

REPUBLIC OF SOLMERE

Founded in Liberty, Governed in Law

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOLMERE

The First Governing Document of the Republic

Including the
Bill of Rights of the Republic of Solmere

Ratified by the Founding Council

Preamble

We, the people of the Republic of Solmere, in order to establish a just and lasting government, secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, promote the general welfare, and ensure domestic tranquility, do hereby ordain and establish these Articles of Incorporation as the first and foundational governing document of the Republic of Solmere.

These Articles shall serve as the supreme law of the Republic until such time as a permanent Constitution is ratified through a Constitutional Convention called by the Founding Council. Until that moment, this document alone shall govern the structure, powers, and rights of the Republic.

This Republic is founded upon the principles that all persons are created equal; that they are endowed with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; and that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed.

Part I — The Founding Council

Article 1.1 — Establishment

The Founding Council of the Republic of Solmere is hereby established as the supreme governing body of the Republic and its first governing institution. The Founding Council is composed of the individuals who founded the Republic of Solmere — those persons who, by their effort, vision, and sacrifice, brought the Republic into being and ratified these Articles as its first governing document. As the authors of these Articles, the Council exercises executive, legislative, and judicial authority for the Republic until it determines that conditions are ripe for a Constitutional Convention and a permanent constitutional government is subsequently seated and operational.

Article 1.2 — Composition

The Founding Council shall consist of no fewer than five (5) and no more than fifteen (15) members, each representing a founding state or territory of the Republic. As the founders of the Republic, the initial members of the Founding Council are not subject to age, citizenship, or residency requirements; they serve by virtue of their role in establishing the Republic of Solmere. Any person subsequently admitted to the Founding Council by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the existing members shall likewise serve without age or citizenship prerequisites, provided the Council determines them fit to serve.

Article 1.3 — Authority of the Founding Council

The Founding Council shall hold authority to:

- (a) Draft, amend, and ratify governing documents of the Republic, including these Articles;
- (b) Establish departments, ministries, and offices of government;
- (c) Levy taxes and appropriate funds for the operation of the Republic;
- (d) Conduct foreign affairs and enter into treaties;
- (e) Raise and regulate an armed force for the defense of the Republic;

- (f) Admit new states into the Republic upon a two-thirds supermajority vote;
- (g) Call a Constitutional Convention when it deems the Republic ready for permanent constitutional governance.

Article 1.4 — Checks on Council Power

To prevent the undue concentration of authority in any individual or faction within the Founding Council, the following safeguards are hereby established:

No single member of the Founding Council shall hold more than one portfolio of executive authority simultaneously, except as provided for the President of the Republic under Article 1.4A. No member shall serve as both a presiding officer and as an executor of the same matter before the Council, except that the President, as both Council Chair and head of government, shall exercise the authorities described in Article 1.4A.

All decisions of the Founding Council pertaining to legislation, taxation, treaty ratification, admission of states, and the calling of a Constitutional Convention shall require a vote of no fewer than two-thirds (2/3) of the full Council membership. Procedural and administrative matters may be decided by simple majority.

No member of the Founding Council shall serve as the sole arbiter in any matter in which they hold a personal, financial, or political conflict of interest. Any member so conflicted shall recuse themselves and the matter shall be decided by the remaining members.

The Founding Council shall elect, from among its members, a Council Chair who shall serve simultaneously as the President of the Republic of Solmere. The President shall preside over all deliberations of the Founding Council. As Council Chair, the President shall cast no vote in Council proceedings except to break a tie. As President, they shall oversee all operations of the Republic's government, exercise all executive powers of the Republic, and hold the full authorities of the Founding Council as described in Article 1.3. The President shall serve a term of one (1) year and may not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms, after which a new President shall be elected by the Council.

The Founding Council shall maintain full public records of all votes, deliberations, and expenditures, which shall be accessible to any citizen of the Republic upon request.

A Council Oversight Committee, composed of no fewer than three (3) members selected by lot from the full Council, shall review the actions of the executive portfolios on a quarterly basis and shall issue public reports of its findings.

Article 1.4A — The President of the Republic

The President of the Republic of Solmere, serving concurrently as Council Chair, is the head of government and the chief executive of the Republic. The President shall oversee all operations and departments of the Republic's government and holds all executive authorities of the Founding Council as enumerated in Article 1.3.

The President shall hold the following exclusive powers:

- (a) Sign or Veto Legislation: Every law or resolution passed by the Founding Council shall be presented to the President for signature. The President may sign the measure into law or veto it. A veto shall be returned to the Council with the President's written objections within ten (10) days. A vetoed measure shall not become law unless the Founding Council overrides the veto by a three-fourths (3/4) supermajority vote of the full Council

membership. If the President neither signs nor vetoes a measure within ten (10) days, it shall become law automatically.

