Standing, Serving, and Keeping Time:

♦ The Office and Calendar Constitution ♦

Parts One and Two recovered two parts of the same design. (1) The economic system explained how property is conveyed, how an Enterprise Owner is appointed with an Owner's Draw for self and family, and how residual is "kept" to build the community's capital. (2) The spatial and governance system explained the mile-square PLOT, the twenty-four public buildings, the four courts, and the 1,920 seats those courts contain. What remains is the question, "For whom were those seats created?" A seat is only a place. Someone must enter it, serve for a limited time, leave without being forced out, and be replaced without a contest. The whole NewVistas community must also keep time in a way that prevents one office from taking over another.

That is what Part Three explains and three key documents guide this part:

(1) STAND says that each person holds one office and does not take over another.

(2) ROTATE explains how presiding changes hands and how one seat is renewed at a time.

(3) CHOSEN explains how an open seat is filled without letting one person or group control the final choice.

Other sources help set the age range for service, the length of a term, and the rhythm of the working year. Read by the same rule used earlier that demanded exact words, exact numbers, and exact relationships, these sources show how offices are held and how NewVistas keeps time.

The method stays the same. Some claims come directly from the documents. Some follow from the numbers and relationships already shown. Others are careful reconstructions, where the documents set the boundaries and the community fills in the remaining practical detail. The translation rule also stays the same as important words are first read in their older sense and only then stated in modern terms. As throughout this book, this part does not make any claim about where the documents came from or what status they have. It reads them as a design specification for a viable community.

The Source Panels

The documents used in this part appear below and on the next page in the same source-panel format used earlier. Each panel gives the recorder, date, place, and citation so the reconstruction can be checked against the record. The STAND and ROTATE DOCS are from *The Joseph Smith Papers* and include scannable QR code links. The CHOSEN DOC is different: it comes from the apostolic replacement pattern in Acts 1 and is shown from the New Testament manuscript tradition rather than from *The Joseph Smith Papers.*

DOC 7: STAND

Recorded, 22-23 September 1832. Hand of Frederick G. Williams. Kirtland, Ohio. josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/revelation-22-23-september-1832-dc-84.

"Therefore, let every man **stand in his own office**, and labor in his own calling; and let not the head say unto the feet it hath no need of the feet."

****

The keystone text is supported by another text in the same register:

"let every man learn his duty, and to **act in the office** in which he is appointed in all diligence … he that is slothful shall not be counted worthy **to stand**."

DOC 8: ROTATE

Discourse, 27 February 1835-A, as reported by Oliver Cowdery, p. 87. Hand of Warren A. Cowdery. Kirtland, Ohio. josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/discourse-27-february-1835-a-as-reported-by-oliver-cowdery/2

The instruction to the newly chosen Twelve: that whenever they assemble they should appoint one of their number to preside over the meeting, and one or more to keep a record of the proceedings (a clerk), and that every decision so recorded stands as a settled item — presiding and record-keeping turning over from meeting to meeting rather than fixed in one person.

DOC 9: CHOSEN

Acts 1:15-26 Imaged from Codex Laudianus (6th c.; Gregory-Aland 08); https://collections.csntm.org.

The apostles fill the seat left by Judas in four ordered steps: (1) they fix the qualification for the office, (2) they reduce to two qualified candidates (Barsabas and Matthias), (3) they pray, and (4) they cast the lot. This is so that the final choice falls to witnessed random draw and not to the body's own preference: a Codex pattern, not a *Joseph Smith Papers* document.

Four features of a NewVistas community public service rest on identified original documents:

(1) The four-year term is the community's measured rounding of the roughly three-year ministry of John the Baptist and of Jesus of Nazareth (Third Gospel; the earliest witness is Papyrus 4, 3rd c.; www.collections.csntm.org).

(2) The exit on the departing president's birthday, together with the ceiling of seventy-two, comes from "the age of man" stated at josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/book-of-mormon-1830/516; (AGE record).

(3) The manner of filling the open seat — qualification, narrowing, and a final choice left witnessed random draw — follows the replacement of Judas by Matthias (see DOC 9 – CHOSEN).

(4) The weekly turning of who presides and who clerks follows the discourse of 27 February 1835 reported by Oliver Cowdery (see DOC 8 – ROTATE).

