

**June 2015**

# **Preßeu Zespenat**

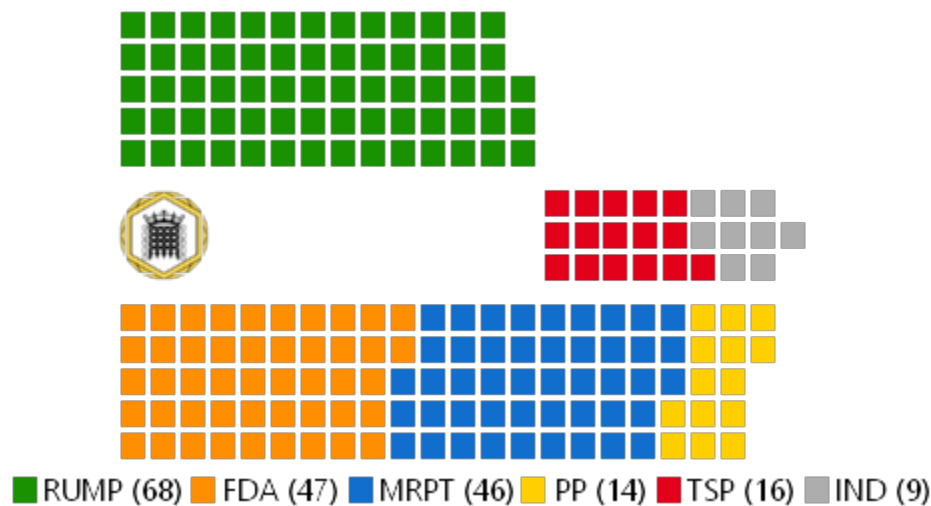
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# Still no new Prime-Minister

By Marti-Pair Furxheir | June 2015



At this time of writing, the election commission hasn't completed it's work even if it's well under way.

As a result, we do not have yet a new prime-minister since the voters didn't elect a majority government.

For those who do not know the results yet, here is the count:

Party	Votes	Actual Seats	Seats With BenArd	
BENARD	1	1.57	2	3
FREEDEM	30	47.24	47	47
MRPT	29	45.67	46	46
NICHOLAS HAYES	4	6.30	6	6
PRESENT - Doesn't count	9			
PROG	9	14.17	13	14
RUMP	43	67.72	68	68
TSP	10	15.75	16	16
VOTE IN - BEN... ARD...	1	1.57	2	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>127 + 9 = 136</b>	<b>200.00</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>200</b>

We currently have 2 seat counts, since until the BenArd party pays it's registration fee, the Chancery is not able to merge the VOTE IN - BEN... ARD... and the BENARD votes and they each get 2 seats, but once it is registered, both votes will be merged to yield 3 seats, giving a 14th seat to the PROG party.

So, who is our Prime-Minister?

With the FreeDem and MRPT away by a single seat and with them unable to get a majority between them (or with the other third parties), it can yield to interesting speculations.

Here are the possibilities, in descending order of probability:

1. Carlüs Xheraltescu: As leader of the FreeDem, is the best suited to become Senechal since his party got the most votes amongst the members of the previous coalition. If the coalition still stands, the FreeDem, MRPT and PROG parties alone would get 106 (or 107) seats. Since the TSP leader had asked before the election if the TSP could join the FreeDem, Preßeu Zespenat thinks the TSP will join that coalition for a total of 122 (or 123 seats). Even without the PROG party, the FreeDem would get a majority with the MRPT and the TSP (109 seats)
2. Alexandreu Davinescu: The RUMP didn't fare well compare to its past, but it is still the biggest party in the Cosa with 68 seats, enough to block amendments to the Organic Law. We know that a RUMP-FreeDem coalition in which the RUMP names the Prime-Minister is pure fiction, but is a RUMP-MRPT coalition completely out of the question? With 114 seats, this uneasy coalition would have a majority but such a convenience marriage is the only real option for Alexandreu to become Prime-Minister. The only other possibility would be for the RUMP to rally the TSP, the PROG and any of the 2 independent parties. Considered the expressed desire for the TSP to collaborate with the FreeDem party, we find that possibility too remote to really consider.
3. Lüc da Schir: Our current prime-minister could remain in office under three distinct scenarios, the first two being unpalatable at best but the last one being the next short as a non Carlüs Xheraltescu prime-minister. Let's tackle the 2 unpalatable ones: If coalition talk fails between the MRPT and FreeDem party for an unforeseen reason (perhaps because the FreeDem dissolved too soon), the MRPT might convince the TSP and the PROG to support it as the main coalition partner, making the point that it is a single party unlike the FreeDem and thus, got the most individual votes. In such a scenario, it would need a support from the other 2 parties that is strong enough to bend the arm of the FreeDem, while keeping them in the coalition since without them, no majority is reached. The second option is even more far-fetched: The MRPT could secretly form a coalition with the RUMP, under the express condition that it, and not the bigger RUMP, would pick the Prime-Minister.

In all theories, Carlüs Xheraltescu will be our next Prime-Minister with Lüc da Schir as Distain, which leaves a third option for Lüc to become Senechal: if Carlüs is no longer able to perform his duties, the Distain would most likely step-up to the office.

Image at the top from Lüc sa Schir

## A fight between the King and the Secretary of State?

By Marti-Pair Furxheir | June 2015



As you most likely know by now, the [King decided](#) to only proclaim 11 of the 12 passes referendums.  
The one he rejected to pass was

### **RZ28 - THE ORGANIC LAW AMENDMENT (Provincial Government) BILL #1 OF 2015**

*The Ziu resolves to amend the Organic Law to add a new section to the end of Article XVII:  
Territorial Subdivisions of the Organic Law:  
No person shall be at the same time Cunstavál of one province and the leader of the  
provincial government of another province.*

*Uréu q'estadra sâ: Miestrâ Schivâ - (Senator Fiova)*

His argument is as follows:

*While it has been our usual habit to allow Amendments to pass into the Organic Law without explicit proclamation by the King — according, I suppose, to the general legal principle that *qui tacet consentire videtur* —, I have long felt that a more formal adherence to the Law on this point would be better practice. Therefore, since I *\*may\** proclaim the Amendments recently approved, I hereby proclaim all of them except referendum number 3, 47RZ28, which I hereby explicitly refrain from proclaiming even though I am *\*authorized\** to do so.*



*My reason for NOT proclaiming 47RZ28 is simply that to do so would limit the Crown's freedom in exercising the Royal Organic prerogative to appoint as Constable — that is, as the Crown's personal representative to a Province — whomever the Crown pleases. This action is in concert with my general intention vigorously (but always legally!) to defend the Crown's several privileges and prerogatives.*

The [thread exploded](#) and generated 257 messages over 5 days.

Miestrâ Schivâ, bill author and renown republican quickly jumped in the ring with the very direct comment:

*Ladies and gentlemen, the King just rolled up the will of the Ziu endorsed by the people in referendum and threw it in the circular file.*

*If he can do this to this amendment, what is to prevent him doing it to **any** amendment?*

*John Woolley has just shown that there are no limits to his Royal authority he will respect. This is a constitutional scandal on a level with King Robert I vetoing Ián Anglatzarâ's citizenship in 2003.*

*Well might we say "God save the King", because no-one else will.*

Most of the arguments in the thread were in similar nature from citizens in most parties.

Txec Dal Nordselva, former RUMP seneschal quickly pointed out that the bill passed without a single Contrâ vote in the Cosâ, Senate AND a 76 to 15 vote in the referendum. He also quickly pointed out that there are no provisions to override this veto since it isn't technically a veto.

But perhaps one of the most surprising responses was the 2nd in the Thread, made by Secretary of State of Talossa, Marti-Pair Furxheir, who is both a former RUMP member and a former citizen of the Republic of Talossa:

*Just to make this 100% clear, the Chancery is in no way involved in this decision and it is the official position of the Chancery to be outraged at the King's action to reject the will of the PEOPLE.*

*This amendment was not just voted by a sufficient margin to override his veto by the ziu but also by a majority of the voters.*

And so, Preßeu Zespenat sat down with Sre Furxheir to get to understand his opinion a little more and try to understand why the chancery itself would be outraged:

*In my opinion, Talossa has a very complex system of check and balances, perhaps more complex than traditional countries but that's probably for the best.*

*For example, like in most countries, the Cosa and the Senate each have a sort of Veto power over the other, and the King over both of them.*

*This isn't a banality: in my opinion, the Cosa is there to defend the majority, the Senate is there to defend the provinces and the King is there to protect the population (and not just the majority).*

*The Cort then serves as a 3rd check over our system to ensure our laws are properly enforced while the Scribe of Abbavilla is there to protect the laws themselves from tampering by, well, anybody.*

*But the Chancery is also a wall of protection as it protects our voting systems. In a regular house of representatives, the officials often vote verbally, by standing or via remotes which show their votes on a board. In all cases, those votes occur in real time with clear feedback and near impossibility of error.*

*In our systems, we vote on the Clark over a period of 21 days and on our elections over 15 to 18 days, with citizens voting on Witt, by email and now, using the database system. A few citizens appear for a vote and then disappear back to their usual activities, unable to review if their vote was properly accepted and processed.*

*As such, the Chancery is in sort the guardian of the voice of the people and the government. It is there to ensure that the Cosa members, Senators and voters are heard. Then their will isn't ignored.*

*When the King refused to proclaim 47RZ28, he in a way, stepped over that duty of protection, and I felt obligated to step in, if only in the name of the voters who massively approved the referendum.*

*Granted, if the organic law does allow for such a non-signature, the King might indeed have such a last minute protection right, and if it's the case, then it would figure within his own prerogatives to act.*

*After all, I see that anything that an official CAN do (but is not obligated to do) as a responsibility to protect against abuse by someone else and if he does have such an option then he would give him an obligation to reject any act he feels hurt the population.*

*And so, we arrive to the core of the problem. I strongly believe in Issue Politics: that politics should be solved one issue at a time. I am Canadian after all, the country which was for decades renown for it's Issue Politics approach to international relations. This notably means that despite all my outrage at the King, it is only an outrage related to this particular issue and I have had no problem working with him in forming the electoral commission.*

*My problem is that the King played Power Politics: the idea that every issue is just a tool in a constant fight for supremacy or protection. In this case, the King didn't refuse to vote this bill because the bill itself was bad, but because it reduced, ever so slightly his powers as King. I could insert a snide remark that the US is one of the countries that plays amongst the most extreme versions Power Politics, but that wouldn't be really fair. Instead, I'll admit that a follow-up of the King on Wittenberg intrigued me.*

*The King, a strict legalist (something I can admire) claims to have seen this “non-proclamation” well in the past and in way, insinuates that he rejected this particular bill as a way to put the “non-proclamation” right in the foreground.*

*If it's the case, the King picked his bill very carefully since between you and I, it is a bill of little importance in day to day life.*

*If it is indeed the case, when we amend the constitution to either remove or restrict this right, the King will let it pass and all will be forgiven, at least, in my eyes.*

*After all, we are all here to make Talossa a better country and the King might have just help us fix a possible time bomb left by the previous monarch...*

What are YOUR reactions to this event? Leave a comment below or write a reply article!

