



## **BASIC LAW OF THE NEW RICHMOND REPUBLIC**

*as enacted by the Provisional People's Government, the Blair Mountain League, and the New Richmonder working people on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August 2021 (1 RY) and amended on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February 2022 (1 RY)*

The New Virginian July Socialist Revolution, carried out by the working people of the Commonwealth of New Virginia under the leadership of the 29th of July Movement, was well on its way to liberating those people for whom the Commonwealth seceded. For a time, the marginalized working people were the guiding force in New Virginia, and thereby in the City of New Richmond; however, as has happened in revolutionary states throughout history, the movement for liberation collapsed, and the New Virginian state returned to the old and failed constitutional order. This left the New Richmonder people, who overwhelmingly supported the popular revolution of the 29th of July Movement, without the apparatus of state through which they could forge their own destiny.

Following the principles of the glorious Revolution of the 29th of July Movement, the New Richmonder people – guided by the Blair Mountain League – have reclaimed their lands for the working people. Therefore, the people of New Richmond have come together to enact this Basic Law of the New Richmond Republic to ensure that the reign of the people shall never again be undermined and that the ideal of socialism shall be attained.

***MONTANI SEMPER LIBERI***

## ARTICLE I

### FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE REPUBLIC

1. The New Richmond Republic is a sovereign and independent state and is confirmed to have been from the time of the secession from the Commonwealth of New Virginia on 2 August 2021.
2. The New Richmond Republic is declared to be the successor-in-spirit to the 29<sup>th</sup> of July Movement and the New Virginian July Socialist Revolution.
3. The New Richmonder nation recognizes its unique identity as a people who are wholly Appalachian, New Virginian, and Amatine in heritage, culture, and tradition.
4. The New Richmond Republic is declared to be a republic of the whole people who exercise their power through the people's councils and other organs of State.
5. The New Richmond Republic is firmly dedicated to certain principles which the state shall seek to uphold in all aspects of social and political life:
  - a. Socialism as developed in a practical and realistic way under the ideological, philosophical, and political guidance of the Blair Mountain League.
  - b. Protection and promotion of the Appalachian Culture as found in the Cumberland Mountains region of Eastern Kentucky and Southern West Virginia; as well as the New Virginian and Amatine cultures.
  - c. Defense and refuge for all marginalized and oppressed peoples.
  - d. Opposition to fascism, racism, sexism, xenophobia, homophobia, biphobia, transphobia, queerphobia, religious discrimination, and bigotry of any kind.

## ARTICLE II

### RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE

1. Human dignity is inviolable. To respect and preserve it is the duty of the state.
2. All persons are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law.
3. All persons are entitled to life and the inviolability and sanctity of their person. The freedom of the individual is inviolable, insofar as it does not disturb the freedom of others. No one shall be subjected to torture in any way, shape, or form.
4. All persons are entitled to a public and impartial trial before a jury and to counsel.
5. No one may be held for more than twenty-four hours without appearing before a judge, and no one may be held without evidence.
6. One shall be presumed innocent until proven guilty.
7. Freedom of faith and of conscience is inviolable. The undisturbed practice of religion and the right to propagate religion shall be guaranteed.
8. Every religious denomination shall have the right to manage its own affairs, own, acquire and administer property, movable and immovable, and maintain institutions for religious or charitable purposes, insofar as they are not misused for profitable gains.

9. The right to adequate nutrition is inviolable. All persons are entitled access to clean water and food that adequately meets their specific dietary needs.
10. The freedom of speech and expression is inviolable. Freedom of the press and freedom of reporting by any medium are guaranteed. There shall be no censorship.
11. The right of the people to freely assemble without arms and without prior notification or permission is inviolable.
12. The right to bear arms for the protection of one's life, family or personal property shall not be infringed unless a person has been convicted of a felony, or by a judge on the advice of a physician on the grounds of insanity.
13. All persons have the right to form associations and societies; however, associations whose objects or activities conflict with the principles of the state or criminal laws or which are directed against the constitutional order are prohibited.
14. The right to a workplace established and operated on the principles of workers' democracy, elective and recallable management, fair pay, and fair hours is guaranteed to all workers.
15. The right to petition the Central People's Government and people's councils is guaranteed to everyone regardless of race, ethnic group, class, sexual orientation, sex, gender identity, or religion.
16. The death penalty and corporal punishment are abolished; they cannot be brought back into force.
17. Marriage and the family, being the basic units of society, enjoy the special protection of the state.
18. The state shall ensure that parents shall not be obliged by economic necessity to engage in labor to the neglect of their duties in the home.
19. Marriage shall be defined as a union between two persons of any gender identity who have achieved their eighteenth year of age and who willingly enter into said union.
20. No church may be compelled to perform a marriage which contradicts its religious beliefs.
21. Care and upbringing of children are the natural right of the parents and a duty primarily incumbent on them. The state watches over the performance of this duty.
22. Separation of children from the family against the will of the persons entitled to bring them up may take place only pursuant to a law, if those so entitled fail in their duty or if the children are otherwise threatened with neglect.
23. Illegitimate children shall be provided by legislation with the same opportunities for their physical and spiritual development and their position in society as are enjoyed by legitimate children.
24. Education shall be a right and duty incumbent upon the state.
25. The privacy of letters, posts, and telecommunications shall be inviolable.
26. The right to adequate health care and living standards shall be inviolable and incumbent on the state.
27. The right to work and individual choice of occupation, trade, or profession shall be inviolable.
28. No one may be compelled to perform a particular work.
29. Slavery and wage slavery shall be permanently abolished in the Republic; they cannot be brought back into force.