One structural feature has original sources in the constitution of Virginia and New York: the rule that a fixed body of four releases exactly one seat each year, with the most senior member departing, so that the presidency is renewed continuously and is never replaced as a whole — and that the opening stagger, deciding which seat turns first, is settled by random witnessed draw. Until now, annual single-seat rotation could be presented only as an arithmetic by-product of a four-year term divided among four seats. These sources supply a documentary basis for the staggering rule itself.

The principle matters because it solves two opposite dangers at once: (1) If members serve indefinitely, a body hardens into prestige and possession; and (2) if the whole body turns over together, it loses continuity and institutional memory and becomes vulnerable to a single captured election. Replacing one of four each year keeps three experienced presidents in place at all times while guaranteeing renewal. Joined to the birthday trigger already established, it removes any synchronized election season for advocacy to capture, and joined to the lot it keeps the staggering itself free of human contrivance.

A second, smaller set of documents supports the age window, the term, and the rotation, and is gathered with the additional documents of Part One. The are shown on the next pages.

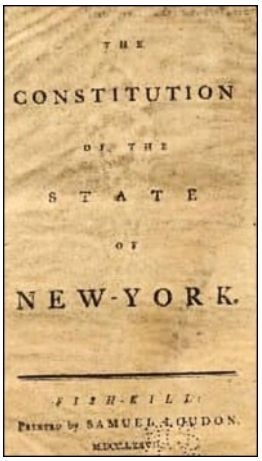
ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS:

♦ Annual Single-Seat Replacement ♦

Drafted principally by John Jay and adopted at Kingston on 20 April 1777, the New York Constitution establishes a senate of twenty-four members and, in a single clause, the whole of the rotation that NewVistas uses. The senators are elected for four years; and, immediately after the first election, they be divided by lot into four classes, six in each class. The seats of the first class are vacated at the end of the first year, the second class at the end of the second year, and so on, after which one quarter of the senate — six seats — is renewed every year, each senator serving a full four-year term.

Stripped of scale, this is the presidency of four exactly: a four-year term, a four-class structure, one seat of four released each year, and the opening stagger assigned by lot. The New York senate is simply the presidency-of-four rotation written at six times its scale; indeed its membership of twenty-four is itself six presidencies of four. For the single closest original to the NewVistas rule, this is it.*

*Constitution of New York (1777), senate provisions. On Jay's authorship and the Kingston adoption of 20 April 1777; https://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/ny01.aspl.


THE
CONSTITUTION
OF THE
STATE
OF
NEW-YORK.

"That the members of the senate be elected for four years; and, immediately after the first election, they be divided by lot into four classes, six in each class, and numbered one, two, three, and four; that the seats of the members of the first class shall be vacated at the expiration of the first year, the second class the second year, and so on continually."

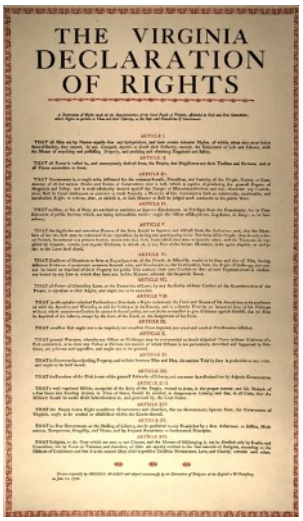
Constitution of New York, 1777

Virginia's was the first permanent state constitution, with George Mason as its principal author, adopted by the Fifth Virginia Convention on 29 June 1776 — ten months before New York. Its senate of twenty-four carries the rotation rule in plain words:

> *"To keep up this Assembly by rotation, the districts shall be equally divided into four classes and numbered by lot."*

The working effect was that one quarter of the senate was renewed in each year of the four-year cycle. This establishes that the four-class, one-quarter-yearly, stagger-by-lot design stood at the very first state constitution, not as a later refinement.

https://encyclopediavirginia.org/primary-documents/the-constitution-of-virginia-1776/


THE VIRGINIA
DECLARATION
OF RIGHTS

"The other shall be called The Senate, and consist of twenty-four members ... To keep up this Assembly by rotation, the districts shall be equally divided into four classes and numbered by lot."