## The Talossa Activity Index

By Marti-Pair Fuxrheir | June 2015



At some point in 2003, Tamoran Dal Nava proposed that Wittenberg posts was akin to the Gross National Product of other countries: by measuring the posts of Wittenberg, we would be able to get an idea of the volume of activity in Talossa.

Today, others have made the same observation independently but little did they know that back in 2003, Tamoran had proposed a mathematical formula to calculate the activity which he brilliantly named “The Talossan Activity Index” or TAI.

His formula was mainly theoretical in nature as there was no way someone could sit down and calculate



the TAI manually on a daily basis.

Fortunately, Witthoster Marti-Pair Furxheir felt inspired. He created a page which automatically, in real time, calculated the TAI and the various components of the TAI for the current day so far, and the previous 100 days. What is interesting is that on the first day the TAI was put online, we could already have 100 days of history since past days could be easily calculate live in real time.

Granted, in the week of September 2005 (then in the Republic of Talossa), the TAI was cached and updated every few minutes to reduce the load, but that was just a concession to help the server.

Marti-Pair also added a few more statistics, most in close collaboration with Tamoran and others by himself. A little later, Marti-Pair also created the PTAI or Personal TAI which calculated the personal contribution of each citizen to the TAI.

Without further ado, here is a summary of how the TAI is calculated with the key values (each value is better when high except when indicated otherwise):

## Original TAI:

Raw values:

- T: Number of threads for the calculated days.  
This should be low compared to the number of posts
- P: Number of posts for the calculated days.  
The first post of a thread is counted as a post
- C: Number of unique users posting

Calculated indexes:

- AR: Activity Ratio:  $P/T$ , this measured the raw strength of the activity.
- L: Load:  $P/C$ , this measured the individual activity
- TAI: Talossan Activity Index:  $AR + L$ , this measured the global activity
- CHG: Change in the TAI since the previous day
- %CHG: Change in the TAI since the previous day, in percentage

The TAI was a rather good measure of activity since any fluctuation of the 3 raw numbers (Posts, Threads and Citizens) affected the TAI wildly.

Every new post increased both factors of the TAI but a citizen posting a single new ignore thread would reduce both, like we expected it.

But there was something that bothered me with it and I fixed it by creating the RTAI, or Relative TAI as follows:

- DL: Distributed Load:  $T/L$  (best when low)
- RTAI:  $TAI/DL$

I would like to say that like Tamoran, I used advanced math knowledge to arrive to this formula, but in

reality, I just plugged numbers until I found an index I liked.

I do not have notes on who created the last index, either Tamoran or I (or both!), but this one is the Volume, which tended to vary wildly:

Vol: Volume:  $P * T * C$

But the greatest index came later, the WIX, or Wittenberg Index. I do seem to remember that I was the original thinker behind the WIX, but I also remember that Tamoran helped me refine it and that he came up with the acronym.

AVGDL: DL Average of the last 10 days

AVGTAI: TAI Average of the last 10 days

WIX: Wittenberg Index:  $AVGTAI * AVGDL * 61.04$

The interest of the WIX was that it wasn't calculated just on the current day, but rather, was amortized over the next 10 days so that a very active day out of the ordinary would raise the WIX over the next 10 days.

A range of colors was created for the WIX and the data points were as follows:

- **Bright red**: under 300
- **Red**: under 400 (but over 300)
- **Orange**: under 500 (but over 400)
- **Yellow (yellow)**: under 700 (but over 500)
- **Green**: under 900 (but over 700)
- **Cyan (cyan)**: under 1000 (but over 900)
- **Blue**: under 1100 (but over 1000)
- **Pastel Blue**: over 1100

The same coloring scheme was used for the RTAI, with the levels at 1,2,4,8,16,32 and 64.

Overall, my favorite index was the WIX, but between you and I, I have absolutely no recollection of what that 61.04 was from.

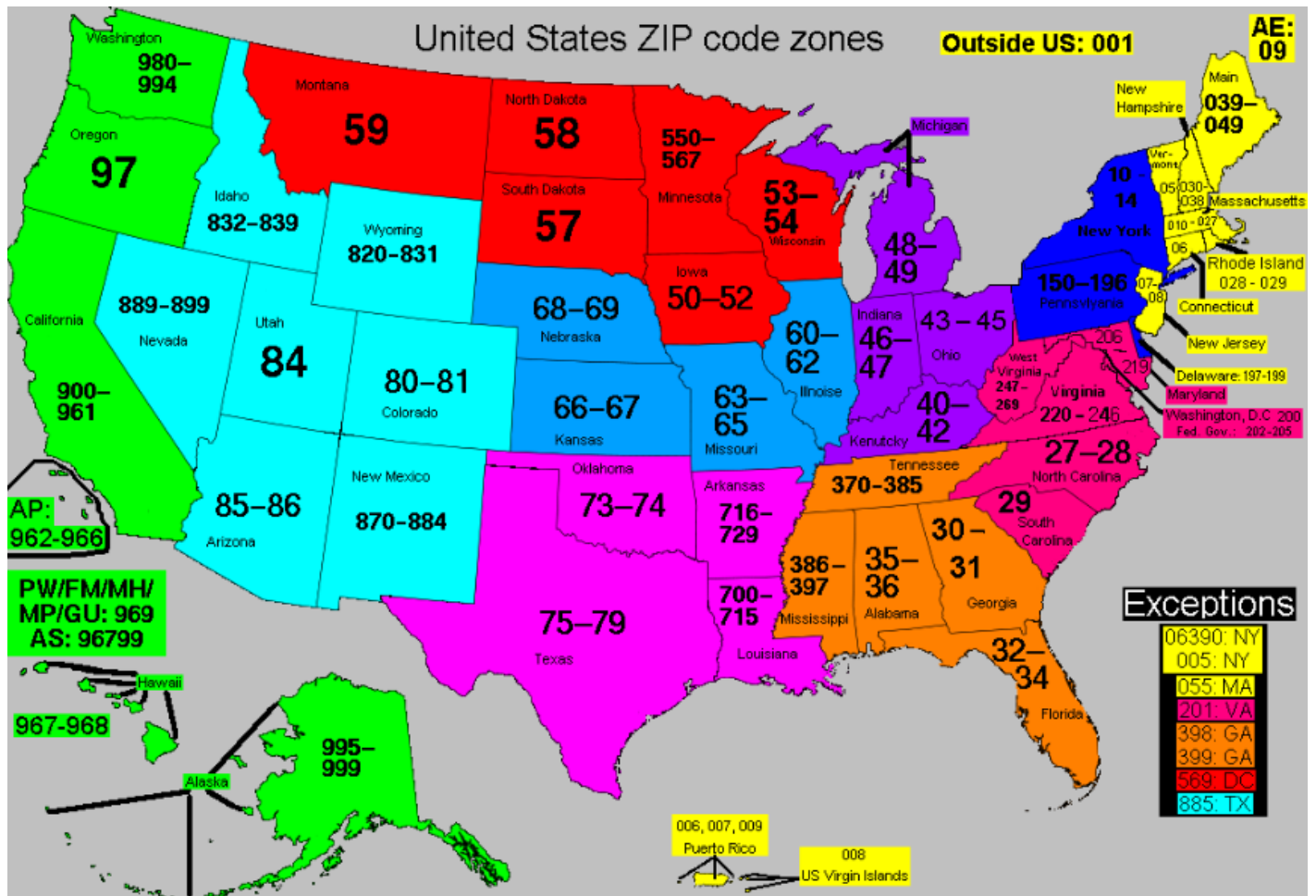
Next month, we will review the PTAI or Personal TAI.

## Postal Codes for Talossa, a simple proposal

By Marti-Pair Furxheir | June 2015

If you are from the US, you might or might not know that your postal code system is one of the worst of the modernized world.

In case you are not familiar with the US zip code maps, here is a refresher, pay close attention to the exceptions:

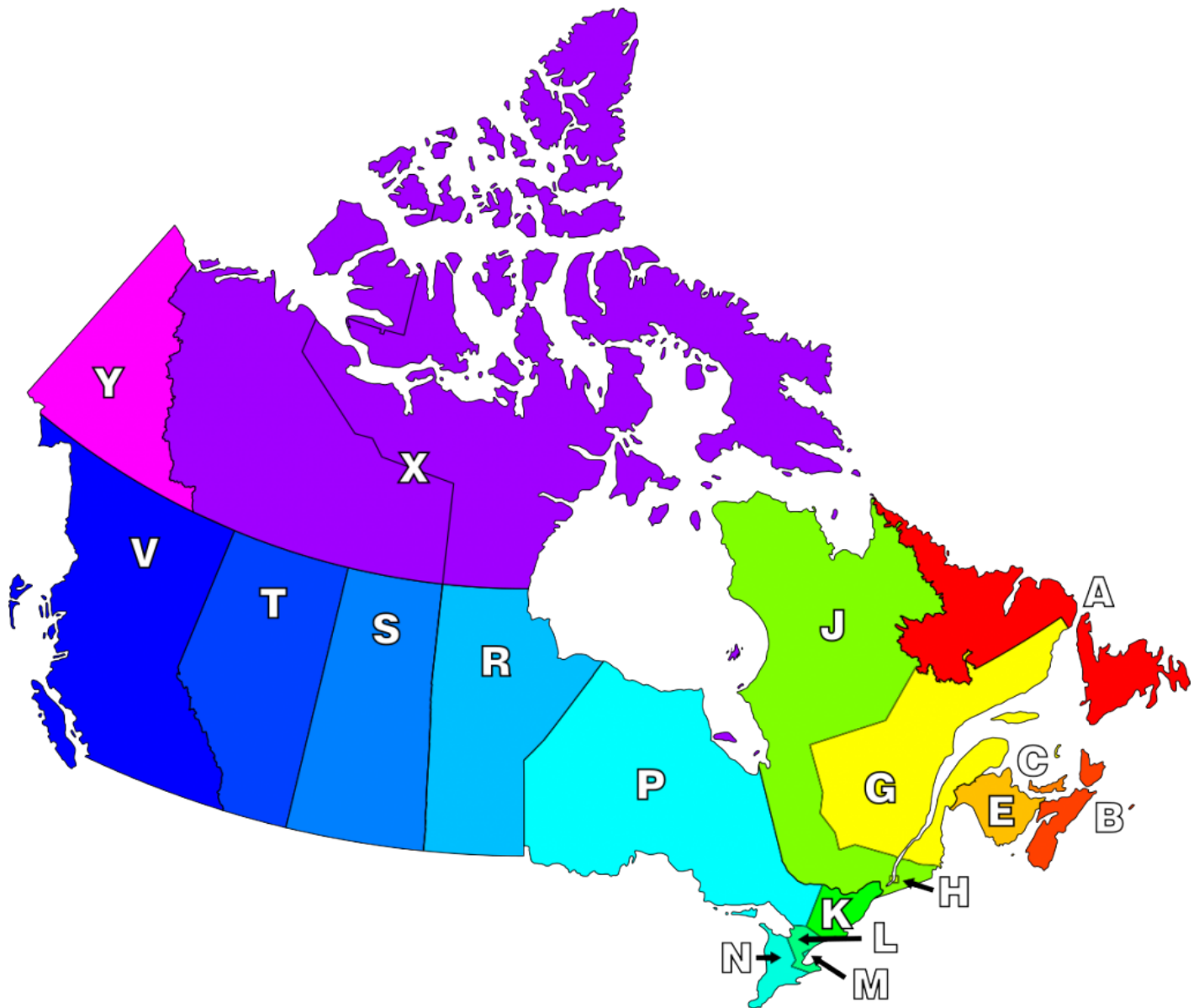


That means that out of the 5 digits that a zip code has, 1 is used to determine the region, and up to 3 are used to determine the state, leaving only say, 2.5 digits reserved solely for the specific area.