- (b) Executive Orders: The President may issue Executive Orders to direct the operations of the Republic's government, manage executive departments, and implement policies within the scope of existing law. An Executive Order shall carry the force of law unless overturned by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Founding Council or found to be in conflict with these Articles. Executive Orders shall be published in the public record and shall take effect upon issuance unless they specify a later effective date.
- (c) Oversight of Government: The President shall direct and oversee all ministries, departments, and offices of the Republic, and shall ensure that the laws and resolutions of the Founding Council are faithfully executed throughout the Republic.

Article 1.5 — Constitutional Convention

These Articles of Incorporation are the first and only governing document of the Republic of Solmere. When the Founding Council, by a two-thirds (2/3) supermajority vote, determines that the Republic is sufficiently established and that the people are prepared for permanent constitutional governance, it shall call a Constitutional Convention.

The Constitutional Convention shall be composed of delegates elected by the citizens of each state, with representation proportional to population. The Convention shall be empowered to draft a permanent Constitution for the Republic of Solmere, which shall be submitted to the states for ratification. Upon ratification by three-fourths (3/4) of the states, the permanent Constitution shall supersede these Articles in all matters.

Until the Founding Council calls a Constitutional Convention, these Articles shall remain the supreme and sole governing law of the Republic. The authority of the Founding Council shall not exceed a period of twenty (20) years from the ratification of these Articles without a Convention being called, unless extended by unanimous resolution of the Council and the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the state legislatures. Upon the seating of the permanent constitutional government, the Founding Council shall dissolve and transfer all authorities to the duly established bodies of the Republic.

Part II — Powers Reserved to the States

Article 2.1 — Sovereignty of the States

The Republic of Solmere is a union of sovereign states. Each state retains its own government, constitution, and laws, except where those laws conflict with the supreme law of the Republic as established herein.

Article 2.2 — Reserved Powers

Powers not expressly delegated to the Republic by these Articles, nor prohibited to the states by the laws of the Republic, are reserved to the states or to the people thereof. These reserved powers include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Establishing and administering public education within the state;
- (b) Regulating intrastate commerce and trade;

- (c) Maintaining a state militia for the preservation of internal order, subject to the authority of the Republic in times of national emergency;
- (d) Levying state taxes and appropriating revenues for state purposes;
- (e) Establishing local governments, municipalities, and administrative districts;
- (f) Regulating marriage, property rights, and local civil matters in accordance with the rights guaranteed in Part III of these Articles;
- (g) Enacting laws for the health, safety, and welfare of their residents, provided such laws do not abridge the rights guaranteed herein.

Article 2.3 — Interstate Obligations

Every state shall give full faith and credit to the public acts, records, and judicial proceedings of every other state. Citizens of each state shall be entitled to all the privileges and immunities of citizens in the several states. No state shall enter into any treaty, alliance, or confederation with a foreign power, nor coin money, nor pass any bill of attainder or ex post facto law.

Article 2.4 — Supremacy of Republic Law

These Articles of Incorporation, the laws of the Republic made pursuant hereto, and all treaties entered into by the Republic shall be the supreme law of the land. Judges and officials in every state shall be bound thereby, any state law or constitution notwithstanding. Upon the ratification of a permanent Constitution, that document shall assume this supremacy in place of these Articles.

Part II-A — The House of States

Article 2A.1 — Establishment of the House of States

A House of States may be established as an advisory and legislative body representing the sovereign states of the Republic. The House of States is not mandatory at the founding of the Republic; it shall be created only when its establishment is deemed necessary and beneficial by any one of the three parties described in Article 2A.2. Once established, the House of States shall serve as the primary legislative voice of the states in the governance of the Republic.

Article 2A.2 — Authorization to Establish

The House of States may be established by any one of the following means:

- (a) By a two-thirds (2/3) supermajority vote of the Founding Council, acting on its own determination that the House of States would serve the interests of the Republic;
- (b) By a petition of a majority of the recognized sovereign states of the Republic, transmitted formally to the Founding Council, requesting the establishment of the House of States; or
- (c) By a petition of the people, bearing the verified signatures of no fewer than ten percent (10%) of the registered citizens of the Republic across a majority of the states, calling upon the Founding Council to establish the House of States.

Upon receipt of a valid petition under subsection (b) or (c), the Founding Council shall convene within sixty (60) days to consider the matter, and shall establish the House of States unless it

determines, by unanimous vote, that doing so would be contrary to the immediate security or welfare of the Republic, in which case it shall publish its reasons and reconsider within one (1) year.

Article 2A.3 — Composition and Representation

Each sovereign state of the Republic shall be entitled to equal representation in the House of States, with each state selecting no fewer than one (1) and no more than three (3) delegates as determined by the enabling resolution of the Founding Council or, once established, by the rules of the House itself. Delegates shall be selected by each state according to its own laws and procedures. Each state shall cast one (1) collective vote in all matters before the House of States, regardless of the number of delegates it sends.