Constitution of Virginia, 1776

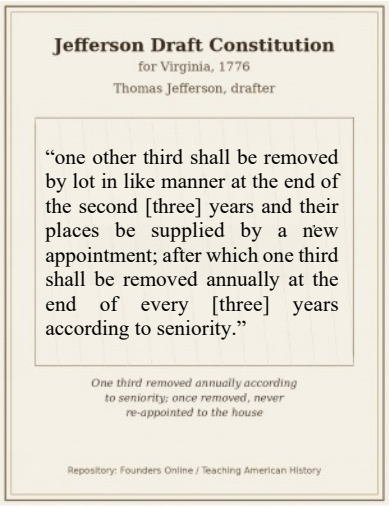
The "Senior Member Exits"

Thomas Jefferson's draft supplies the one element the adopted constitutions leave implicit: that the member who departs each year is the senior one. After the initial removals are set by lot, the draft provides that one third shall be removed annually … according to seniority, and that when once removed, they shall be for ever incapable of being re-appointed. Two correspondences follow:

(1) Removal "according to seniority" is the conceptual twin of the NewVistas rule that the senior president is the one released — in the community fixed precisely by his birthday at the end of the four-year term.

(2) The bar on re-appointment is rotation in office in its purest founding form. For a named founder stating that the most senior member rotates out each year, this draft is the source.*

*Draft Constitution for Virginia (1776); Thomas Jefferson author, adopted by the Fifth Virginia Convention, 29 June 1776. Text and commentary at Encyclopedia Virginia and the Library of Virginia. (https://teachingamericanhistory.org/document/draft-constitution-for-virginia/)



"One third ... shall be removed by lot ... after which one third shall be removed annually at the end of every term according to seniority. When once removed, they shall be for ever incapable of being re-appointed to that house."

Thomas Jefferson,
Draft Constitution for Virginia, 1776

When the Federal Convention took up the United States Senate, Nathaniel Gorham* of Massachusetts first proposed the very numbers NewVistas uses — a four-year term with one-fourth of the members replaced each year — drawing directly on the state precedents above, before the Convention settled instead on a six-year term with one-third renewed every second year. The debate is preserved in Madison's notes for 25-26 June 1787. The Convention's final choice changed the fraction but kept the staggering principle: the Senate became, in its own constitutional language, a continuing body never wholly replaced at once.

NewVistas deliberately retains the earlier one-fourth-yearly cadence rather than the federal one-third-every-two-years, because the birthday trigger already in its canon dissolves the one drawback of annual rotation that troubled the founders — a fixed, predictable election date. Tying each release to a birthday scatters the openings unpredictably across the calendar and leaves no single election season to be organized or captured.

*Gorham's proposal of a four-year term with one-fourth replaced annually, and the move to six years with one-third every second year, appear in Madison's notes for 25–26 June 1787; see M. Farrand, ed., The Records of the Federal Convention of 1787, vol. 1 (Yale, 1911).



(https://oll.libertyfund.org/titles/farrand-the-records-of-the-federal-convention-of-1787-vol-1)

Specification	Source	Date	Where to view
Four-year term; four classes; one quarter replaced each year; opening stagger by lot	Constitution of New York, senate clause	Sunday 20 April 1777	https://avalon.law.yale.edu/
Assembly "kept up by rotation"; four classes numbered by lot; one quarter yearly	Constitution of Virginia (1776), senate clause	29 June 1776	https://encyclopediavirginia.org/ (primary documents)
Annual removal of the most senior member; no re-appointment	Thomas Jefferson, Draft Constitution for Virginia	June 1776	https://founders.archives.gov/; teachingamericanhistory.org/
Four-year term with one-fourth replaced each year (proposed)	Madison's notes, Federal Convention	25-26 June 1787	Library of Congress; https://avalon.law.yale.edu/

Standing in One's Own Office

The office constitution begins with a simple rule from STAND: each person stands in that person's own office, does that person's own work, and does not treat another office as unnecessary. This is more than a lesson about humility. It is a boundary rule. To stand in an office means to hold that office, and not another one. To labor in a calling means to do that work without taking over someone else's. The body image makes the same point. A body fails when one part decides another part is not needed and tries to absorb its work. STAND says that every office has its own real duty, its own limits, and its own place in the whole body.