Granted, zip codes now have an added 4 digits, but most people can't really remember a 9 digit zip code.

## Canada

If we compare to it's Northern Neighbor, Canada, here is the postal code map:



Quickly, we can see that most provinces have a single letter and that only the 2 most populous ones have more than 1 (Québec and Ontario).

Oddly, Yukon has the letter Y and British Columbia, whose 2 most important cities are Victoria and Vancouver, has the letter V.

Please note that when Nunavut split from North West Territory, it kept the same postal code prefix, X.

Also note the absence of the letter D, F, I, O, Q and U which are not used to prevent confusion with other symbols (like the letter I and the number 1, the letter O and the number 0.). W and Z are not used in the first position, but they are used for the rest of the postal code.

Montreal gets it's own letter (H) as does Toronto (M)

Canadian postal codes follow the pattern: Letter-Digit-Letter Digit-Letter-Digit, such as H3T 8G5, or H0H 0H0 (which is Santa Claus' postal code).

The first 3 digits are the Forward Sortation Areas, which allows to route a letter to a specific geographic area, while the last 3 digits are local delivery units or the specific area served by the postal code.

Some institutions get their own postal code, such as universities and hospitals. If they end with 0, the destination is a postal office, while 9Z9 is reserved for business reply mail.

Finally, there are 2 types of postal codes: Rural (second character is 0) and Urban (second character is greater than 0).

## **Proposal for Talossa**

Using the US system as an inspiration would be, for a Canadian like me, an aberration and so, I am proposing to use a system inspired by the Canadian system, but composed of 5 digits, like the US, following this pattern:

*Digit-Letter-Digit-Letter-Digit*

Which would make the Talossan postal codes significantly unique compared, as far as I know, to any other postal code system on the planet, while paying homage to the 5 digit US ZIP codes.

Just like in Canada, each position would have a specific purpose as described below.

### **First Character**

The first character of the postal code will be the province, in the following traditional order:

1. Atatürk
2. Cézembre
3. Florencia
4. Maricopa
5. Maritiimi-Maxhestic
6. Benito
7. Vuode
8. Fiova
9. Pengopats

Wait, Pengopats isn't a province, is it? No, but it still gets a postal code, our penguin citizens need to get mail, don't they?

I am fully aware that this assignment doesn't seem allow for another province, but 0 is still available.

### **Second Character (A-M)**

Every province is divided into Cantons. These Cantons will each get a single letter to identify them, so that the letter flow naturally from the North-West to the South-East, going from West to East in a single row, and then, continuing from West to East in the same order.



The first 10 Cantons would therefore get the letter A, B, C, E, G, H, J, K, L, M since D, F and I will not be used, as in the Canadian system.

If a province has more than 10 Cantons, 2 or more cantons will need to be merged and get a joint letter.

## **Second Character (Z)**

When the second character is Z, the postal code designates an office of the government of the province. For example, postal codes starting with 2Z designate postal codes in used by the province of Cézembre.

The only exception to that rule are for postal codes starting with 1Z, which is for both the government of Atatürk, and the official offices of the Kingdom (since the capital of the Kingdom is in Atatürk).

## **Second Character (W)**

When the second Character is W, the destination isn't actually in Talossa, but rather, in the Wisconsin state catchment area for that province.

## **Second Character ( N-Y)**

The characters N,M,P,R,S,T,V and Y are used for the catchment area of the province outside of Wisconsin. Characters O,Q and U aren't used in our system, like for Canada, and W and Z are used for other purposes above.

We would use S for the Catchment areas within the United States (but outside Wisconsin) and the rest of the letters for the various other countries, possibly grouping them into geographic areas if more than 7 non-us countries are assigned to the catchment area for that province.

## **Third Character (0)**

If the 3rd Character is a zero, it means the postal code is special. For example, 4W0 might mean the administration of the catchment area in Wisconsin.

In the case of the national government in Atatürk, for example, the postal code would start with 1Z0, to distinguish it from the Atatürk government, which would use 1Z1 to 1Z9 (if needed).

## **Third Character (1-9)**

The third Character will be used to determine the general area within the zone delimited by the first 2 characters.

For example:

- For A-M, odd 3rd characters would point to streets which are set in a general North-South direction while even 3rd characters would point to streets in a general West-East direction. A low number (1-2) would be at the North-West corner of the zone, while a higher number (8-9) would be in the South-East corner of the zone
- For W, the same principle as for A-M is used but on a bigger scale
- For N-Y however, the second digit will be used to determine the state or province (or group of state of

- provinces) of the foreign Country. In Atatürk, for example, Québec could be 1N2 and Ontario 1N1.
- For Z however, the third character determines the division of the provincial government, with 2 being for the Governor, Custeval and Senator (and other single individual offices), 3 being for the national assembly, etc..

## **Last 2 characters**

At this point, the last 2 characters are used to refine the destination so that for every postal code, ideally (In Talossa at least), only a single occurrence of each house number is present.

It is not possible to assign such precision for foreign countries (or even Wisconsin), so instead, the first citizen for that area gets assigned the code A1, and the second A1 and so on, ignoring digits 0 and 9.

I, for example, would have the postal code: 1N2A1 since I was the first citizen from Québec to join Atatürk.

## **Where do we go from here?**

Unless this idea is utterly opposed, I will start making a map of Talossa with postal codes assigned up to the 5 digits. It will take a long time, but slowly, we should get there.

Provinces are encouraged to clearly define their canton and even to propose their letters. Other citizens are encouraged to help me in this massive nation-building exercise.

## **Does it really matter?**

Of course not, but if, like me, you find geography fun, let's have a postal code assignment party together!

# **RC20? FC100? EM200? The history of the Cosa**

By Marti-Pair Furxheir | June 2015

Right now, Talossa has a 200 member Cosa where each of the Cosa member can hold up to 30 seat.

While Talossa always had a proportional system for electing Cosa Members (except for the 3th Cosa which had ranked ballots), the method for distributing those seats wasn't constant over our history.

There are talk to changing the current system, but perhaps we should know how we came to the current system before thinking about changing it.

## **FC100**

For the 6th Cosa, the Clark was introduced and the Cosa was composed of 100 seats where each party got an exact percentage of seats, with up to 2 decimals of precision. I call this FC100, for Fractional Cosa of 100 seats.

This means that many Cosa members had either 12.5 or 6.25, and Sandee Macht even had 18.75 seats! In the 7th Cosa, we even have many Cosa members with 10.53 seats and Danihel Laurieir had 13.16 seats.

For the 6th Cosa, the prime-minister would get double the number of seats which was, when you think of it, rather weird. If party had 40 seats, and the PM was assigned 20 seats, he would get 20 extra seats, but if the 40 seats were divided equally between 4, the PM would get only 10 extra seats.

As a result, for the 7th Cosa, the prime-minister would get a fixed extra 10 seats.

## **EM200**

This didn't last either... for the 8th Cosa, the EM200 was introduced.

The Cosa would have exactly 200 members (no extra for the prime-minister) and Cosa members would get integral number: no more decimals!

This system is the same as in place today, and lasted from July 1988 until 23th Cosa election of July-August 1996 or 8 long years.

## **RC20**

When the Organic Law was put in place in July 1996, a new Cosa was created, in fact, our institutions were completely reformed with the introduction of the Senate and the creation of RC20, or Real Cosa with 20 members, starting with the 23th Cosa election.

RC20 was once again a proportional system, but with only 20 members who each had exactly 1 vote.

This system really worked only for a few Cosas.

Initially, it was great since it provided for a system clearly similar to other legal systems in the world. The days of multiple seats per Cosa member was over and it limited to only 20 members the number of Cosa members.

It also meant we needed 20 actual people to fill those seats and since Senators could also be Cosa members (and often were), this wasn't initially a problem.

The majority party, the PC, had the most active citizens and the PC, which counted the King as one of its members, rarely lacked Cosa members while the opposition parties, such as the TLP, ZRT or RCT, usually had enough active members to fill their seats.

Except that between 1999 and 2002, the King had slowly harassed several citizens into either leaving the Cosa or Talossa altogether. This is what led to the Penguinia secession, the TLP party eventually stopping to even campaign and even several PC members having to flee the country such as defense minister Phil Ledgerwood who was tired of Ben ridiculing his religion.

So, during the 30th Cosa, we never managed to fill all of the 20 seats. During the first 3 Clarks, we only had 17 seats filled, and due to lack of voting, we were down to 13 by the 4th and 12 by the 5th.

That Cosa is famous for having Clarked only 14 bills,

It was urgent to do something, and something was done. The 6th Clark of the Cosa was prorogued and we returned for the last election using RC20. Fortunately, the 31st Cosa was almost full with 19 or 20 Cosa members sitting in the Cosa.

## **EM200, modified.**

During the 31st Cosa, we decided to go back to EM200 to fix the problems, which was put in place for the 32th Cosa.

This time however, the EM200 wasn't strictly proportional as the main author of the bill, King Ben Madison, wanted to increase the importance of the provinces.

As a result, for the first time, instead of having a single election, the Kingdom had 7 simultaneous elections (one per each of the original 7 provinces), all running at once.

The calculation was as follow:

1. The census of every province is taken on balloting day, including all citizens and known dandelions
2. The 200 seats of the Cosa are divided by population between the 7 provinces, as determined by the SoS
3. In each of the 7 provinces, the number of available seats is distributed according to the Cosa election votes for that province
4. Seats won in each province are then grouped together and not assigned just for Cosa members of that province.

That system was a nightmare to calculate, and I should know, I was the Secretary of State stuck with that method.

And yet, I did none of those special steps. Indeed, instead, the Database system I had built did it for me, and the table of calculations was updated each time a vote (which were then public) was cast.

I am convinced that without EM200, the Republic of Talossa would have never been born, but that's story for another time. Just let it know that it's not really a coincidence, in my opinion, that the secession occurred at the end of the first Cosa after the return of EM200.

EM200 was the system in place when I left the Kingdom for the Republic, and from my understanding, once the database was on longer available to make the calculations, the provincial distribution was abandoned in favor of our current system, the same as for the 8th to the 23th Cosa.

And there you have it! The history of the way we have been electing the Cosa, ever since the Clark was created during the 6th Cosa.

# Blast from the past (well, future), Talossa 2038 part 1

By Marti-Pair Furxheir | June 2015

*This series of article is a **fictional** retrospective written in 2038 issues of Preßeu Zespenat for the 59th anniversary of the Kingdom. In this 2038 alternate future, Talossa is a rich sovereign country in a broken United State and incorporates not only the current 7 provinces in Milwaukee but also other sections of the East of the city. The story of Talossa 2038 will be explored over multiple issues of Preßeu Zespenat.*

The following are extracts from a series of interviews conducted in 2022, 2025 and 2027 with David Swanson, former Milwaukee Alderman for district 3 and first mayor of the City of Talossa.

