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| **BACKGROUND: THE LOBBY GAMES** |
| **About the Island of Harmonia** |

The island of Harmonia is a peaceful island off the coast of the United States. It is a fairly large land mass – about the size of Maine, and has a population of about 400,000 people. A little over 300,000 people live in the capital of Harmonia – Shellsville, with the rest of the population scattered throughout the agricultural communities across the island’s east coast. The economic core of Harmonia is nuts, specifically cashew nuts. They are grown and processed throughout the island and then exported to the mainland mainly for use in exotic deserts and many of the ice creams produced by Bob and Jay’s band of ice cream. There is a thriving summer tourist business, but the nearly $1 billion in nut sales are the dominant theme in Harmonia life.

A council of Senators, elected every four years, governs the island. Each of the five senators represents about 80,000 constituents, and the Council meets for four months every year starting in January. The senators mostly have day jobs for the rest of the year and are widely held in good esteem across the Island of Harmonia.

The Island has one newspaper that is published in Shellsville. The Daily Harmonica is the main source of news and opinion on the Island and prides itself as being at the center of Harmonia life. Read by tourists, senior citizens, suburbanites and senators, the Harmonica’s notes find many ears across the island.

Shellsville is a port town located on the west of the island, and in addition to being the export point for Harmonia’s main export of cashew nuts, it is the landing point for many summer tourists who continue to seek summer solitude and beauty in this quaint and peaceful Island far from the shrill realities of modern life – or so we think.

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| **The Issue Ecosystem** |

Harmonia doesn’t have a lot of problems. Its budget is pretty tight and they are struggling to manage growth in Shellsville, but the big buzz is health care. There is a major hospital and medical school in Shellsville. Named after St. Stuckey, the hospital can take care of most of the medical needs of the Island, but with advances in technology on the mainland, many residents and the occasionally overexerted tourist are required to be sent to the mainland for specialty treatments, including any type of transplant or heart surgery. This shortcoming of medical attention has long been a major problem for the hospital and some of its 5000 employees.

This is not the only healthcare problem though. The population on the East side of the island is also short of resources that they need for basic medical care. With only a few remaining medical offices, many of the residents of these rural communities – including an increasingly aging population—have to travel all the way to Shellsville for medical attention. With narrow roads and only a few buses this is not only becoming an annoyance for those out East, it is also becoming a health threat to many of the older and more inform residents who have spent their entire lives building the small agricultural communities across the Island.

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| **Resolutions Being Considered by the Council** |

***Council Resolution 1:*** Sponsored by Senator Damiron, will finance the construction of a community medical center on the Eastern side of the Island. The medical center would take care of most of the basic health care needs of the Eastern residents. It will cost $30 million over 3 years, and be financed by a 1% tax on nut exports for the next three years.

***Council Resolution 2:*** Sponsored by Senator Greenberg will finance the construction of a new hospital wing at St. Stuckey’s. The new wing will include the latest in surgical technology and bring the hospital up to the standards enjoyed by those on the mainland. The new wing will be financed by an increase in the corporate income tax of Harmonia and will cost approximately $50 million over 3 years. $5 million has already been raised by the hospital capital fund and $5 may be available through federal support.

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| **The Council’s Administrative Rules** |

The Council is reaching the end of its annual session, and the budget and health care have dominated the session. There are two competing health care proposals that are on the table and the Council is soon to vote on those proposals before finalizing the budget and adjourning for the year. There is a nut harvest, summer tourist season and many good fishing days to be had as soon as the Council can take its votes on this issue and move on.

Each Senator on the Council has an office in the capitol with one staff person. Once a bill is scheduled for a vote, any Senator can offer one amendment to the bill before it is voted on for final approval. The rules stipulate that only the two amendments with the most cosponsors can be brought up for a vote however. Amendments have to be filed in advance of the floor vote and the Game Master decides which amendments may be offered. There are certain budget rules however that are principally designed to keep some order and fiscal discipline in the legislative process, and the Leadership has a great deal of discretion about how the rules are applied, and many amendments are often ruled out of order once they reach the floor. It is not the most democratic process, but it has worked for the Island for centuries and if anyone doesn’t like it they can get their own Island.

All voting is done by secret ballot, and vote tallies are announced after the vote. A Senator may withdraw an amendment, but a bill must be voted on once it is scheduled.

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| **The Senators** |

***Senator Damiron:*** He is an activist legislator from the Eastern side of the Island. A former Director of the Gray Panthers, he is doggedly pursuing the passage of his bill to fund a medical center. He doesn’t have many years left in him as a Senator and may retire at the end of this session, but he is waiting to see what happens with the health care issue. All of Senator Damiron’s district is rural and on the eastern side and he is easily elected every time.