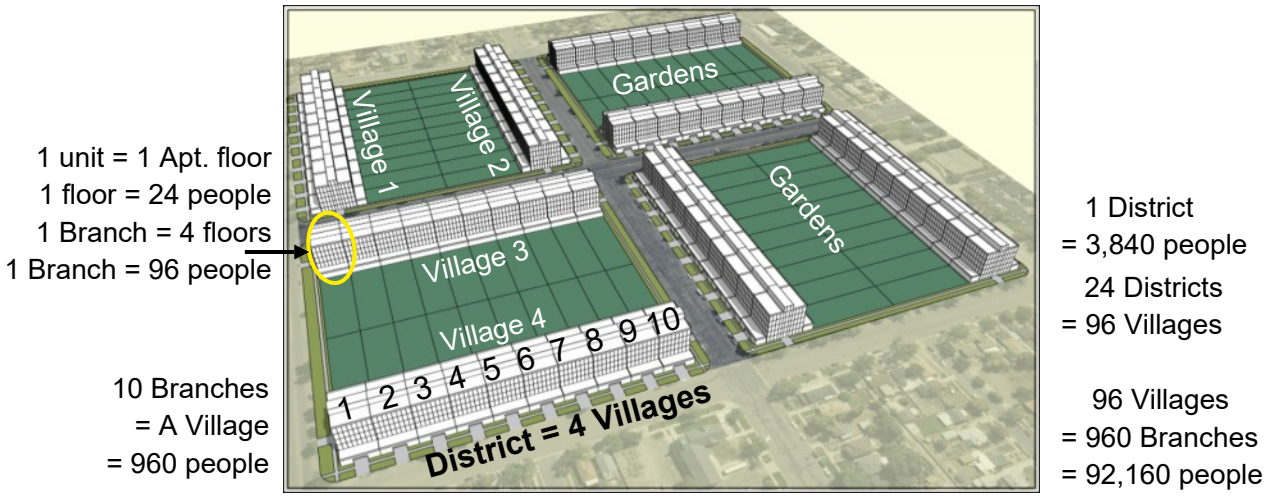
Other texts make the same rule clearer. The LAW DOC uses the same word for economic life when it says a participant is to *"stand in the place of thy Stewardship"* (QR Code). Standing in an office and standing in a "stewardship" are parallel ideas: one belongs to governance, and the other belongs to production. In both cases, the person is appointed to a defined place and must learn the duty of that place. A person is worthy to stand in an office by learning and doing that office well, not by rank, seniority, or collecting more offices.

The structure makes the rule practical. In the sequence recovered earlier, an office is not just a title. It is a specific seat in one of the four courts, a place in a presidency of four, and a place in one or more Councils of 12. So the office has a location as well as a duty. This is where the ROOMS DOC connects the office rule to the building. ROOMS says there must be a physical room "for all these offices" when the house is built. That command supports the first office layer of each public building, closing each building at eighty offices and the whole community at 1,920 offices. STAND says a person holds one office and no other; ROOMS gives that office a wall, a door, and a number. Because each office has its own room, it cannot be merged into another office, and one person cannot silently hold a second office. The building itself helps enforce the one-office rule.

The meeting rooms reinforce the same idea. Each office is one half of a larger school or council room. When the dividing wall opens, the paired space can hold a Council of 12. Councils and presidencies meet in the room of the person who is presiding at that meeting. A half-room works for a president meeting with a small group; the full room works when the paired space opens for the larger council. Because the meeting place changes with the presider, no room becomes the permanent head office of the body. The physical layout supports both bounded office and rotating presiding.

The Captains of 10

Before a person can hold office, that person must first enter the community. Entry is not based on chance, wealth, or anonymous access. It is sponsored, tiered, and personal at the smallest working level. The pattern comes from the ancient organization of a people into tens, fifties, hundreds, and thousands, which this community translates into the unit, group, branch, and village (supporting



NewVistas Housing Layout, Patterned after the PLOT

canonical and rabbinic texts are found in 4QpaleoExod and the Leningrad Codex; the Babylonian Talmud (Sanhedrin 18a). In this reconstruction, the smallest accountable group is the ten, led by a capable participant-servant who recruits new participants and helps them and their dependents learn the system.

That participant-servant is the captain of 10. Each residential floor of an apartment building forms one unit around one captain's participants — usually seven to twelve—centering on ten—which gives the office its name. The captain keeps an office on that floor, stays in regular contact with the unit, and gathers the participants for a brief structured meeting each working morning during operational weeks. Each building has four residential floors above the commercial first floor, so it has four captains: one anchored in each segmented identity: (A) partnered men, (B) partnered women, (C) single women, and (D) single men. Each captain recruits across all four segments, so each floor is mixed in population but clear in leadership. Together the four captains form the branch presidency, a presidency of four serving the building's roughly ninety-six permanent residents. The captain of 10 is where the constitutional system becomes personal by being a participant-leader who recruits, counts, guides, and also serves as a president in the apartment branch.