First, an interview from the August 2022 edition of Preßeu Zespenat:

*I had been elected Alderman for district 3 which notably covers the province of Atatürk and the UWM campus on a promise to revitalize the sector. After the decline of the number of students at the University (something which scared me as a UWM professor of politics) and the aging of the population, many of the houses were on the market for years before finding a buyer and often, only thanks to major reduction in prices.*

*I was Googling for news about one of the streets, honestly, I don't even recall which, and I found this article in Preßeu Zespenat giving an overview of this street of the Kingdom of Talossa. I was sure I had the wrong one, perhaps Talossa was a tiny country in eastern Europe, but I quickly recognized the street as being the one in my district.*

*Puzzled, I investigated and thought that Talossa was a fringe separatist group like so many exist in these hard years but I quickly discovered it was just a community of people around the world trying to have fun in a hard time.*

*I lurked for a while and saw my first Cosa election. It was exciting, certainly a lot more than mine since I was unopposed. My son, Jimmy, applied for citizenship: he was excited that at 15 years he could vote and even joined the Cosa.*

*It's only last June that I realized that I was spending almost more time reading Wittenberg with Jimmy than I was checking CNN, Facebook or other social media.*

*I joined as a prospective without saying who I was and it's last week, once I was already a citizen that my position was known to the public of Talossa and that I quickly became a star. After all, I was the Alderman for the Milwaukee district covering the provinces of Atatürk, Benito, Florencia, Vuode and the northern tip of Maritiimi-Maxhestic, of 5 of the 8 provinces!*



*No, I don't plan to run for the Cosa, the Senate or do anything politically for now. My part-time Alderman position and my teacher union role already keep me busy on that side, but I will support my son. I think he will keep surprising you with his maturity. He's been helping me at the office during the high school teacher strike...*

And this is an extract of a press release from January 2025 by Alderman Swanson, published in multiple newspapers and medias, including Preßeu Zespenat:

*The collapse of the US manufacturing capacity is a tragedy and an affront to the dignity of our nation. My city, Milwaukee, was particularly hit hard with drastic reductions in the employment level of many of our cherished institutions, including Wisconsin Bell, SC Johnson, Quad-Graphics and even beloved Harley-Davidson. Even Briggs & Stratton who had seen a dramatic rise in sales and number of employees had to cut back recently when one of their lines of lawnmower engines was recalled for excess pollution.*

*But what worries me the most is the decline of the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, where I am also president of the teacher union. Due to massive cuts in the education budget by the state of Wisconsin, the University is not only struggling to attract out of state students but even in-state students from other counties, all while the number of houses seized by the city for tax failures or simply foreclosed in my district (#3) has skyrocketed. On my small street, more than half of the houses are for sale and no longer occupied.*

*As you may know, I have proposed a drastic plan to try to kill two birds with one stone: to use the seized homes for student and teacher housing at low cost rather than selling them at auction which only serves to further cause a drop in housing value in my district which further causes a reduction in total property taxes. The UWM and its student council have the ability to easily mortgage these houses and many non-permanent teachers unable to secure a home load due to precarious job security in these days would be able to pay an adequate rent leaving the UWM with a significant profit.*

*My plan, as you know, was rejected by the city of Milwaukee and as a result, I have no choice but to propose a secession of District 3 from the city of Milwaukee as allowed in the federal city rescue plan of 2021. The referendum will take place on Monday June 9th 2025 and only residents of District 3 will be allowed to vote, including student of UWM residing on campus.*

The next few hectic months saw a rise in student activism and hope for many residents of the district to finally sell their home and as a result, the District #3 secession was approved by a wide 64.5% majority, with over an 80% participation rate.

The biggest surprise came when the naming committee approved new part-time Mayor Swanson's name for the new city: the city of Talossa, with a significant surge of citizens from the student of UWM (the University didn't change it's name) to the micronation, especially from students of David Swanson.

Preßeu Zespenat once again published an article from David Swanson on the 2nd year anniversary of the creation of the city of Talossa, in June 2027, on the changes to the tiny Kingdom.

*Apart from the massive increase in citizenship from students of UWM, I think the biggest change in the Kingdom of Talossa since the creation of the city of Talossa is the beginning of the repatriation of old cybercits citizens who moved to the city. As you know, the first to move was Txec Roibeard dal Nordselva whom I managed to get him to teach as UWM for the September 2025 session. Soon after, I convinced Alexandreu Davinescu to also teach at UWM, by offering him one of the houses for students as a reduced price for two years.*

*It didn't take long for Talossan patriotism to rise in the halls of the campus with three respected teachers being pillars of the Kingdom. Within a year, more than half of the city council were citizens of the Kingdom (including Txex and Alexandreu) and a new ordinance was passed giving all citizens of the Kingdom who joined the Kingdom before creation of the city access to a low-rent house.*

*As you know, it was enough to get half of a dozen citizens to move to the city of Talossa thanks to the low rent cost and increase in job opportunities due to the end of the recession.*

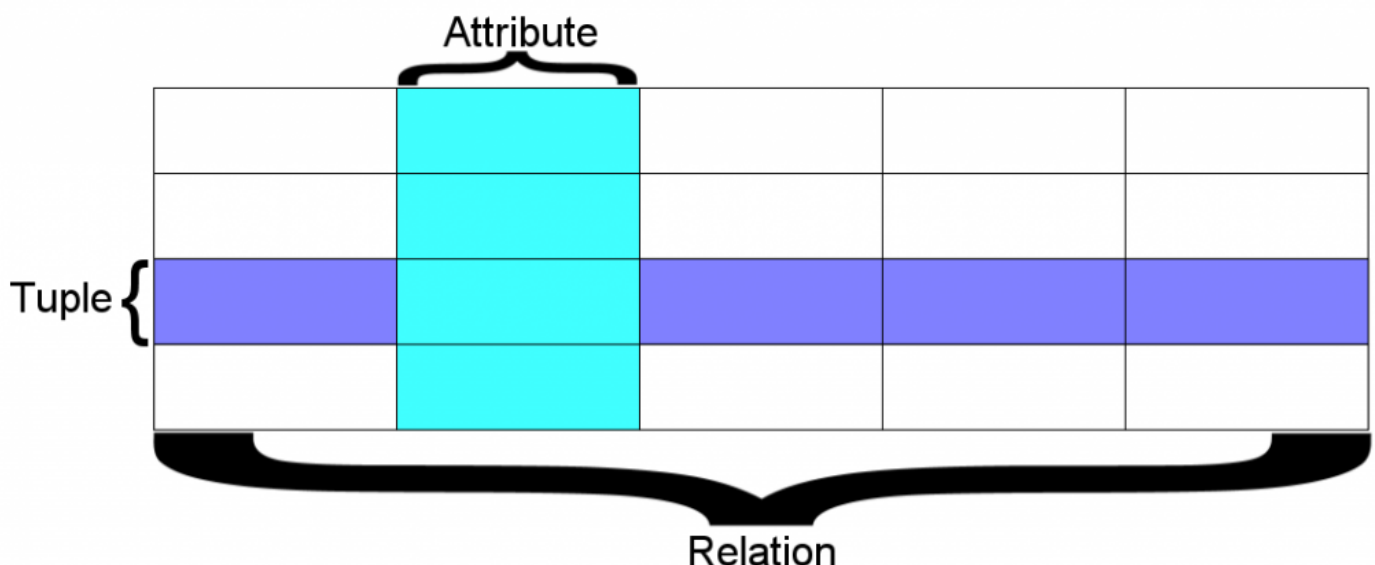
*I am currently in talks with Ieremiac'h Ventrutx, former prime-minister of the Kingdom and father of the first dandelion to ever vote in an election of the Kingdom to have him move his family from Illinois to the nearby city of Talossa.*

*I do not know what the future of the city or the Kingdom of Talossa will hold, but rest assured that I am hopeful for the future.*

More to read in July 2015's issue of Preßeu Zespenat...

## The Database: Introduction

By Marti-Pair Furxheir | June 2015



The Talossan Database or just Database is a series of PHP scripts and MySQL tables storing legislative information about the Kingdom of Talossa.

It was initially begun in late 2000 by Marti-Pair Furbheir and quickly began replacing the various tools Secretary of State Daviu Focteur used to manage the Clark and the votes on the Clark.

By early 2001, the Clark was already officially published via the Database and Ziu members could vote using it rather early in the process, even if most still voted on Wittenberg. And yet, the official tally of the votes was stored in the database by Daviu in his last months of operation.

Granted, back then, most of the operations had to be done by Marti-Pair himself, but Daviu could already do a lot of the work a Secretary of State had to do : Create the Clark, activate or deactivate the voting, enter bills into the database, update the list of Cosa Members and Senators, etc...

By the time the next election occurred, in July 2001, not only was voting online for the election allowed, but the results of the election were calculated and published using the database, the same as for the most recent election, using earlier versions of the same scripts.

The database was used until June 2004 when, a few weeks about the creation of the Republic, the creator of the database left the Kingdom for the Republic, and was only brought back online in the last trimester of 2013 when Marti-Pair returned to the Kingdom.

Back in 2001-2004, a low immigration rate meant that most citizens using the database had been present during its initial development but in 2013, rare are the citizens from that era that are still active and vocal today, leaving a gap in the collective knowledge and possibly creating fear in the mind of Talossans.

At Preßeu Zespenat, we thought it was time to get deep into the bowels of the Database and the mind of its creator so that citizens of today could form their own enlightened opinions of a system which looks dense, complicated and cold so they can see the beauty hidden within it.

Over the next few months, we will work with Marti-Pair Furbheir to help reveal the innermost secrets of the Database while trying to simplify its structure so that every Talossan can have an idea of what it is.

Each month, we will focus on either a single page or a single table of the Database until that system will hold no secrets for our readers.

Marti-Pair already assured us that Preßeu Zespenat will get full access to the details of the database, with the exception of the few pieces that are strictly confidential (such as citizen email addresses and private votes), while using equivalent data which is public in nature (such as votes from the first 45 Cosas).

# From the hopper (June 2015)

By Marti-Pair Fuxxheir | June 2015



Despite the election, there are quite a good number of bills currently in the hopper, some of which seem rather interesting.

Let's review them one by one, but first, let's offer an apology to any bill author whose bill was missed should we have missed on. No harm was intended...

## [The automatic votes validation amendment](#)

Secretary of State Fuxxheir has tried for a few times to keep the secret votes made with the automatic voting form totally secret, even from him.

All of his past proposals were firmly rejected because they were aimed at removing those ballots from the validation procedure.

This new proposal however, keeps them for review, but not on their content, just on their technical information (such as IP address made to vote).

Sevastáin Pinátsch, minister of Stuff and new Senator for Atatürk proposed a cleaner rewrite and was added as co-sponsor.

Here is the change in question, as it currently stands:

*Article VII: Election to the Cosâ, Section 6 will get a new sub-section 1 which reads as follows:*

*6.1: Secret votes cast using a secure, electronic voting system for which a confirmation receipt is available to the voters and which the voters can validate themselves shall not have their content (Cosa votes, Senate votes, Provincial votes and Referendum votes) revealed to the electoral commission provided that the identifiers and technical information used to vote are still available to them. Any member of the electoral commission may request that the content of an automated ballot be still reviewed by the electoral commission as a whole if they suspect a problem occurred with that specific vote.*

## **The order of the chancery act**

The chancery is possibly the most demanding office and Secretary of State Furxheir decided to propose to create an order of the Chancery to reward citizens who have helped the chancery in any way, as well as Secretaries of State who remained in office for a long time.

