

## **Baronial Selection Procedure - The Barony of Ramshaven**

The traditional term for a Baron and Baroness is typically five years although shorter terms may occur. This selection process is initiated at the discretion of the Baron and Baroness. In conjunction with the Baronial Seneschal, the Baron and Baroness will develop a time line of the process, a polling strategy, and a communications strategy, as well as assemble a Selection Committee. The selection process includes the following steps:

1. Official announcement in Court
2. Request for letters of Intent
3. Review of applicants by Their Royal Majesties
4. Official introduction of Candidates in Court
5. Candidates' meetings
6. Polling
7. Counting of the ballots
8. Advising Their Royal Majesties of outcome of poll
9. Decision by Their Royal Majesties
10. Notifying candidates of Their Majesties' decision
11. Announcement of Heirs in Court

The Selection Committee shall be composed of the current Baron and Baroness, the Baronial Seneschal and the Kingdom Seneschal. If the Baronial Seneschal is a baronial candidate, a deputy chosen by the Kingdom Seneschal must temporarily replace them in office until the Selection Procedure is completed.

The Request for Letters of Intent shall be published on all email lists within the Barony, as well as on the baronial website and in the Ramshaven Herald newsletter (if time permits). It shall include an explicit deadline for when letters are due to be submitted to the Selection Committee, in care of the Baronial (or Deputy) Seneschal. This deadline may be no less than four weeks from the date the request for Letters of Intent is first published. Letters of Intent should include scans of the candidates' membership cards as well as the candidates' SCA resumes.

Candidate Meetings shall be held in each Canton to allow the members a chance to engage the candidates to aid the members in making their decision. Scheduling of candidate meetings will be at the discretion of the Cantons, in conjunction with the candidates and published in advance. Cantons may opt to amalgamate Candidate Meetings. All candidate meetings are open to everyone and members may attend as many as they choose. Canton polling will occur immediately after members have engaged the candidates, after each Candidate Meeting. Each Candidate Meeting must be scheduled to occur within eight weeks of the initial announcement of the Baronial Selection Policy being initiated in court.

An explanation of how the polling will be conducted shall be handed out and explained before polling begins at each meeting.

Ballots shall list all candidates in alphabetical order by the SCA name.

Next to each candidate on the ballot there will appear underlined spaces for the membership to indicate their score.

The polling in each Canton shall be conducted by the local Seneschal and a member of the Selection Committee. If the local Seneschal is a candidate, a deputy shall be appointed by the Canton to take on this duty. Members must show their membership card and sign into a polling station to ensure that each member is eligible and votes only once. One person, one ballot. Only paid members being over the age of fifteen may vote. There is only one round of polling per Canton. All ballots are put into an envelope that is sealed at the close of the polls. The persons in charge of the polling station will sign the envelope once it is sealed. No tallying is done at this time.

The voting system used shall be as follows:

List the nominated candidates as described above to be ranked numerically (i.e., "1", "2", "3", etc), with "1" being the most preferred choice, and higher numbers being less preferred choices. 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.

Members may register their ballot in advance. To do this members must request a ballot from the Selection Committee, then seal his/her completed ballot in an envelope with his/her name, Canton and membership number/expiry date written on the outside. The envelope is then given to their local Seneschal. The Selection Committee is required to track who requested an advance ballot to ensure that all advanced ballots are included in the final count.

Once all polling stations for all Cantons have been completed tallying may begin. Tallying of the ballots will be conducted by the Selection Committee.

Scores for each candidate are tallied. The overall totals shall be calculated, as well as each candidate's total in each Canton. The results and raw data, shall be presented to Their Majesties.

Their Majesties will inform the candidates of the final decision.

Access to Polling Results shall be sealed and confidential. No member may have access to the results of the poll (including Candidates). No exceptions can be made to this rule. Original ballots will be turned over to Their Majesties for disposal.

Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
King

\_\_\_\_\_  
Queen

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kingdom Seneschal

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date