Entry in NewVistas proceeds through governed tiers. A sponsored short visit is the first true tier and requires only enough proof to identify the visitor and confirm the sponsor. A longer guest stay requires fuller proof and uses a rentable private suite, but it still conveys no property and creates no membership. An applicant seeking an enterprise provides the fullest pre-agreement proof by submitting to qualification testing, and by obtaining a preliminary Life Plan and a business-plan. At that point, the important credential is productive capability, not inherited wealth. Only the final tier is irreversible: the participant conveys all property into community title by the Deed *"which cannot be broken."* Everything before that step is reversible and conveys nothing.

Two features of this ladder matter for the office constitution. First, no one is admitted beyond public transit without a sponsor. The invitation carries a member's name and standing accountability, so entry is backed by a person rather than treated as an anonymous gate. Second, greater access requires greater proof, not a larger personal file. The entrant proves that a threshold has been met, and the community receives only that proof. It does not build a central dossier to purge if the person stops or leaves. The captain of 10 carries the human side of this gate by recruiting, counting, and connecting people to the right bureaus, so the smallest accountable unit is also the first point of welcome.

Qualification, the Random Draw, and Succession

This section moves from the process of entering the community to the process of filling a public office. The captain of 10 explains how a person is welcomed, counted, connected and processed to a

small unit. The CHOSEN DOC explains the process to what happens when an office seat in the community becomes available to be filled. These two processes are connected, but they are not the same. Entering the community is about membership and being an Enterprise Owner. Filling an office is about public service. Keeping them separate prevents a sponsor from appointing someone to office and prevents office rules from controlling ordinary entry into the community.

When an office seat opens, the CHOSEN DOC provides that blueprint using a four-step process. First, the body states what the office requires. Second, it identifies people who meet those requirements. Third, it narrows that qualified group to two finalists. Fourth, it performs a random witnessed draw, so the final choice is not controlled by preference, faction, or campaigning. Each step matters, and the system protects the office from becoming a contest for power.

The first step is qualification. This is a filter, not a race. A candidate must be willing to serve, understand the office, and meet the published standards for that office. From a qualified group of about ten, the serving presidents call candidates according to those standards. This recognizes readiness without creating a public campaign. The serving presidents then narrow the group first to four and then to two. They must use the published qualifications, not popularity, organized support, or personal claims to the seat. A person moves forward because that person is qualified to serve in the office.

The casting of the lot is the center of the CHOSEN DOC. After two qualified finalists remain, the departing president performs a witnessed random draw. The draw does not replace qualification. It comes only after the candidates have already been tested and narrowed. Its purpose is to keep the final decision out of anyone's control. It prevents king-making, protects the dignity of the person not chosen, and keeps the office from becoming a prize won by influence. The body can decide who is ready to serve, but it does not claim perfect knowledge of who should finally receive the seat. That is the lesson of Acts 1: people set the qualifications and narrow the field; the lot settles the final choice.

The final step is confirmation by the people served. Every replacement must be sustained by secret ballot from more than 50% of the Enterprise Owners and dependents over eighteen whom that president serves. The vote is completed through a secure mobile application within one week, so the new president can take office on the departing president's birthday. For that reason, the process begins three months before that birthday, leaving time for qualification, narrowing, the random draw, and confirmation. The rule is simple: a person is confirmed by the people that person serves. A captain of 10 is confirmed by the unit; a village presidency by its village; a district presidency by its district; and bureau presidencies, because they serve the whole community, by all adults. Because every adult is either an Enterprise Owner or a dependent attached to one, every adult has a vote.

Age, Term and Replacement

The ROTATE DOC, together with the age-and-term sources, explains who may serve, how long service lasts, how presiding rotates, and how offices are renewed without disruption. The rules are tied to dated sources, and the age limits are anchored at both the beginning and the end of service.