Marti-Pierre Furxheir tried to model the order on the Order of Canada and the Order of Québec, which is an honor legion established to honor extraordinary citizens, and which has multiple levels like in his proposal.

Overall, the reactions have been that people feel that the King should be the only person attributing awards, and Sir Alexandreu Davinescu even understood the bill as a way for Mr Furxheir to get an award himself, when the goal, according to the author, is simply to offer a sort of “salary” to people helping the Chancery.

Here is Mr Furxheir’s version:

*THEREFORE the Ziu resolves to add section K to Ex Lexhatz entitled “Honorary Organizations”*

*1. The order of the Chancery is an honorary order created to recognize the contribution of the citizens of Talossa in the operation of legislation of the Kingdom.*

*1.1 The order is divided into 4 tiers in ascending order: Member, Knight, Officer, Commander*

*1.1.2 Members of the Order of the Chancery are people who helped the legislative operation of the Kingdom and for which the Secretary of State felt their action should be noted*

*1.1.3 Knights of the Order of the Chancery are people who have provided a significant service to the Chancery over a certain period of time. They are not considered Knight of the Kingdom.*

*1.1.4 Officers of the Order of the Chancery are people who have provided a significant service to the Chancery over a consistent period of time*

*1.1.5 Commanders of the order of the Chancery are the current Secretary of State as well as former Secretary of States who served a minimum of 6 Clarks after the passing of this act*



1.1.6 It is also possible to existing members of the order to get a promotion and rise in the ranks

1.2 All members of the orders are allowed to proudly display their membership as follows:

1.2.1 Member of the Order of the Chancery are allowed to add their rank and membership in the Wittenberg Signature, on their Wiki article or other places

1.2.2 Knights of the Order of the Chancery are also allowed, if they do not have any other markings, to add to the bottom right of their coat of arm the Red bar on the left of the Chancery logo.

1.2.3 Officers of the Order of the Chancery are also allowed, if they do not have any other markings, to add to the bottom right of their coat of arm two Red bars on the left of the Chancery logo.

1.2.4 Commanders of the Order of the Chancery are allowed, if they do not have any other markings, to add to the bottom right of their coat of arm the red Ben symbol of the Chancery logo

1.2.5 The current Secretary of State is allow, if he doesn't have any other markings, to add to the bottom right of his coat of arm the Chancery logo

1.3 Membership in the order of the Chancery may be revoked by the Secretary of State if the citizen was judged to have acted dishonorably by a cort of the Kingdom of Talossa

1.4 This act shall not cover actions taken by individuals more than 3 months prior to the passage of this act

And here is Alexandreu's version (with 2 blanks to be determined later):

*THEREFORE the Ziu hereby recognizes and reinstates as official the Talossan Database, and*

*FURTHERMORE the Ziu hereby recognizes Marti-Pair Furxheir as an extraordinary Secretary of State and grants him the award of \_\_\_\_\_, in gratitude for all that he has done for the Kingdom of Talossa as its Secretary of State and in his many other helpful capacities over long years.*

*FURTHERMORE the Ziu hereby adds the following provision to Title B of el Lexhatx:*

*14. The Secretary of State may, at his discretion, bestow upon worthy citizens who have assisted him in his duties the recognition of \_\_\_\_\_. This award may be revoked by the Secretary of State at such times as recipients have dishonoured the award in the opinion of the Secretary.*

## **The provincial cunstaval amendment**

Prior to the non-signing crisis, Secretary of State proposed to take even further the process of restricting the power of the King to nominate Cunstavals by proposing to allow provinces to change the rules of how the cunstaval is nominated.

Without surprise, the King reacted and explained provincial governments can already do that:

*Provincial governments can make such requests today, can't they? If I don't act on a reasonable request, that's my fault; but the request is always perfectly in order.*

The other comments from Munditenens Tresplet and Françal Ian Lux were also against tinkering with this selection process.

*THEREFORE the Ziu resolves to consult the population in a referendum to amend the Organic law as follows:*

*Add a new Section 9.1 to Article XVII: Territorial Subdivisions:*

*9.1: A province constitution may provide an alternative method for nominating the Cunstaval of that province or rules determining who the King may nominate as Cunstaval of that province. Province may provide an alternative name for the Cunstaval of their province which shall be used in an official process.*

### **The Senators, King and Secretary of State 50 word essay act**

The last bill from Secretary of State Fuxxheir is to modify his proposal to allow anyone who can post bills on the clark to write a 50 word essay for referendums and not just Cosa members.

Overall, this proposition was not well received at all, but not a single person supporting the act, and 4 Ziu members opposing it...

Sre Fuxxheir even appear to have tried to gain sympathy for his bill by talking about the non-signature fiasco, and it still didn't cause any support.

In all cases, here is the text:

*THEREFORE ZIU resolved to modify Section B, Article 2.2 of El Lexhatx which currently reads:*

*2.2 The Ballot can also include for each referendum up to one 50-words essay per party with Cosa Members, each marked as being either in favor of the amendment or against the amendment. The argument's signatures are not counted in the 50 words limit.*

*As follows:*

*2.2 The Ballot can also include for each referendum up to one 50-words essay per party with Cosa Members, each marked as being either in favor of the amendment or against the amendment. **Any individual who not a member of the Cosa but who is otherwise allowed to directly submit bills to the Clark may also submit a single essay per referendum.** The argument's signatures are not counted in the 50 words limit.*

## The democratic amendment

This bill is an attempt to fix the problem with refusal of the King to sign a referendum. It is written by Sevastáin Pinátsch, Senator for Atatürk but is co-sponsored by 5 other citizens.

The bill generate considerable discussion over 4 pages of Wittenberg, especially when the King himself came to defend his actions.

Here is the bill as it currently stands:

*Therefore Article XV, Section 1 of the Organic Law, which currently reads:*

*“An amendment to the Organic Law may be made by proclamation by the King where so authorized by:*

*\* A vote of two-thirds in both chambers of the Ziu, and*

*\* Approval of the majority of voters participating in a referendum on the question of the amendment no later than during the next scheduled general election following the approval of the Ziu.*

*\* Proposed changes to this Organic Law that affect the representation of a province in the Senäts, or of the territory or equal sovereignty of a province, shall only be passed with the approval of a majority of participating voters in that province.”, will be amended to read:*

*“An amendment to the Organic Law shall be made by proclamation by the King where so authorized by:*

*\* A vote of two-thirds in both chambers of the Ziu, and*

*\* Approval of the majority of voters participating in a referendum on the question of the amendment no later than during the next scheduled general election following the approval of the Ziu.*

*\* Proposed changes to this Organic Law that affect the representation of a province in the Senäts, or of the territory or equal sovereignty of a province, shall only be passed with the approval of a majority of participating voters in that province.*

*\* If the King does not make such a proclamation within two weeks of the amendment being authorised, the amendment to the OrgLaw will be considered in effect and the OrgLaw accordingly amended.*

*\* The King retains the right to reject an amendment that has been approved by the Cosa and the Senäts before its ratification by referendum.”*

## The time bomb amendment

The refusal for King John 1 to sign an amendment took everyone by surprise, and several proposals have been made to rectify the situation.

The time bomb amendment is King John's own solution to the impasse:

*THEREFORE the Ziu hereby approves this Amendment to the Organic Law, and transmits it to the nation for ratification:*

*A second sentence shall be added to Article XV Section 1 of the Organic Law, reading:*

*Should the King, by the 15th day after the referendum in which an Amendment is authorized, fail to take action on an Amendment so authorized, it shall be deemed to have been proclaimed by the King and shall immediately take effect.*

The bill wasn't received very favorably in part because the election validation process may take more than 15 days but also in part because there is another bill in the hopper fixing this problem in a very similar manner, the Democratic amendment.

### **The Consent of the People and Balanced Government Amendment**

The third bill attempting to fix the non-signature of the referendum, this time proposed by Alexandreu Davinescu, leader of the RUMP.

The reaction of the citizens was rather cold with Miestra even asking Alexandreu to "go away".

Here is the content of the amendment:

*Article XV of the Organic Law of the Kingdom of Talossa, which currently reads:*

#### *Section 1*

*An amendment to the Organic Law may be made by proclamation by the King where so authorized by:*

- A vote of two-thirds in both chambers of the Ziu, and*
- Approval of the majority of voters participating in a referendum on the question of the amendment no later than during the next scheduled general election following the approval of the Ziu.*
- Proposed changes to this Organic Law that affect the representation of a province in the Senäts, or of the territory or equal sovereignty of a province, shall only be passed with the approval of a majority of participating voters in that province.*

#### *Section 2*

*The Covenants of Rights and Freedoms, being sacred and necessary to the defence of our free society, are entrenched provisions of this Organic Law. They may only be amended if the referendum required by Section 1 passes with a two-thirds majority of voters participating in the referendum.*

*shall be amended to include the following Section 3, as follows:*

### Section 1

*An amendment to the Organic Law may be made by proclamation by the King where so authorized by:*

- A vote of two-thirds in both chambers of the Ziu, and*
- Approval of the majority of voters participating in a referendum on the question of the amendment no later than during the next scheduled general election following the approval of the Ziu.*
- Proposed changes to this Organic Law that affect the representation of a province in the Senäts, or of the territory or equal sovereignty of a province, shall only be passed with the approval of a majority of participating voters in that province.*

### Section 2

*The Covenants of Rights and Freedoms, being sacred and necessary to the defence of our free society, are entrenched provisions of this Organic Law. They may only be amended if the referendum required by Section 1 passes with a two-thirds majority of voters participating in the referendum.*

### Section 3

*Should the King decline to proclaim any proposed amendment to the Organic Law under Section 1, the King shall proclaim such amendment notwithstanding his earlier refusal if:*

- Both chambers of the Ziu again approve an identical amendment, a general election having intervened since the first approval by the Ziu, and*
- A two-thirds majority of voters participating in the next general election vote in favour of the amendment.*

*The King shall not proclaim an amendment to the Covenants of Rights and Freedoms under this section unless the people approve the amendment by a three-quarters majority in the second referendum.*

*Article XX of the Organic Law of the Kingdom of Talossa, which currently reads:*

*Legislation may be enacted by the people through the Referendum. The Ziu may prepare referenda and submit these to popular vote, as it sees fit. The referendum may be advisory (a non-binding public opinion check) or may have the force of law upon its approval by a majority of those who vote on it. Referenda questions appear on the ballot during the next general election, or sooner, if the Seneschal so chooses to authorise.*

*shall be amended as follows:*

*Legislation may be enacted by the people through the Referendum. The Ziu may prepare referenda and submit these to popular vote, as it sees fit. The referendum may be advisory (a non-binding public opinion check) or may have the force of law upon its approval by a majority of those who vote on it. Referenda questions shall appear on the ballot during the next general election.*

## **The How About This? Amendment**

Senator Éovart (Eđo) Grischun also has his own proposal for solving the non-signing issue, but it doesn't seem to have much support, most commenters being opposed to it.

in summary, in the author's own words:



- Amendments will go into the hopper for 28 days minimum, THEN
- Amendments go before the Ziu twice. ie, Amendments must go to Clark twice and must pass both times, THEN
- It goes to referendum, and if passed THEN
- The King SHALL enact the amendment.