30. The right to free and public education and access to knowledge shall be protected by the state and is inviolable. The arts and sciences shall enjoy the special protection of the state.
31. Personal ownership of external goods shall be protected by the state. The state accordingly guarantees to pass no law attempting to abolish the right of private ownership, excluding beyond comfort and necessity and in pursuance of exploitation.
32. The state may institute taxes for certain goods and services. The state shall primarily aim to collect taxes in the form of voluntary donations.
33. The cultural heritage of the state, as well as the natural heritage and environment, including those of administrative divisions (particularly the symbols adopted by them), shall enjoy the special protection of the state from corruption and desecration.
34. Freedom of movement from one region to another is inviolable. The state shall make no law abridging this freedom, excluding during times of pandemic or other threat to public wellbeing.
35. Participation and inclusion in civil society is guaranteed to all persons residing in the Republic.
36. The home is protected. Searches may be ordered only by a judge or, in the event of danger in delay, by other organs as provided by law and may be carried out only in the form prescribed by law. Otherwise, this protection may be encroached upon or restricted only to avert a common danger or a mortal danger to individuals, or, pursuant to a law, to prevent imminent danger to public security and order, especially to alleviate the housing shortage, to combat the danger of epidemics or to protect endangered juveniles.
37. New Richmonder citizens may only be deprived of their citizenship or political rights by conviction of a crime by the People's Tribunal or by law.

### ARTICLE III

### PEOPLE'S COUNCILS

1. The people's councils are democratic assemblies which serve as the foundation of state power in the New Richmond Republic.
2. The local people's councils are respectively responsible for the governance of the cities and communes of the Republic.
3. All able and willing members of the Blair Mountain League are entitled to attend, vote, and be heard in sessions of the people's council of their locality.
4. The people's councils shall convene at dates and times decided by a vote thereof.
5. The people's councils possess the supreme authority to designate and elect the officers thereof and of their respective city or commune in accordance with this Basic Law.
6. Council statutes are a form of legislation which are enacted by the people's councils. They have the force of law insofar as they do not contradict this Basic Law or any law of the Central People's Government.

## ARTICLE IV

### CENTRAL PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT

1. The Central People's Government is the New Richmond Republic's national government.
2. The Central People's Government is composed of three organs - the Congress of People's Councils, the Central Executive Committee, and the People's Tribunal – and the office of People's Commissioner of the Republic.

#### *Section 1.*

#### *Congress of People's Councils*

1. The Congress of People's Councils is the supreme organ of state power in the New Richmond Republic. The Congress possesses the supreme legislative power of the Republic and the power to elect and recall all other organs and officers of the Central People's Government.
2. The Congress of People's Councils consists of delegates elected by the people's councils from among their members (or by the equivalent authority within special administrative districts) to represent their locality. Every city is guaranteed two delegates each, and every commune and special administrative district is guaranteed one delegate each.
3. Delegates to the Congress of People's Councils shall serve at the pleasure of the people's councils which elect them.
4. The Congress of People's Councils has the sole authority to enact Acts which are the highest form of law within the Republic under this Basic Law. The Congress may only enact Acts through a vote of at least two-thirds of the whole membership in support.
5. The Congress of People's Councils has the authority to repeal any Decree of the Central Executive Committee by a simple majority vote.
6. The sole authority to declare war is held by the Congress of People's Councils; however, this Basic Law affirms that the Republic is strongly opposed to wars of aggression and shall only go to war to defend its people and lands.
7. The Congress of People's Councils shall convene in ordinary session twice each year – once in the winter and once in the summer. Extraordinary sessions may be called by order of the Central Executive Committee or any people's council.
8. Sessions of the Congress of People's Councils are presided over by the People's Commissioner of the Republic, the Chair of the Central Executive Committee, or the First Justice of the People's Tribunal; whoever is to preside for a particular session is determined by an agreement of the three officers.

#### *Section 2.*

#### *Central Executive Committee*

1. The Central Executive Committee is vested with the executive authority of the state under the supremacy of the Congress of People's Councils.