The service age range is thirty to seventy-two. Thirty comes from the book of Numbers, where full Levitical service begins at that age; the same age also appears in the public lives of Joseph of Egypt, King David and Jesus of Nazareth. Seventy-two comes from the JSP,* where three disciples ask to remain on earth until that age. In this reading, seventy-two marks both the upper limit of public service and the birthday on which release occurs, i.e., "the AGE record." The rule extends the older Hebrew Levitical service range of thirty to fifty to the wider span named in the AGE record just referenced. Modern life expectancy is used only for comparison: the United Nations World Population Prospects 2024 places global life expectancy at birth near seventy-three years, showing that a seventy-two-year ceiling is not outside ordinary human experience. The ceiling is a constitutional service boundary, not a medical claim about how long anyone should live. It applies only to unpaid public offices. Productive Enterprise Owners may begin part-time in the late teenage years and may continue in a lighter form later in life. *josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/book-of-mormon-1830/516.

The four-year term is not stated directly in the documents; it is a careful reconstruction from the

pattern they give. The ministries of John the Baptist and Jesus of Nazareth provide the closest model of limited public service rather than life tenure. NewVistas applies that pattern as a four-year term because four years is long enough to learn an office, complete meaningful work, and be judged by results, but short enough to keep the seat from becoming permanent. Political-science studies by Ernesto Dal Bó and Martín A. Rossi in their paper "Term Length and Political Performance," NBER Working Paper No. W14511, and by Rocío Titiunik support this as a matter of institutional prudence, not as proof from the texts: longer terms can improve continuity and sustained effort when compared with very short cycles. In short, the age limits come from the Hebrew record cited from surviving copies of the Dead Sea Scrolls fragments of Numbers, and the Leningrad Codex as the earliest complete witness; the ministry pattern supplies the service model; and the four-year term is the community's disciplined application of that model, with one seat in each presidency of four renewed each year.

The renewal rule is the clearest point where ROTATE and early civic examples line up. A presidency of four does not start and end all at once. At the beginning, the four seats are assigned by lot to four yearly classes: one seat opens in the first year, one in the second, one in the third, and one in the fourth. After that first setup, every seat serves a full four-year term. Using the lot keeps the founding group from choosing who receives the shorter or longer first terms. Once the stagger is in place, the senior seat is released each year on that president's birthday. Because birthdays fall throughout the year, there is no election season, no synchronized campaign cycle, and no single moment when organized pressure can capture many offices at once. Three experienced presidents remain while one new president enters, giving the body continuity without letting it become entrenched.

Early American senate designs support this kind of rotation as a civic precedent. The New York Constitution of 1777, Article XI, created a four-year senate and divided its first members by lot into four classes, so one quarter of the seats opened each year. That is the same four-year, four-class, one-seat-per-year pattern used here on a smaller scale. Virginia's Constitution of 1776 used the same stagger-by-lot idea, and Jefferson's June 1776 draft for Virginia stated that the departing member was the senior one and was not immediately reappointed. Madison's notes for June 26, 1787, record a similar four-year proposal in which one quarter of the seats would renew each year, before the federal Senate adopted a different arrangement. These sources do not control the community constitution. They simply show that staggered rotation was a known early republican way to preserve continuity while preventing permanent office-holding. NewVistas keeps that one-quarter-each-year rhythm and reduces the risk of fixed election dates by tying release to birthdays: four serve together, one seat opens each year, three retain memory, and no office becomes permanent possession.

ROTATE also governs how a serving body runs its meetings. Presiding and record-keeping move from person to person instead of belonging permanently to one officer, and each recorded decision stands as settled. In the building layout, the body meets in the current presider's room, so no room becomes the permanent head office. Public service is unpaid and unreimbursed, and no office receives emergency power to stop rotation or take over another office under pressure. If death, resignation, removal, or permanent incapacity opens a seat outside the normal cycle, the same succession process fills it. The replacement serves a full four-year term and is released on that replacement's own birthday. There is no acting office, because the three remaining presidents continue the work until the new president enters the rotation.

The 13-Week Calendar

A rotating office needs a clear calendar. If different people are going to take turns presiding, and if no office is allowed to control another office's time, then the schedule cannot be informal. The calendar becomes part of the constitution. It does this by giving the whole community one civic calendar for the year.

The year is divided into four quarters, and each quarter lasts thirteen weeks (see p. 86). The first twelve weeks are normal operating weeks. During those weeks, the community does its regular work, instruction, and governance. The thirteenth week is different. It is reserved for conferences, reviews, certifications, audits, and restoration work that involves the whole community. The ordinary workweek runs Monday through Thursday. Friday,

Saturday, and Sunday are protected from ordinary work and meeting demands.