Here is the bill content:

*THEREFORE Article XV of the Organic Law (entitled; Amendments to the Organic Law) is stricken from the Organic Law in its entirety, and rewritten as follows:*

### **Article XV: Amendments to the Organic Law**

#### **Section 1**

*An amendment to the Organic Law shall be made by proclamation by the King where so instructed in accordance with all other sections of this Article. The King shall be deemed to have received such instruction when all provisions in all sections of this Article have been met. Amendments to the Organic Law shall only be made when all provisions outlined in all other sections of this Article have been met.*

#### **Section 2**

*Amendments to the Organic Law may be submitted for consideration in the following manner:*

*A legislative proposal which seeks to amend the Organic Law must spend a minimum of 28 days in The Hopper before being submitted to the Secretary of State for inclusion in the Clark; THEN*

*The legislative proposal shall be considered by the Ziu twice in two separate voting sessions (Clarks) and must pass both chambers of the Ziu both times before being considered ready to submit to referendum; AND*

*In both voting sessions an affirmative vote of two-thirds in both chambers of the Ziu must be achieved.*

#### **Section 3**

*In the event that a legislative proposal that would amend this Organic Law satisfies all provisions set out in Section 2 of this Article then a referendum on the question of the amendment will be held. The referendum will be held no later than during the next scheduled general election following the second stage approval of the Ziu. The referendum will be deemed approved if a majority of participating voters vote in favour of the amendment. Additionally, proposed changes to this Organic Law that affect the representation of a province in the Senäts, or of the territory or equal sovereignty of a province, shall only be passed with the approval of a majority of participating voters in that province.*

## Section 4

*The Covenants of Rights and Freedoms, being sacred and necessary to the defence of our free society, are entrenched provisions of this Organic Law. They may only be amended if the referendum required by Section 3 of this Article passes with a two-thirds majority of voters participating in the referendum.*

## The Two Cents Amendment

Newcomer Galen Zavala-Sherby of the Socialist party proposed massive changes and this amendment is the first version of Galen Zavala-Sherby massive reform amendment to drastically reduce the power of the King in Talossa. This first version was split in 3 parts (which follows).

Miestra Schiva approved it in principle, since it would bring the Kingdom closer to her ideals, but in practice, according to her:

*[...]giving the Seneschál power to dissolve the Cosâ is a bad move. It would mean the government being able to keep itself in power indefinitely by not allowing the Cosâ to ever remove it.*

Already C. Carlüs Xheraltescù noted that this was giving too much power to the Seneschal and several people pointed out that the bill should be split in portions and reformed, hence the second version below.

For now, here is the original bill:

*Whereas Article III Section II of the Organic Law currently reads:*

*The King is the symbolic head of the nation. The nation democratically grants the King and his successors certain Royal Powers: The right to declare national holidays, grant titles of nobility, make the annual Speech From the Throne on the 26th of December (or at other times when events warrant), to veto bills (or Prime Dictates), to issue Writs of Dissolution and Warrants of Prorogation for the Cosâ, to grant pardons and commute sentences, to confer awards and decorations, to appoint the Seneschál after elections, and to appoint Governors of Territories upon the advice of the Seneschál.*

*Shall be amended to read:*

*The King is the symbolic head of the nation. The nation democratically grants the King and his successors certain Royal Powers: The right to declare national holidays, grant titles of nobility, make the annual Speech From the Throne on the 26th of December (or at other times when events warrant), to confer awards and decorations, and to advise the Seneschál on the appointment of Governors of Territories.*

*AND Whereas Article XI Section II of the Organic Law currently reads:*

*The King appoints the Seneschal. If a single party occupies a majority of the seats in the Cosâ, the King shall choose as PM whichever individual shall be designated by that party. If no single party has a majority, the King shall appoint a Seneschál after consulting party leaders with the objective of finding a PM who can be sustained in subsequent Votes of Confidence by a majority of seats in the Cosâ. The King must appoint a new Seneschál or announce the continuation of the incumbent in office within one month of the end of elections, or, if after one month no candidate can be appointed with the support of a Cosa majority, dissolve the Cosa after the first Clark and call for new elections.*

*Shall be amended to read:*

*The Seneschal is elected by the citizens of Talossa during the election of the Cosa. Seneschal candidates will be selected within parties and be voted for during the previously stated time frame.*

*AND Whereas Article XI Section IV currently reads:*

*The Seneschal has State duties. He may advise the King to dissolve the Cosa and to appoint and remove members of the Cabinet. His advice to the King on these matters may not be refused. The Seneschal may issues Speeches to the Nation in writing, declare war pending the approval of the Cosa, write treaties pending the approval of the Cosa, expedite the Ziu's consideration of legislation, and issue Prime Dictates.*

*Shall be amended to read:*

*The Seneschal has State duties. He may dissolve the Cosa and appoint and remove members of the Cabinet. The Seneschal may issues Speeches to the Nation in writing, declare war pending the approval of the Cosa, write treaties pending the approval of the Cosa, expedite the Ziu's consideration of legislation, and issue Prime Dictates.*

*AND Whereas Article XI Section V currently reads:*

*Prime Dictates (PD's) are public declarations which affect government policy and have the force of law. They take effect upon their countersignature by the King, function as laws for all purposes, and may be repealed by a majority vote in the Cosâ. If a Prime Dictate is vetoed by the King, the Cosâ may introduce the text of the PD as a regular bill and, if it receives two-thirds of the vote, it becomes law over the King's objection. A PD may never be used to amend the Organic Law. PD's shall be published at the earliest possible opportunity in the Clark.*

*Shall be amended to read:*

*Prime Dictates (PD's) are public declarations which affect government policy and have the force of law. They take effect upon proclamation function as laws for all purposes, and may be repealed by a majority vote in the Cosâ. A PD may never be used to amend the Organic Law. PD's shall be published at the earliest possible opportunity in the Clark.*

*AND Whereas Article XI Section VI currently reads:*

*Should a petition supported by members of the Cosa holding more than half the seats therein be presented to the Crown instructing the King to replace the Seneschal, the King shall accede to the petition, and shall replace the Seneschal with any specific person named in the petition, or, lacking any specific recommendation for a successor, with any person who the Crown believes will command the confidence of the Cosa.*

*Shall be amended to read:*

*Should a petition supported by members of the Cosa holding more than half the seats therein be presented to the Crown instructing the King to replace the Seneschal, the King shall accede to the petition, and shall replace the Seneschal with any specific person named in the petition. After declaration of the new Seneschal a 48-hour period will be given so that the citizens of Talossa may petition against the assignation of the new Seneschal. If a majority of citizens petition a new election must be held and new candidates chosen. If no petition arises the Seneschal shall remain.*

*AND Whereas Article XII Section I currently reads:*

*The King appoints and dismisses members of the Government (Cabinet), and their subordinates, on the advice of the Seneschál. The Government consists of the Seneschál, the Distáin, the Foreign Minister, Defence Minister, Immigration Minister, and Minister of Stuff. Various other ministries may also be appointed as the Seneschál sees fit.*

*Shall be amended to read:*

*The Seneschal appoints and dismisses members of the Government (Cabinet), and their subordinates. The Government consists of the Distáin, the Foreign Minister, Defence Minister, Immigration Minister, and Minister of Stuff. Various other ministries may also be appointed as the Seneschál sees fit.*

*AND Whereas Article XII Section VIII currently reads:*

*The King shall appoint a member of the Government to be Distáin (Deputy Prime Minister) on the advice of the Seneschál. The Distain shall act in place of the Seneschal in the event of the latter's death, resignation, absence, or disability, until a new Seneschal shall be appointed. The Ziu may by law establish procedures for determining the absence or disability of the Seneschal.*

*Shall be amended to read:*

*The Seneschal shall appoint a member of the Government to be Distáin (Deputy Prime Minister). The Distain shall act in place of the Seneschal in the event of the latter's death, resignation, absence, or disability, until a new Seneschal shall be appointed. The Ziu may by law establish procedures for determining the absence or disability of the Seneschal.*

*AND Whereas Article XII Section IX currently reads:*

*The King shall appoint a Member of the Cosa to serve as Speaker of the Cosa (Talossan: el Túischac'h), on the advice of a simple majority vote in the Cosa for the upcoming term. The*

*Speaker shall preside, direct and maintain order during Living Cosas, in an unbiased fashion. Otherwise, his function will be to advise Members of Cosa of appropriate decorum. He is considered the honourable President of the Cosâ and shall be awarded all due veneration when serving as such. (47RZ4)*

*Shall be amended to read:*

*The Seneschal shall appoint a Member of the Cosa to serve as Speaker of the Cosa (Talossan: el Túischac'h), on the advice of a simple majority vote in the Cosa for the upcoming term. The Speaker shall preside, direct and maintain order during Living Cosas, in an unbiased fashion. Otherwise, his function will be to advise Members of Cosa of appropriate decorum. He is considered the honourable President of the Cosâ and shall be awarded all due veneration when serving as such. (47RZ4)*

## **The Massive Reform Amendment Part 1**

This is first part of the second version of Galen Zavala-Sherby amendment to drastically reduce the power of the King in Talossa. This version was also received rather badly, with several citizens expressing their concern over such massive changes, such as the power of the King to nominate the Prime-Minister.

Txec Dal Nordselva succinctly explained:

*In just about every parliamentary system on earth, the head of state appoints the Prime Minister. This doesn't mean he gets to choose for himself – he has to appoint the one who has a majority of the Cosa behind him.*

Sevastáin Pinátsch, Minister of STUFF, Senator for Atatürk, brilliantly added:

*I regret that this may be too “massive” a reform for many of us to contribute to meaningfully. You probably have to think smaller in terms of chipping away at the King's role. Chisel, not sledgehammer... And taken as a whole, these three are in the realm of jackhammer.*

Still, here is the text of the Part 1:

*Whereas Article III Section II of the Organic Law currently reads:*

*The King is the symbolic head of the nation. The nation democratically grants the King and his successors certain Royal Powers: The right to declare national holidays, grant titles of nobility, make the annual Speech From the Throne on the 26th of December (or at other times when events warrant), to veto bills (or Prime Dictates), to issue Writs of Dissolution and Warrants of Prorogation for the Cosâ, to grant pardons and commute sentences, to confer awards and decorations, to appoint the Seneschál after elections, and to appoint*

*Governors of Territories upon the advice of the Seneschál.*

*Shall be amended to read:*

*The King is the symbolic head of the nation. The nation democratically grants the King and his successors certain Royal Powers: The right to declare national holidays, grant titles of nobility, make the annual Speech From the Throne on the 26th of December (or at other times when events warrant), to confer awards and decorations, and to advise the Seneschál on the appointment of Governors of Territories.*