2. During periods wherein the Congress of People's Councils is not in active session the Central Executive Committee has the authority to enact Decrees, which are laws that have equal authority and force to an Act.
3. The members of the Central Executive Committee are elected by the Congress of People's Councils every year in the summer's ordinary session, or as often as the Congress of People's Councils may vote to recall the sitting Central Executive Committee.
4. In the event of the resignation, incapacity, or death of a member of the Central Executive Committee, the Congress of People's Councils will convene in extraordinary session to elect a replacement.
5. The Congress of People's Councils shall additionally select the Chair of the Central Executive Committee from among the newly elected members of the Central Executive Committee. The Chair presides over and directs the activities of the Committee and its members. The Chair is charged with delivering reports on the activities of the Central Executive Committee to the Congress of People's Councils.
6. The members of the Central Executive Committee are charged with the administration of the Republic's ministries – executive departments tasked with the execution of specific functions of the state. The ministries are:
  - a. the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
  - b. the Ministry of Economic Development and Fiscal Affairs.
  - c. the Ministry of Culture and the Arts.
  - d. the Ministry of Home Affairs.
  - e. the Minister of State Security.
7. The Central Executive Committee shall meet no fewer than once every month. Sessions will be called by the Chair of the Central Executive Committee.

### *Section 3.*

#### *People's Tribunal*

1. The People's Tribunal is vested with the supreme judicial authority of the state under the supremacy of the Congress of People's Councils.
2. The People's Tribunal is presided over by its First Justice who is elected by the Congress of People's Councils for an indefinite term, subject to recall.
3. The First Justice may designate other individuals as Justices of the People's Tribunal with the consent of the Congress of People's Councils.
4. The People's Tribunal hears all civil, criminal, and military cases and trials.
5. A convicted individual has the right to appeal for their case to be held by another Justice of the People's Tribunal or the First Justice; in cases where the First Justice is the only serving Justice of the People's Tribunal, a convicted individual may petition the Congress of People's Councils to have another Justice appointed *ad hoc*.
6. Upon conviction, the First Justice has the authority to sentence a criminal to any punishment permitted by statute for the offenses committed.

*Section 4.*  
*People's Commissioner of the Republic*

1. The People's Commissioner of the Republic – hereinafter referred to as the People's Commissioner – is the head of state of the New Richmond Republic, the representative of the Revolution, and the guarantor of this Basic Law.
2. The Congress of People's Councils elects the People's Commissioner every year in the summer's ordinary session, or in the event of the resignation, incapacity, recall or death of the incumbent.
3. The People's Commissioner countersigns all treaties, declarations of war, and Acts of the Congress of People's Councils, thereby ratifying or approving them.
4. The People's Commissioner is charged with undertaking work to celebrate, publicize, advance, and promote the Republic's cultural and social life, championing the ideals of the Revolution and the principles of the state, and ensuring that this Basic Law is followed in all aspects of state affairs.

**ARTICLE V**  
**ADMINISTRATION OF LAND**

1. The New Richmond Republic consists of the City of New Richmond (that is, the capital city) and the various cities, communes, territories, and special administrative districts.
2. Cities are highly populated regions of the Republic and communes are more sparsely populated regions, both of which are administered by their own people's councils and other elected local officers.
3. Territories are uninhabited regions which are administered directly by the Central People's Government.
4. Special administrative districts are populated or unpopulated regions which are governed in a manner determined by law and which may be designated to serve a particular purpose or function by the Central People's Government.

**ARTICLE VI**  
**RELATIONSHIP OF PARTY AND STATE**

1. The Blair Mountain League, hereinafter referred to as the Party, is the leading force of the Revolution and the development of socialism in the New Richmond Republic. The Party is recognized by this Basic Law as the highest source of leadership in the fields of ideology, philosophy, and political strategy.
2. The Central People's Government is not subordinate to the Party and the Party is not subordinate to the Central People's Government – together, they constitute the two great

elements of the socialist republican system, with the people's councils as the foundation of both elements' authority and legitimacy.

3. Participation in the political life of the Republic is dependent on membership in the Party – as the Party leads in the fields of ideology and philosophy, so the members of the people's councils and Central People's Government should be constituent of and beholden to the Party.

## ARTICLE VII AMENDING THE BASIC LAW

This Basic Law may only be amended by a vote of four-fifths of the Congress of People's Councils and with the consent of the People's Commissioner of the Republic. No amendment may be made to this Basic Law which seeks to alter the fundamental principles of the Republic or the relationship between the Central People's Government and the Party.

*This Basic Law is enacted by the Provisional People's Government, the Blair Mountain League and the New Richmonder working people at the City of New Richmond on this third day of August in the year two-thousand and twenty-one of the Common Era, and in the year of the Revolution the First. In witness whereof, we - the members of the Blair Mountain League - hereby affix our signatures:*

*Brooklyn Hewitt*

*Savannah Wellman*

*H. Riley Hewitt*

*Gaia Pacifice*