choices on this poll and return it prior to the established closing date for this polling. Space is provided below for any additional comments you may have.

This poll will close on: _____ (date)

Candidates: (Please indicate how well you feel each candidate would represent the Crown and your Barony. Circle one number for each candidate/pair of candidates)

	<u>High</u>				<u>Low</u>
Candidate 1:	5	4	3	2	1
Candidate 2:	5	4	3	2	1
Candidate 3:	5	4	3	2	1
Candidate 4:	5	4	3	2	1
Candidate 5:	5	4	3	2	1
Candidate 6:	5	4	3	2	1
Candidate 7:	5	4	3	2	1

Comments: _____

SCA Name: _____ (MKA): _____

Address: _____

Group you participate in: _____ Region: _____

Member #: _____ Signature: _____

(If you are not a 'paid member of the Society' leave the 'Member #' field blank.)