*AND Whereas Article XI Section II of the Organic Law currently reads:*

*The King appoints the Seneschal. If a single party occupies a majority of the seats in the Cosâ, the King shall choose as PM whichever individual shall be designated by that party. If no single party has a majority, the King shall appoint a Seneschál after consulting party leaders with the objective of finding a PM who can be sustained in subsequent Votes of Confidence by a majority of seats in the Cosâ. The King must appoint a new Seneschál or announce the continuation of the incumbent in office within one month of the end of elections, or, if after one month no candidate can be appointed with the support of a Cosa majority, dissolve the Cosa after the first Clark and call for new elections.*

*Shall be amended to read:*

*The Seneschal is elected by the citizens of Talossa during the election of the Cosa. Seneschal candidates will be selected within parties and be voted for during the previously stated time frame.*

*AND Whereas Article XI Section IV currently reads:*

*The Seneschal has State duties. He may advise the King to dissolve the Cosa and to appoint and remove members of the Cabinet. His advice to the King on these matters may not be refused. The Seneschal may issues Speeches to the Nation in writing, declare war pending the approval of the Cosa, write treaties pending the approval of the Cosa, expedite the Ziu's consideration of legislation, and issue Prime Dictates.*

*Shall be amended to read:*

*The Seneschal has State duties. He may appoint and remove members of the Cabinet. The Seneschal may issues Speeches to the Nation in writing, declare war pending the approval of the Cosa, write treaties pending the approval of the Cosa, expedite the Ziu's consideration of legislation, and issue Prime Dictates.*

## **The Massive Reform Amendment Part 2**

In this second part of his massive reform, Galen Zavala-Sherby reassigns most of the functions of the King to the Seneschal, in what Txec Dal NordSelva explains: "You are making the Seneschal FAR too powerful"

This is the bill as it currently stands:

*AND Whereas Article XII Section VIII currently reads:*

*The King shall appoint a member of the Government to be Distáin (Deputy Prime Minister) on the advice of the Seneschál. The Distain shall act in place of the Seneschal in the event of the latter's death, resignation, absence, or disability, until a new Seneschal shall be appointed. The Ziu may by law establish procedures for determining the absence or disability of the Seneschal.*

*Shall be amended to read:*

*The Seneschal shall appoint a member of the Government to be Distáin (Deputy Prime Minister). The Distain shall act in place of the Seneschal in the event of the latter's death, resignation, absence, or disability, until a new Seneschal shall be appointed. The Ziu may by law establish procedures for determining the absence or disability of the Seneschal.*

*AND Whereas Article XII Section IX currently reads:*

*The King shall appoint a Member of the Cosa to serve as Speaker of the Cosa (Talossan: el Túischac'h), on the advice of a simple majority vote in the Cosa for the upcoming term. The Speaker shall preside, direct and maintain order during Living Cosas, in an unbiased fashion. Otherwise, his function will be to advise Members of Cosa of appropriate decorum. He is considered the honourable President of the Cosâ and shall be awarded all due veneration when serving as such. (47RZ4)*

*Shall be amended to read:*

*The Seneschal shall appoint a Member of the Cosa to serve as Speaker of the Cosa (Talossan: el Túischac'h), on the advice of a simple majority vote in the Cosa for the upcoming term. The Speaker shall preside, direct and maintain order during Living Cosas, in an unbiased fashion. Otherwise, his function will be to advise Members of Cosa of appropriate decorum. He is considered the honourable President of the Cosâ and shall be awarded all due veneration when serving as such. (47RZ4)*

*AND Whereas Article XIII Section I currently reads:*

*Duration of the Cosâ. The Cosâ convenes on the first day of the month after general elections, to coincide with the publication of the first Clark. Its term is roughly six months, each month coinciding with a Clark. During its last month the King shall issue a Writ of Dissolution ending its term. At the time the Cosâ is dissolved, all its members shall resign, but any Members holding positions in the Government may remain in those positions till the outcome of the election is resolved. (47RZ37)*

*Shall be amended to read:*

*Duration of the Cosâ. The Cosâ convenes on the first day of the month after general elections, to coincide with the publication of the first Clark. Its term is roughly six months,*



*each month coinciding with a Clark. During its last month the Speaker of the Cosa shall issue a Writ of Dissolution ending its term. At the time the Cosâ is dissolved, all its members shall resign, but any Members holding positions in the Government may remain in those positions till the outcome of the election is resolved.*

*AND Whereas Article XIII Section IV currently reads:*

*Early Dissolution of the Cosâ. The King may issue Writs of Dissolution to dissolve the Cosâ before its term has expired. The Seneschal may appeal for such a Writ of Dissolution, and if the appeal is presented accompanied by the explicit support of members of the Cosa representing a majority of seats therein, the King shall dissolve the Cosa effective immediately or, should the Cosa be in session, upon its next recess. If the appeal lacks such an explicit expression of support from a majority of the Cosa, the King shall not act on the appeal for a period of three days following its receipt, and shall then accede to the appeal but only if the Crown has not been presented during that time with a petition, supported by members of the Cosa representing more than half the seats therein, praying that the Cosa be not dissolved. A Writ, once issued, takes effect only at the end of the month in which it was issued, and may be rescinded before it has taken effect. If there is a Clark being voted on that month, all voting on that Clark may be completed before the Writ takes effect. The effect of a Writ of Dissolution is to dissolve the Cosâ and to call new elections.*

*Shall be amended to read:*

*Early Dissolution of the Cosâ. The Speaker of the Cosa may issue Writs of Dissolution to dissolve the Cosa before its term has expired. The Seneschal may appeal for such a Writ of Dissolution, and if the appeal is presented accompanied by the explicit support of members of the Cosa representing a majority of seats therein, the Speaker of the Cosa shall dissolve the Cosa effective immediately or, should the Cosa be in session, upon its next recess. If the appeal lacks such an explicit expression of support from a majority of the Cosa, the Speaker of the Cosa shall not act on the appeal for a period of three days following its receipt, and shall then accede to the appeal but only if the Speaker has not been presented during that time with a petition, supported by members of the Cosa representing more than half the seats therein, praying that the Cosa be not dissolved. A Writ, once issued, takes effect only at the end of the month in which it was issued, and may be rescinded before it has taken effect. If there is a Clark being voted on that month, all voting on that Clark may be completed before the Writ takes effect. The effect of a Writ of Dissolution is to dissolve the Cosâ and to call new elections.*

### **The Massive Reform Amendment Part 3**

The third part of Galen's reform reassigns some of the powers of the King to the speaker of the Cosa, which prompted Txec Dal Nordselva to reply:

*The Speaker of the Cosa dissolving the Cosa? You really don't seem to understand how a constitutional monarchy works. So far, all 3 amendments you have proposed are unworkable because you remove the checks and balances. Also, all three "powers" you are trying to remove are all of them ceremonial in nature. The king really has no constitutional*

*choice in any of these (not to mention not one of these would ever get past the throne).*

Interestingly, the discussion changed to be rather constructive, in our opinion. Galen replied saying:

*Dr. I don't want to hold a grudge with you so if you could understand that I am new at this*

Which prompted both Sevestáin Pinátsch and Alexandreu Davinescu to reply (respectively):

*Proposing legislation is definitely not for the thin-skinned. One really needs to be open to criticism (constructive, and otherwise) and not feel personally insulted when people disagree with one's ideas. In fact, it's the only way to become a better writer of bills and to get people to want to co-sponsor.*

and:

*Yes, Txec is doing exactly what a good legislator should do: hunt down flaws, ambiguities, and the unworkable. It is not just a favor to Galen, but it's a favor to the nation.*

*When I look at legislation, I try to think about how it could go wrong, not just how it could go right.*

Here is the bill as it currently stands, but a new version is scheduled to be uploaded by the time this issues will be released:

*AND Whereas Article XIII Section V currently reads:*

*Duration of the Government. Members of the Government take office when appointed by the King and leave office when dismissed by the King. Such appointments and dismissals are regulated elsewhere in this Organic Law.*

*Shall be amended to read:*

*Duration of the Government. Members of the Government take office when appointed by the Seneschal and leave office when dismissed by the Seneschal. Such appointments and dismissals are regulated elsewhere in this Organic Law.*

*AND Whereas Article XIII Section VI currently reads:*

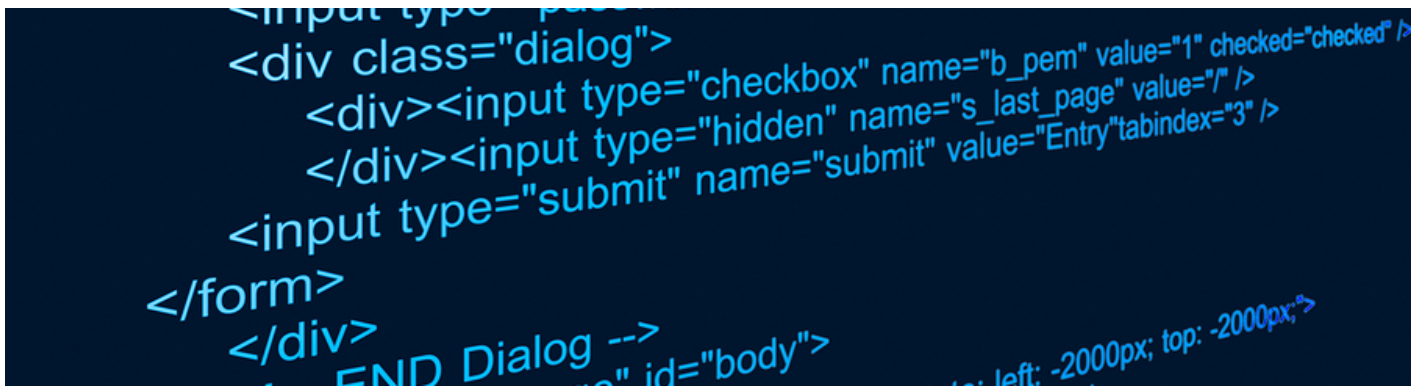
*Vote of Confidence. The Clark must contain, in every edition, a Vote of Confidence. This reads as follows: "Do you wish the current Government to continue in its term of office?" Each MC must answer this question in his Clark ballot every month, either with a "yes" or a "no." If at the end of any month the "no" vote outnumbers the "yes" vote, the King shall dissolve the Cosâ and call new elections.*

*Shall be amended to read:*

*Vote of Confidence. The Clark must contain, in every edition, a Vote of Confidence. This reads as follows: "Do you wish the current Government to continue in its term of office?" Each MC must answer this question in his Clark ballot every month, either with a "yes" or a "no." If at the end of any month the "no" vote outnumbers the "yes" vote, the Speaker of the Cosa shall dissolve the Cosa and call new elections.*

## The Resident Miracle Worker Book Extract: My first big website

By Marti-Pair Furxheir | June 2015



*This is an extract from the book I am currently writing, the Resident Miracle Worker and his downfall*

When I joined Talossa, I was a bored C++ developer who was making a good salary for a job which under-utilized my talents, as well as a Perl website developer who had built a few websites for clients and for myself.

I had just sold my first website for 5000\$, which I had run at a profit since 1998. I had been a DJ consultant in college (from 1995 until I graduated in 1998) and I helped DJs get in touch with the dance floor.

You have to understand that most of the small bars have amateur DJs and many of them don't understand what the clients want or, they do and are not able to balance the act between making the patrons dance and making them drink.

My future wife and I really enjoyed going out clubbing to dance, certainly a lot more than to drink.

