

## Ramshaven Baronial selection procedure

### Preamble

When one or more new Baronial Nobles need to be selected in the Barony of Ramshaven, the populace of the Barony will be polled, and the Crown will invest a fitting candidate or set of candidates.

### Before Selection Process Begins

Prior to announcing their intent to step down, the Baronial Nobles shall consult with the Crown and Kingdom Seneschal to determine a timeline for the succession process.

### Announcement – Intent to Start Baronial Selection Procedure

When our existing Baronial Nobles have announced their intent to step down during Kingdom court, an existing solitary Baronial Noble seeks to add a partner, or the Crown instructs the Barony to start the selection procedure, the selection process will begin.

### Timeline

When possible, efforts should be made to ensure that the Baronial Selection Process will be completed within the deciding Crown's reign. The Crown will consult with the new Heirs to arrange for investiture during their reign.

The selection process, previously agreed upon by the Crown, Kingdom Seneschal, and current Baronial Nobles, will be announced in a kingdom court, and the important dates laid out in advance of the process will be announced on the Baronial website, printed in the Tidings, and in any other applicable official venues.

### Candidate Application Process

When a new Baronial Noble or Nobles are being chosen, there will be a two-month period for the candidates to apply to the Baronial Seneschal (or their designated replacement if they are a candidate, at the discretion of the Kingdom Seneschal). They must be a paid member of the Society in good standing, at least 18 years of age, and must meet any further requirements set out in Kingdom law and Corpora. Along with their Letter of Intent, candidates must also include:

Proof of current SCA membership  
Proof of age (Government ID)

After the application period is over, the Crown will be consulted by the Baronial Seneschal or designate to determine which candidates are acceptable to them. The Kingdom Seneschal will also be consulted to determine that all candidates meet the requirements of Corpora and Kingdom Law.

### Deputy or Interim Seneschal (if required)

If the Baronial Seneschal is considered as a candidate, they will step aside from their office, and a deputy or interim seneschal will administer the Barony until the end of the procedure at the discretion of the Kingdom Seneschal. Approved candidates will be announced by the Crown at their discretion.

### Candidate Meetings

Each Canton will hold a Candidates Meeting in consultation with the Baronial Seneschal or designate and the candidates, at which time the candidates will answer questions from the populace. The Canton Seneschals, or another canton officer, will facilitate the Candidates Meeting. Then a Polling will take place, in accordance with Kingdom Law, at each such meeting. The Baronial Seneschal or designate will run the polling process.

### Voting Eligibility

To participate in the baronial polling, individuals must be a member of the Barony (residence within the borders of the Barony or at the discretion of the Baronial Seneschal or designate), and if they wish to be counted as a paid member of the Society they must prove that by showing a membership card. Voters must be at least 12 years of age.

### Polling – In Person

Blank polling forms will be numbered but not tracked or correspond to specific members of the populace. The Baronial Seneschal or designate will keep a tally of who has returned a poll and whether they are paid members or not. Separate polling forms will be provided to those who are Society members and those who are not. Members will be required to show their membership card in order to receive a Member polling form.

Each polling form will list the nominated candidates to be ranked numerically (i.e., "1", "2", "3", etc), with "1" being the most preferred choice, and higher numbers being less preferred choices.

All efforts must be made to ensure that ballots filled out in private are anonymous and do not connect the voters to any check in sheets or ballots.

At the end of polling, all ballots will be collected by the Baronial Seneschal or designate. The envelope will be sealed and signed by the Baronial Seneschal or designate and at least one other officer. These envelopes will be kept secure by the Baronial Seneschal or designate until all polling is completed in the Barony. The envelopes will only be opened at the time of the tally of the poll.

### “Spoiled” Ballots

Polls that are not filled out completely, and with/or without unique sequential ranks for all the candidates will be considered spoiled and not counted.

### Single Candidate

If only one candidate is participating in the selection, the poll will be a simple vote of confidence of "0" for confidence and/or support, or "1" for no confidence or support (following the same kind of process used for multiple candidates -- the closer the score is to 0, the more approved the candidate is.

### Voting Outside of a Candidate Meeting

Members that cannot appear at any of the Polling meetings may request a ballot from the Baronial Seneschal or designate, and return it in a sealed signed envelope. This will be mailed to members requesting a poll form at the expense of the Barony and will include a pre-paid return envelope. Polls must be returned to the Baronial Seneschal or designate no later than three days after the last Candidate's meeting in order to be counted. Proof of membership must also be included with the ballot to be counted as a 'Member' vote. Electronic Polling is not an option at this time.

### Tallying Polls

Tallying shall be done in accordance with Kingdom General Operating Policy, section 5.3.

### Announcement and Succession

After considering the results of the poll, the Crown shall select from the list of candidates a choice not substantively opposed by the populace, and meets the requirements of Corpora and kingdom law. They will then notify all the candidates of their decision privately, and publicly announce their intent to invest the polled candidates of their choice into the Baronial seats. If the Crown's chosen candidates for the baronial office hold a position disallowed by a territorial baronial noble, they will step down from that office. The Crown's choice for the baronial office will be invested in a kingdom court of their choosing.