The Electoral Framework Act of the Nostera Republic (2025)
Adopted by the National Assembly of Nostera on the 12th day of June, 2025.

1. Voter Eligibility and Registration

All citizens of the Nostera Republic who have attained the age of eighteen (18) years by the date of an election shall be eligible to vote, provided they are not legally disqualified due to criminal conviction involving electoral offenses as declared by a competent court. Voter registration shall be continuous, transparent, and accessible, with a nationwide biometric registry maintained by the National Electoral Commission (NEC). Citizens may verify or update their registration at designated voter service centers or via the NEC's secure online portal. Voter registration closes thirty (30) days before election day, with special provisions for military personnel, diplomats, and citizens living abroad.

2. Ballot Access and Candidate Qualifications

Individuals or political parties seeking to contest an election must submit nomination forms to the NEC no later than sixty (60) days prior to the scheduled election date. Independent candidates must provide a petition supported by no fewer than five thousand (5,000) registered voters across at least ten (10) provinces. All candidates must be citizens of Nostera, with a minimum age of twenty-five (25) for parliamentary elections and thirty-five (35) for the presidency. Candidates must not have been convicted of crimes involving fraud, corruption, or electoral offenses within the past ten (10) years. Political parties must be legally registered and financially compliant with the Political Organizations and Funding Act. The NEC will publish the final list of approved candidates no later than forty-five (45) days before election day.

3. Voting Methods and Procedures

Voting shall be conducted by secret ballot, either on certified paper ballots or through approved electronic voting systems. All polling stations shall operate from 07:00 to 18:00 local time. Voters present in line at the close of polls shall be permitted to vote. Valid government issued identification—such as a national ID card, voter card, or biometric verification—is required to cast a ballot. The NEC shall also provide for absentee voting, early voting, and accessible options for citizens with disabilities, seniors, and citizens living abroad.

Poll workers, also known as electoral officers, must complete NEC-mandated training prior to deployment. They are required to:

- Open polling stations promptly and secure all sensitive materials.
- Verify each voter's identity and eligibility without discrimination.
- Maintain neutrality and refrain from wearing or displaying political symbols.
- Ensure secrecy of the vote and assist voters with disabilities upon request.
- Record and report any incidents, disruptions, or irregularities.

- Remain at their assigned polling stations throughout the voting and counting process unless replaced or relieved by an NEC supervisor.
- Cooperate fully with accredited observers and security officials.

Failure by poll workers to uphold these duties may result in disciplinary action, including removal, disqualification from future service, and potential criminal charges in the case of willful misconduct.

4. Election Administration

The National Electoral Commission (NEC) shall serve as the sole, independent authority responsible for organizing, managing, and overseeing all elections and referenda in Nostera. It shall consist of seven (7) commissioners appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, each serving a renewable five-year term. The NEC is empowered to administer voter education, manage logistics, accredit observers, and issue binding regulations. At the regional level, Local Election Committees shall support coordination and implementation under NEC supervision. The NEC must publish its operational plans, procurement details, and audit reports to ensure transparency and public confidence.

5. Vote Counting and Certification

Counting of ballots shall commence immediately after the close of polls and take place on-site at each polling station. The process must be transparent, with the participation of party agents and election observers. Tally sheets shall be completed in triplicate, signed by presiding officers and agents, and transmitted to regional collation centers both physically and electronically. The NEC shall verify, audit, and officially certify national results within seven (7) calendar days of election day. Certified results shall be published in the National Gazette and on the NEC's official website. Any unexplained discrepancies must be reviewed and resolved before certification is finalized.

6. Dispute Resolution and Legal Challenges

All electoral complaints and challenges must be submitted to the Electoral Tribunal within seventy-two (72) hours of the announcement of provisional results. The Tribunal, composed of senior judges appointed by the Chief Justice, shall investigate and render a ruling within ten (10) days. Appeals may be submitted to the Constitutional Court, which must issue a final, binding decision within seven (7) additional days. Electoral crimes, including voter intimidation, bribery, vote tampering, or obstruction of the process, shall be prosecuted under the Penal Code. The electoral justice system must ensure prompt, fair, and impartial resolution of all disputes.

7. Election Security and Integrity

The security and integrity of elections shall be jointly ensured by the National Electoral Commission and the Joint Electoral Security Taskforce (JEST), comprising the National Police, Civil Guard, and cybersecurity units. Law enforcement officers assigned to electoral duties must remain non-partisan and operate under NEC coordination. No security personnel shall enter polling stations without prior authorization, except in cases of emergency. The NEC shall implement advanced cybersecurity measures,

including end-to-end encryption, penetration testing, and digital audits for all electronic systems. Randomized manual recounts of at least five percent (5%) of polling stations shall be conducted to validate results and uphold public trust.

This Act shall take effect immediately upon its passage and publication in the National Gazette. All previous electoral statutes in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.