We thus tended to prefer clubs which served food such as fries in addition to having a great dance floor.

These clubs sadly tended to have bad DJs since the music wasn't their primary focus. I saw an opportunity and offered a few of them near my college to guide their DJs into having amazing music while increasing their revenue.

To be honest, at first, I was the DJ consultant for only 1 bar, the Crazy Jack, a restaurant with a dance floor for the evenings that was then located less than 3 blocks from our college, located in a small suburb North of Montreal, Ste-Thérèse. We call these resto-Bar and is the most popular format in the suburb, with Ste-Thérèse and its suburbs having perhaps 6 or 7 of these in the mid-90s surviving from college students.

This one was the most beautifully decorated dance floor of the city with the most amazing lights and the best sound system.

When it opened, it offered amazing specials and a wonderful guest DJ which had the place packed week-end after week-end, usually with the classiest students who, in general, had the most disposable income.

But soon, the specials stopped and their regular DJ, one of the owners, stepped up.

He was awful and would chase away people from his bar by playing boring song after boring song, usually 70s hard rock which really didn't work with hip students in the 90s

The worst, was that every resto-bar, including this one, usually opened their dance floor around 10h30 pm, but the most important dance period in Québec is only between midnight and 1 am (from 1am until closing time at 3am, it's drinking time...).

But for Students, this DJ had his best music between 10h30 and 11h30 pm when he played the biggest eurodance hits of the week, because to him, it was just filler. This was music he didn't like (but which the students loved).

Meanwhile, the most popular dance floor of the town, the BST (Brasserie Ste-Thérèse, now closed too), served amazing charcoal broiled Pizza and cheap-ass drinks with beers under a dollar before midnight.

But their restaurant half was open until 11h00 pm and they only played classic rock until midnight, when they switched to dance music with a proper DJ (not amazing, just proper).

So, clients from the Crazy Jack would dance until the classic rock started, and would walk to the BST in time for cheap-ass drinks and the beginning of the eurodance at the BST.

The hostess of the Crazy Jack seemed depressed and would offer free drinks to those who stayed, so I decided to go talk to her to explain what was happening.

The next week-end, I was at 11h00 pm in the DJ booth telling the DJ what to play. That evening, I simply gave him a playlist and returned to the dance floor to tell the clients to stay for once.

It worked, at least, until the playlist ran out of songs, and people ran out of the bar.

Still, they had sold a lot more drinks than during previous weeks, and I had proven my value.

All of our drinks were comped and we received free fries.

But it was just the beginning...

On the next few weeks, I ended up choosing more and more of the songs, perfecting my technique for keeping the clients happy, while telling them while to drink.

I even had access to the microphone to act as an occasional MC.

I began receiving a consultant fee in cash and bar credit which was either used to get free food or to give free drinks to my friends and college buddies. I often used them to give free drinks to people about to leave like the hostess had done, but those drinks were part of my salary so they didn't mind.

The bar was working, but the restaurant during the day, wasn't and sadly, a few months later, the bar closed.

I was out of a gig... so, I repeated it at other bars in the area, charging at first 50 dollars per evening for my services, and then, 100 dollars.

For a student, this was amazing money!

And before you start thinking this was tax evasion, in Québec, the first 8000\$ you make isn't even taxed, and students get tax deductions on top of that.

Still, when I graduated in 1998, I both stopped being able to go out every week-end and, at the same time, no longer made enough money to be worth it.

So, I built a website instead. Yes, in 1998, there weren't a lot of websites, and my first version of my site was on a Geocities clone called Xoom if I remember well which notably allowed cgi scripts to run and, more amazingly, allowed to pay a small fee to remove banners.

This led me to learn Perl, to make a subscription website for my clients (DJs) to login and exchange tips with other djs and I, in exchange for just 100\$ per year.

In the front-end, regular clients could see a list of bars which applied my method and as such, knew where to go.

I would recruit the bars directly by visiting them and explaining that for the 100\$ per year, they could get advertisement on the Internet and access to the private section. In exchange, they would plug my website using my business cards left in their bars.

It didn't always work, but I managed to get two dozen bars subscribed for an annual revenue of 1200\$ per year (which were all declared as revenue, in case you are still asking).

I also had targeted banner ads which gave an additional 600\$ per year or so.

In mid-1999, I added a match making tool for visitors to register after I bought a match making website for 500\$ which was closing. I kept their 5\$ per year registration fee model and inherited of their 600 clients, of which, perhaps a fifth later renewed.

So, I kept their existing members in my system and even inherited of their domain name which became the new platform for my site which was now not just about finding the right club, but also the right person to go clubbing with.

In early 2000, right after banner ads stopped bringing revenue because of the dot-com crash, I received an offer to sell the site for 5000\$. I had been making perhaps half of that annually, but it required a lot of maintenance especially with the arrival of other match making sites and without the banner ads revenue, I didn't feel like it was worth it anymore.

To top it off, my wife and I were trying to have a baby and the clubbing scene wasn't as interesting for the moment.

Finally, music was changing and eurodance was gone putting me out of touch of what the bar scene really was.

But the cherry on top was the match making software. It was written in Perl and I had more and more problems with it as I patched it and improved it to make it unique.

Even worse, I had made it bilingual when the original software didn't support it at all.

I no longer could install updates because of my tweaks and I didn't really have the courage anymore to update it.

And so, I sold it. The buyer made it run for a year and then, closed it for good. Today, the .qc.ca domain name is no longer registered and it is no longer possible to register 3<sup>rd</sup> level .ca domain names (like .qc.ca).

I still wonder if I could have received more money or if I could have kept it running for longer, getting less and less revenue as time went on.

But that 5000\$ dollars helped buy a lot of my daughter's furniture and clothes and I am doubtful that by then, the site would have had 5000\$ in revenue in that short time frame or even, ever...

And more importantly, it showed me that I was able to start a website from scratch and make it prosper.

I quickly turned to my other burgeoning websites, such as the one I had created for my favorite RPG, KULT (whose first edition was edited by our own Ian Aglaratza!), but that field was already saturated.

This left me with a sense of emptiness: I was still building websites for my clients, but nothing for me, for my own fun, for experience and to push the limits of my capacities.

This is why I ended up doing the offer to the Kingdom [to create the database system]. To fill that void left when I sold my DJ website.

## Childhood's end

By Marti-Pair Furxheir | June 2015



*Evil men could be destroyed, but nothing could be done with good men who were deluded.*

## Book presentation

Childhood's end is an innovative science-fiction book by Sci-Fi legend Arthur C. Clarke and published in 1953 and is an expansion of his short story "Guardian Angel" published in 1946.

The story occurs over a span of 100 crucial years starting in the near future of Earth, with four clear sections occurring at the beginning of that 100 years, 5 years into that century, at the mid-point of the period and closing to the last few years of the period.

The book kick starts with the arrival of massive saucer-like spaceships which position themselves in silence over the major cities on earth. If you want to have an idea of how this looks, I strongly suggest you watch the opening of the movie Independence Day, as the positioning of the spaceship cannot be anything but an homage to his book.

However, instead of attacking the planet, the spaceship above New York City (where the UN reside), announces one week later that these aliens will assume supervision of international affairs to prevent the extinction of humanity (the book was written during the nuclear arms race). A supervisor, Karellen was assigned and the humans quickly nickname the aliens "Overlords".

Slowly, the overlords who never reveal themselves, begin reshaping humanity to turn the Earth into an utopia and as a result, human culture halts as creativity and scientific research dies down in the face of such advanced technology that our small progress seems trivial.

A few individuals are, justly I might had, worried that these changes will cause the end of human civilization and several of them take action to learn more, from kidnapping the secretary general of the UN (the only being able to talk to Karellen) to using a Ouija board and even hiding on a transport ship bound to the Overlord homeworld and it is mainly through these attempts that the story progresses to it's climax and final reveal.

The book is Arthur C. Clarke first successful novel and is widely regarded as his best novel and a classic of alien literature. In fact, Stanley Kubrick had intended to collaborate with Clark in the 1960s on turning it into a movie but from that collaboration came 2001: A Space Odyssey. A six hours television series will be broadcasted by the SyFy Channel in 2015.

## Critical Review



I'll go directly at it: I really didn't like *Childhood's End*. Ok, maybe I am being too harsh: most of the sections of the audio-book were interesting to listen to and the two readers were phenomenal doing various voices. It is clear to me that this audio-book got first grade production.

My problem isn't even with the story itself. I am sure that had I read the book on the day it came out, I would have loved it even if some of the aspects, even then, would have bothered me.

The reason I was bored was that each and every aspect of this book was over-exploited later by other works who possibly inspired themselves from this book, but in ways that are so clearly better made that *Childhood's End* appeared dated and old, something I usually rarely when reading golden era science-fiction such as the *Fondation* series written 10 years earlier or other later Arthur C. Clarke books.

But these other books are not as singular in scope as *Childhood's End* is. *Childhood's End* is a single linear story with shocking twists for the era which today are so plainly seen ahead that the book seems to lack them.

This can be typical of high-concept stories. In such genre, the author picks a concept, like the arrival of extra-terrestrials in this one, the large vampirisation of Society in the movie *Daybreakers*, pre-cog crime fighting in *Minority Report* and then, explores everything he can about that concept for the duration of the story.

In *Daybreakers*, *Minority Report* and in *Childhood's end*, you can easily expect the concept to fall apart by the end of the story in one way or another.

And so, at some point, I knew so much how the book would finish that I thought the climax was already reached even though I still had 90 minutes left on the counter. I couldn't see any twist endings and between you and I, the few surprises of last epilogue barely rose an eyebrow and if it triggered an emotion, it was more exasperation over the cliché ending.

But then again, I am sure it's not the book's fault however as it presented a novel idea which probably came as a shock in the pre-hippies red scare 1950s but which today were better explored by medias such as TV show *Stargate SG-1*.

A few of the themes of *SG-1* take the subplots of *Childhood's End* and explore them further. *Stargate Atlantis* even has an episode of that name!

For people who both read *Childhood's End* and who watched *SG-1*, I will just say that if you didn't make the link, the *Overlords* made me strongly think of the Aschen confederation while the ending made me think of the Ancients.

So, should you listen to *Childhood's end*?

If you are starting on Sci-fi, definitely. It is a ground-breaking story and one of the best novels of the golden age of science-fiction and unlike many other such stories, I feel like it is somewhat accessible with the emphasis made on new ideas (for the time) with a mixture of new things (like the start of the new age movement) with little need to have prior understanding of science-fiction concepts.

If you already read a lot of more recent Sci-fi (but not this story), you might be at a loss since like I said earlier, I am not sure it aged well for sci-fi connoisseurs and it lacks the depth of other contemporary

stories. For example, 2001 is already a much better book, in my humble opinion and unlike the movie, it actually makes sense.

But even for fans of the genre, Childhood's end isn't without its merits. It is a pivotal piece of science-fiction and I feel that the only reason it didn't age so well is precisely because so many following authors inspired themselves from it.

In all cases, I will be waiting for the miniseries with anticipation since this will make for very fascinating visuals...

## Colophon and Copyright

By Marti-Pair Furxheir | June 2015



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Our editor-in-chief is Marti-Pair Furxheir in his personal capacity. He is also our webmaster.

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