Article 2A.4 — Powers of the House of States

Upon its establishment, the House of States shall hold the following powers, subject to the overriding authority of the Founding Council during the period these Articles are in effect:

- (a) To propose legislation to the Founding Council on any matter affecting the states or the Republic;
- (b) To review and issue advisory opinions on proposed laws, treaties, and executive actions of the Founding Council that would materially affect the states;
- (c) To petition the Founding Council to call a Constitutional Convention on behalf of the states; and
- (d) To serve as a permanent representative body for the states in the governance of the Republic, ensuring that the voice of each state is heard at the national level.

Upon the ratification of a permanent Constitution of the Republic, the House of States shall continue in existence and its powers shall be defined and expanded by that Constitution, provided that it shall not be dissolved except by the express will of three-fourths (3/4) of the states.

Part III — Bill of Rights of the Republic of Solmere

The following rights and protections are hereby guaranteed to all citizens and persons within the jurisdiction of the Republic of Solmere. These rights are established as part of these founding Articles and shall remain in full force under any future Constitution adopted by the Republic. No future governing document, law, or decree of the Founding Council shall abridge, suspend, or nullify these rights except as expressly permitted herein.

These rights are not exhaustive. The Founding Council acknowledges that the enumeration of specific rights herein does not diminish or deny other rights inherent to the people. When a permanent Constitution is ratified, these rights shall be carried forward and may be expanded but shall not be diminished.

Amendment One (1) - Freedom of Expression and Religion

The Founding Council and the Republic of Solmere shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; nor shall it abridge the freedom of speech, freedom of the press, or the right of citizens to peaceably assemble and petition the Republic of Solmere for a redress of grievances.

Amendment Two (2) - Right to Keep and Bear Arms

A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.

Amendment Three (3) - Quartering of Armed Forces

No member of the armed forces shall, in peacetime, be quartered in any house without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war except as prescribed by law enacted by the Founding Council.

Amendment Four (4) - Searches and Seizures

Citizens shall be secure in their persons, homes, papers, and possessions against unreasonable searches and seizures. No warrants shall issue except upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and shall particularly describe the place to be searched and the persons or things to be seized.

Amendment Five (5) - Criminal Proceedings and Property Rights

No person shall be held to answer for a capital or otherwise serious crime except on a presentment or indictment by a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia during active service in time of war or public danger. No person shall be subjected to double jeopardy, compelled to be a witness against themselves, or deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law. Private property shall not be taken for public use without just compensation.

Amendment Six (6) - Right to a Fair Trial

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall have the right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury of the state and district where the crime occurred. They shall be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation, confronted with witnesses against them, allowed to obtain witnesses in their favor, and have the assistance of counsel for their defense.

Amendment Seven (7) - Civil Trial by Jury

In civil suits at common law where the value in controversy exceeds a minimum threshold established by the Founding Council or, upon its establishment, the permanent legislature, the right to a trial by jury shall be preserved. Facts tried by a jury shall not be re-examined by any court except according to the rules of common law.

Amendment Eight (8) - Bail, Fines, and Punishments

Excessive bail shall not be required, excessive fines shall not be imposed, nor cruel or unusual punishments inflicted.

Amendment Nine (9) - Retained Rights

The enumeration of certain rights in these Articles shall not be construed to deny or disparage other rights retained by the people. This principle shall apply equally under any future Constitution of the Republic.

Amendment Ten (10) - Powers Reserved to States and People

Powers not delegated to the Republic of Solmere by these Articles, nor prohibited to the states, are reserved to the states or to the people. This reservation of powers shall be preserved in any permanent Constitution adopted by the Republic.

Amendment Eleven (11) - Equality and Anti-Discrimination

Slavery and involuntary servitude shall not exist in the Republic of Solmere, except as lawful punishment for a crime duly convicted. All people are equal under the law. Neither the Republic, the Founding Council, any state, company, nor entity within its jurisdiction shall discriminate against any person based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, or age in employment, compensation, or any terms or conditions of work.

Amendment Twelve (12) - Citizenship and Equal Protection

All persons born or naturalized in the Republic of Solmere, and subject to its jurisdiction, are citizens of Solmere and of the state in which they reside. No state shall make or enforce laws that abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens, deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process, or deny any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Ratification

These Articles of Incorporation, together with the Bill of Rights set forth in Part III, are hereby ratified by the Founding Council of the Republic of Solmere as the first and supreme governing document of the Republic. They shall take effect immediately upon the affirmative signatures of a two-thirds majority of the Founding Council members.

This document shall govern the Republic until such time as the Founding Council calls a Constitutional Convention and a permanent Constitution is duly ratified by the states. At that time, all authority established herein shall transfer to the bodies created by that Constitution.

Signed and Ratified by the Founding Council of the Republic of Solmere

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Council Member Signatures