Meetings also follow a fixed pattern: presidencies meet on Mondays; Councils of 12 meet on Thursdays; Segment presidencies of three (AAA, BBB, etc.) meet every fourth Tuesday; and bureau coordination councils meet every fourth Wednesday. The monthly meetings are for bodies that coordinate broad work rather than handle daily contact.

Rotating Leadership Schedule

This regular schedule makes rotating leadership possible. In a twelve-week operating quarter, a presidency of four that meets every week gives each member three turns to preside. A presidency of three that meets once a month gives each member one turn. A Council of 12 also gives each member one turn during the quarter. In this way, the calendar spreads responsibility evenly. No one person controls the meeting process for long. In many organizations, the person who controls the schedule controls much of the organization. Here, the meeting days are fixed, Friday is always protected, and the thirteenth week interrupts the normal rhythm. Time itself is treated like bounded office space: no body can make everyone else permanently available.

The Solar Year Alignment

The calendar also needs a simple way to stay aligned with the solar year. The community follows the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) week-year rule. In some years, the ISO calendar has a Week 53. This happens when January 1 falls on a Thursday, or on a Wednesday in a Gregorian leap year. When that happens, Week 53 becomes a Leap Week. It sits outside the four quarters, between the fourth quarter of one year and the first quarter of the next. This keeps the correction in one whole week instead of scattering extra days through the year. As a result, the 13-week quarters and weekday meeting pattern stay intact. Years such as 2026, 2032, and 2037 include this Leap Week.

The four-day workweek does not mean that essential services stop. Some work must continue all the time, including health coverage, nursing, outside grazing, mining, drilling, and utilities. Those duties use a separate contractor schedule so the ordinary calendar can remain protected. The model uses three eight-hour shifts every day, with workers serving one week on and one week off. During the active week, a worker carries fifty-six hours. During the next week, that worker carries none. Across the two-week cycle, the typical load is twenty-eight hours per week. Workers are paid for the responsibility they carry, not under ordinary hourly-employment logic. By limiting continuous-duty work to specific essential areas, the system protects necessary services without letting around-the-clock work spread into every office.

To recap, the core structure is:

- 4 quarters per year;
- 13 weeks per quarter;
- 12 operational weeks;
- 1 conference/restoration week;
- 4-day work week;
- Friday, Saturday, and Sunday normally free from standard production schedules;
- Leap week inserted only during ISO week 53 years.

The exact leap-week rule must be stated constitutionally and mathematically so there is never ambiguity. A NewVistas constitutional form states:

> *"A NewVistas year shall consist of four quarters of thirteen weeks each. Whenever the ISO week calendar contains a Week 53, that week shall be observed as a Leap Week outside the quarters and shall occur between the fourth quarter of one year and the first quarter of the next."*

This removes uncertainty. The community does not independently calculate solar correction. Instead, it inherits the already-solved astronomical synchronization logic embedded within the ISO week-year system.

Status, Dependency and Succession by Sale

This section is about everyday membership, not just meetings. It explains three basic things: (1) how people describe their status, (2) how everyone is connected to an Enterprise Owner, and (3) how an enterprise can pass to someone else. The key point is simple: a Business Enterprise is transferred by sale, not inherited automatically.

A person declares status for themselves. The community does not assign it or investigate it. When someone applies, and again each quarter through the Life Plan, the person states the status used for seating: partnered or single, and female or male.

Same-sex partnering is recognized, and the declaration can be updated when it changes. This declaration has one job to place the person in one of the four Segment co-ordinate courts for advocacy and seating. Partners keep separate enterprises, leases, and offices; sitting together in governance carries no property or lease consequence. If a serving president's declaration changes, the president stays in the same seat until the normal birthday release. The seat belongs to the office, not to the person's circumstances at the moment.

The ownership rule is just as straightforward. Each adult has one enterprise. Some minors, starting around age sixteen, may also hold a smaller enterprise under the same "Owner's Draw-and-residual" rule. Each enterprise has one owner, and each lease, custody arrangement, credit line, and business belongs to a single Enterprise Owner. Partners each hold their own enterprise, so if one partner dies, leaves, or fails, the other's business continues. Everyone in the community is connected to an enterprise, either as an Enterprise Owner or as a dependent. That is why every adult has a vote under the rule described earlier.