***Senator Greenberg:*** He is a retired doctor and professor emeritus at St Stuckey’s. He is very excited about the new hospital wing that he is proposing, and like Senator Greenberg sees this as his crowning moment. Senator Greenberg represents the wealthier suburb of Shellsville, including the ritziest neighborhood near the capital. He is very popular in the district and enjoys significant support from the wealthy residents and the doctors from the hospital. He was never been a favorite of the nurses or the medical students, but his impressive network and war chest usually scares off any kind of serious opposition in the elections.

***Senator Rossini***: He is from Shellsville and the owner of a tractor and farm machinery dealership. He is an honest man and quite moderate, but very tied in to the Shellsville Chamber of Commerce who frequently give him their Senator of the year award. He is very in touch with the rural communities because of his farming business, but is also a practical and successful businessman. He won his recent election by 55% after outspending his opponent significantly. His district is growing and the demographics are changing as the area attracts mainlanders and suburbanites.

***Senator Sedgwick:*** She is a progressive businesswoman from Shellsville. She is fairly new to Harmonia but has quickly become a leader in the community with her energy, vision and pragmatism. She is respected by her suburban electors and the opinion leaders in Shellsville, although she is a little more liberal than some at the Chamber would like. She won her election by 75%, but really had no opposition. She represents the Northeastern suburbs of Shellsville and is involved with a chain of coffee shops and some real estate ventures.

***Senator Warner:*** She is a retired Farmer who represents a mix of suburban and rural constituents on the east side of Shellsville. She is always challenged vigorously by the more progressive elements of the district and wins narrowly every time. She is an independent thinker, fiscal conservative, and general curmudgeon.

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| **Other Organizing Groups – Their Opinion on the Issue** |

***Harmonia Association of Senior Citizens:*** This is a liberal senior group that has 5,000 members across the Island. Their membership is mostly those from the Eastern side of the island who have been galvanized by the fight for Council Resolution 1. They have a couple of staff people and some great activist volunteers. They split their time between the council and building up their activist membership. They are pretty sophisticated public interest players but are vastly outgunned by many of the powerful interests on the Island.

***The Harmonia Medical Association:*** The Harmonia Medical Association is the main lobbying group for the doctors. They are well respected, have a dozen or so staff who not only represent the doctors, but provide services to the medical community as a membership association. They work very closely with the leadership at the hospital and see their futures as being mutually linked. They make political contributions through their PAC, but do not endorse candidates and try to be as generous to all as they can be. They also have a small endowment that has been raising money for the new hospital wing and other charitable ventures. They are ardent supporters of CR2 and have placed all their eggs in the CR2 basket because they don’t believe both measures can pass. (2 new taxes in one year isn’t politically feasible.)

***The Harmonia Chamber of Commerce:*** The Harmonia Chamber of Commerce is the powerhouse business group on the Island. They are very large and wealthy. They are very active in the Council and while they don’t speak up publicly very much, they make their opinions known and have mastered the art of using their financial clout, political network and issue expertise as a means toward their agenda of building the economy and prosperity of Harmonia. The Chamber opposes both measures for tax reasons.

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| **Lobby Games Rules** |

Through this hands-on simulation you will learn to execute an organizing strategy within an issue ecosystem, understand what to consider when lobbying key decision makers, and know how to work with coalition partners and local media to persuade key decision makers.

* You are a member of a citizen group on the Island of Harmonia. You will work with your group to execute the organizing strategy you developed previously. Your main objective is to lobby members of the Council of Senators to support/oppose Council Resolution 1 and Council Resolution 2.
* Use references from your organizing group’s background to portray your character. However, feel free to inject your own personality into the role.
* Senators will vote in favor of or against the Resolutions based on the strengths of your lobbying strategy. Therefore, always refer to the resolution and the Senators character backgrounds.
* Uphold your group’s position on the issue at all times. However, you can evolve your issue position as your organizing strategy develops.
* You and other members of your group can visit each Senator multiple times. But you can only meet with a Senator for three minutes at a time. Senators are positioned across the training room.
* To start the game, groups will have 20 minutes to plan how they will execute their strategy. Then, Senators will be available for lobbying for an hour. After lobbying ends, Senators will come together to vote on the Resolutions.
* There are two newspapers that will cover the lobbying activity. One newspaper will be published 20 minutes after the start of the game. A second newspaper will be published 50 minutes after the start of the game. You can use the newspaper as a way to get your message out.
* The Game Masters will keep the game moving. Approach them with logistical, press, and content questions.

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| **Skeletal Agenda** |

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| **Time** | **Duration** | **Activity** |
| 1:30 PM | :20 | Simulation Overview and Rules  |
| 1:50 PM | :20 | Strategic Planning  |
| 2:10 PM | :00 | First Newspaper Publication: The Daily Harmonian |
| 2:10 PM | :30 | Lobbying Begins |
| 2:40 PM | :00 | Second Newspaper Released: The Daily Harmonian  |
| 2:40 PM | :30 | Lobbying Continues  |
| 3:10 PM | :15 | Voting Session |
| 3:25 PM | :35 | Debrief  |