



Conducting a Baronial Polling or Polling of Confidence

1 Rules and Guidance:

- 1.1 It is the responsibility of the Baronial Seneschal to fully explore and understand the Governing Documents, Atlantian Law and Seneschal Policy as pertains to conducting a polling. If in conflict, this document is superseded by the current Governing Documents and Kingdom Law.
- 1.2 Baronial Pollings are those pollings which provide the Crown with the feedback of the members of the Barony concerning the proposed candidates for the Landed Baronage of the Barony in question.
- 1.3 A Polling of Confidence is a polling to provide the Crown with the feedback of the members of the Barony concerning the performance of current Baronage who desire to continue for a second term of office.
- 1.4 “Member of the Barony” is defined as SCA membership as determined by a member list provided by the Society for Creative Anachronism corporate office for the zip codes designated as belonging to the Barony within the Atlantian database.
- 1.5 Nonmembers residing within the barony or interested parties and officers residing outside the specified zip codes may provide written commentary to the Crown but may not receive a polling letter. The Crown may make individual determinations as to the weight placed on non-member or non-resident commentary.
- 1.6 Pollings will be conducted by the Baronial Seneschal under the guidance of the Kingdom Seneschal or Designee unless the Baronial Seneschal is a candidate on the polling. In that circumstance the polling will be conducted by the Regional Deputy Kingdom Seneschal or other Designee as determined by the Kingdom Seneschal.
- 1.7 The exact timing of pollings is the purview of the Royalty who will be making the decision on the polling. Guidelines within this policy regarding the timing of pollings are for general purposes only and do not supercede the wishes of the Crown or Atlantian law.
- 1.8 The results of the polling will be announced by the deciding Royalty. Generally, the seneschal will be notified after the Crown or Heirs have notified the Baronage and any candidates on the polling of the result. If you have not heard within two weeks of the end of the polling, it is acceptable to inquire as to an approximate announcement date.



2 Procedure for a Baronial Polling:

- 2.1 Approximately six months prior to the proposed Investiture Date, the seneschal should discuss the transition of office with the current Baronage as well as a tentative timetable including publication of notice of the upcoming transition in the Baronial newsletter.
 - 2.1.1 A list of proposed candidates by nomination, letter of intent or other local traditions should be initiated by publication in the newsletter or solicitation at a baronial meeting.
 - 2.1.2 Candidates must be SCA members and residents within the zip codes of the Barony
 - 2.1.3 Candidates must be acceptable to the Crown.
- 2.2 At approximately four-five months prior to the proposed Investiture, the Seneschal will contact the Crown to provide input on the timeline for the polling. Email is acceptable if agreeable to the Crown. Include the following information:
 - 2.2.1 Desired Investiture date and any restrictions pertinent to the use of alternative dates.
 - 2.2.2 Publication dates and deadlines for the Baronial newsletter.
 - 2.2.3 Any timing needs for candidate selection or publication of letters of intent as determined by branch tradition.
 - 2.2.4 The list of proposed Baronial Candidates.
- 2.3 The Crown will determine the dates of the polling and will determine whether the polling will be decided by themselves or Their Heirs. This decision will determine the return address on the polling letters. If the Royalty do not reside at the same residence, ask for the specific address desired for return of the polling. Note: The Crown decides when they will receive pollings...the seneschal can advise of special circumstances but should remain respectful of the position of the Crown and their myriad responsibilities.
- 2.4 Publish the dates of the polling in the next available Baronial newsletter with a statement such as: "The polling for the next Baronage of the Barony of _____ will be mailed out the ____ week of _____ with a due date back to the Crown (or Heirs) of _____. If you are an SCA member living within the zip codes of the Barony and do not receive a polling letter please contact _____, Baronial Seneschal at _____." Notice of Pollings **MUST** be published in the newsletter prior to the polling regardless of whether or not the dates were discussed in another forum.
- 2.5 Approximately ten to 14 days before the proposed mailing date, obtain an exact list of the Barony zip codes from the Atlantian database on the seneschal website. Do not alter the list or combine zip codes into new inclusive ranges.
- 2.6 Contact the corporate SCA office (email contact is available from the Kingdom Seneschal) and request a zip code sorted member list (hard copy or electronic) and

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- either a) labels or b) an electronic mail merge file of the members for the enclosed zip code list (see 2.5).
- 2.6.1 The membership list is generally for the entire kingdom. Once received print and highlight the Baronial zips as described in the database.
- 2.6.2 Membership lists, labels and mail merge files are considered “stale” and no longer may be used after ten days from the date they are received.
- 2.7 Prepare and stuff envelopes in preparation for receipt of the labels or mail merge.
- 2.7.1 Using the template letter provided on the seneschal’s web page, fill in the appropriate information and print sufficient copies (on specific colored paper if requested by the Crown).
- 2.7.2 Many branches prepare and include SASE (preaddressed stamped envelopes) addressed to the Royal couple who will receive the polling as this generally has a positive effect on the number and turnaround of polling returns.
- 2.8 When the labels or mail merge file are received, use the membership list to verify that a label is generated for each member within the Barony.
- 2.8.1 Label the prepared envelopes and mail each of them by traditional mail.
- 2.8.2 All pollings must be mailed. Hand delivery is not permitted.
- 2.9 Send a copy of the polling letter and the highlighted member list to the Royalty who will receive the polling for use in collation of the returns.

3 Pollings of Confidence

- 3.1 Pollings of Confidence are conducted in the manner as in section 2 above with the following exceptions.
- 3.1.1 Use the Polling of Confidence template letter.
- 3.1.2 There will only be one candidate on the letter, the sitting Baronage.
- 3.2 Begin the polling process approximately one to two months earlier to allow for a subsequent Baronial Polling if indicated.
- 3.2.1 Timing will be restricted by such factors as the will of the Crown and the timing of Atlantian Crown Tournament if the polling will be timed in such a way as to cross into the next reign or if a subsequent Baronial polling may occur in the next reign..

Signature on file
Seneschal, Kingdom of Atlantia

January 4, 2004
Date