Enterprise Owner Succession

Succession is simple in principle: an enterprise is not inherited. It is sold. When a child becomes an adult, the child does not automatically receive a parent's enterprise. The child may apply like anyone else, qualify by ability, and enter the community agreement. If not, nothing passes, because the enterprise was never privately given to the child. If a child or another person is going to take over a business, the normal sale process applies. The successor first works as a full-time sub-contractor, learns the business, proves capability over two quarters, and then buys the business at a value the two owners negotiate, grounded in a market analysis of the business's probable future net after the Owner's Draw, the community 10% fee, and taxes. The same rule applies when an owner dies. The business may be sold to a qualified successor, but the Business Enterprise itself is not inherited.

This approach protects two things at once. First, the community retains title to the underlying assets, so a sale does not convert community property into private wealth. Second, a proven successor can take over a functioning business. The successor's plan is valued through the transaction: rather than paying from personal savings or a lump sum, the buyer pays from the continuing business's after-tax profit above the "Owner's Draw." The price is negotiated, not fixed by a NewVistas bylaw. Payments are made through a purchase annuity — an agreed share of after-tax profit above the Owner's Draw over an agreed term—so the seller is paid only as the buyer keeps the business healthy. A separate transition or consulting agreement will usually support training and handoff. Over time, an Enterprise Owner may enter a business, build it, sell it to a proven successor, assist with the transition, and then move into the next Business Enterprise or Life Plan season. Each cycle should leave behind a stronger business and more kept residual.

Payments to a selling Enterprise Owner remain governed while the seller stays in the community. Purchase-annuity payments, consulting income, and revenue from any later business enterprises are treated as income under the current Life Plan and Business Enterprise Plan. After expenses, taxes, lease costs, consulting costs, and approved obligations are paid, the remaining funds may create after-tax profit and residual. Even then, the Owner's personal income remains capped at the Life Plan "Owner's Draw." Amounts above their draw become governed credit for future draws or residual under the approved plan. If the seller leaves the community after the sale, the "owner draw" limit no longer applies because the person is outside the Life Plan process. Any remaining annuity then shifts into the governed exit stream. Bureau 5 oversees the Life Plan, the Owner's Draw, seller credit, and continuity standards. Bureau 19 oversees the Business Enterprise Plan, sale transfer, buyer viability, and purchase-annuity method. Both bureaus involve accounting, market, underwriting, legal, audit, and metrics review as needed.

So the sale gives an Enterprise Owner flexibility, but not private estate wealth. A successful business can create transferable value, and that value can help them move into a next season. But the Life Plan still governs their personal draw while they remain in the community, and the underlying community assets stay under community title. The same "Owner's Draw-and-residual" rule also applies to death, dependent support, gifts, and inheritance, as shown in the examples above.

Completing the Convergence

The documentary convergence is now complete. The same method that closed each building at eighty offices and the community at 1,920 seats by using exact words, exact numbers, and exact dependencies read until they meet, also resolves the questions those seats raised.

The STAND DOC fixes bounded office and, through the ROOMS DOC, ties each office to a physical room that cannot be merged or doubled.

The captains of ten explain how a person enters and is welcomed at the smallest accountable scale.

The CHOSEN DOC fixes succession through qualification, narrowing, the casting of lots, and confirmation by those served.

The ROTATE DOC, together with the age-and-term sources, fixes the "thirty-to-seventy-two" service window, the four-year term, the stagger by lot, and the senior-seat release on a birthday, matching the rotation principle seen in early American senate designs at larger scale. The 13-week calendar gives rotation a working rhythm and prevents any office from controlling the community's time. Finally, the membership lifecycle fixes status, dependency, and succession by sale rather than inheritance.

All ten convergent documents have now been used. Together they disclose one coherent sequence:

- Offices are bounded;
- Authority rotates;
- Renewal happens continuously rather than all at once;
- Time is patterned;
- Membership is governed across the whole life cycle.

This book remains a foundation rather than an encyclopedia. The detailed constitutional papers, ready-made enterprise business plans, building and fuel-cell specifications, vendor network, and founder timeline remain at newvistas.com as the living companion to the printed argument. But the argument itself closes here, where the final three documents complete the constitution begun by the first seven.



Elimination of the automobile frees up streets to serve as pleasant open areas for walking and public interaction in a NewVistas community, as well as additional productive food-growing.