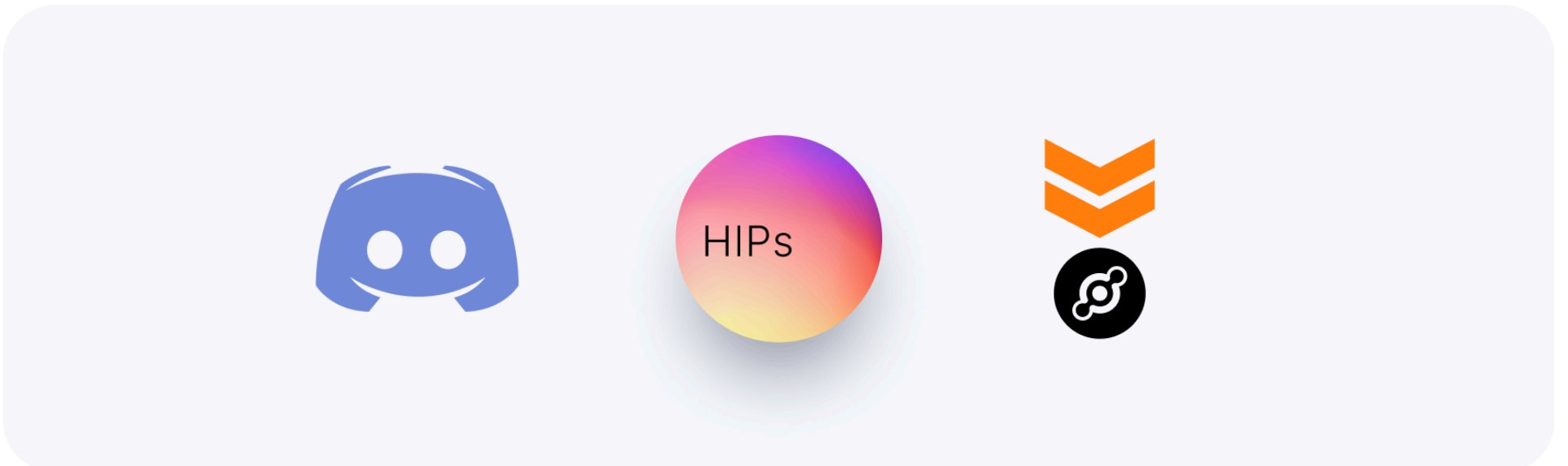
Governance



What is Helium Governance?

Helium governance exists to manage the process by which the network can be modified, whether in its technical architecture, the token's economic model, or meta-governance changes. It is governed by the global community of owners of HNT. These HNT owners include Hotspot deployers, network users, wireless network operators, hardware manufacturers, and more. HNT must be locked for voting on network changes, ensuring long-term stakeholder alignment.

Anyone can submit a Helium Improvement Proposal (HIP) as a first step to modifying the network. All HIPs are published in the public Helium GitHub repository, then discussed and debated in public forums, including the Helium community Discord server, and on monthly community calls. Any Helium token owner is eligible to vote on HIPs within the domain of that specific token. To vote, an HNT owner must first lock their tokens for a period of time, up to four years, which grants the owner voting power determined by the number of locked tokens and the lock duration.

The Helium Foundation serves as a steward for the governance process. The Foundation established the initial framework and manages the open Helium GitHub repositories. The Foundation does not vote on HIPs but does vet proposals for compliance with the law and technical feasibility. The Foundation's role is to provide expert advice and guidance and to guide implementation of the HIPs after they have passed.

Information about governance is subject to change as the Helium Network constantly evolves. It is led by the open-source community that continues to build it.

Participate

Ready to participate? Join the global decentralized wireless network and participate in Helium governance, including specific HIPs, voting procedures, and working groups. Refer to the provided links and resources.

1. **Discord**: The Helium Discord platform serves as the primary communication channel for the Helium Network Community. It offers real-time discussions, support, and engagement opportunities.
2. **GitHub Repository**: The HIP GitHub repository provides access to the Helium Improvement Proposals and related discussions.
3. **Social Media and Ecosystem Voices**: The Helium Foundation and various influencers on platforms like Twitter, Discord, and YouTube provide updates, debates, and explanations of HIPs and governance-related matters.
4. **Monthly Community Calls**: The Helium Community holds monthly video calls (led by the Helium Foundation). These typically happen on the 4th Wednesday of each month at Noon ET. Each call has an open agenda, and any community member can join and add items to the agenda to be discussed.
5. **Community Calendar**: The Helium Foundation maintains a calendar of ecosystem events and happenings. You can access and subscribe at: www.helium.foundation/community-calendar.

Socials + Ecosystem Voices

As a network steward, the Helium Foundation posts important governance news, calls to vote, and more on Twitter. Follow @HeliumFndn on Twitter to stay up to date.

As a decentralized network, numerous voices discuss governance, host debates, and explain HIPs in layman's terms. You can find many of these influential voices in Discord, on Twitter, or on YouTube.

Edit this page

Previous
« CLI Wallet

Next
Governance »

Voting

> This page has not been fully updated to represent the latest state of the Helium Network following the migration to Solana on April 18, 2023.

To go from a proposed HIP to a vote, the Helium Community follows the process initially laid out in HIP 7. Rough consensus and running code are critical factors for achieving approval. Rough consensus is achieved In partnership with HIP Authors, as well as non-binding Temperature Checks in the Helium Discord. Temperature Checks allow the community and all stakeholders discussing the HIP to signal readiness or suggest more time for discussion. HIPs progress through different stages, including Draft, In Discussion, Approved, Deployed, or Rejected.

Read the HIP 7 Process here: https://github.com/helium/HIP/blob/main/0007-managing-hip-process.md

Blockchains + On-Chain Voting

The Helium Network, uses on-chain voting to maximize inclusive participation and maintain a publicly auditable voting record. On-chain voting means storing a piece of data on a Blockchain. The Blockchain acts as an immutable ledger. To store data on a Blockchain, users must pay a small transaction fee, which covers the data storage cost permanently. The Helium Network utilizes the Solana Blockchain for blockchain-based data storage. The Solana Blockchain has fast processing times and low fees, keeping costs accessible to all participants for small transactions like voting and governance. Storing voting data on a Blockchain ensures transparency and immutability of the voting process.

Today, the Helium Network utilizes the Helium Vote tool for on-chain voting. Since the passage of HIP 51- 53, the Helium Network established the distinction between Networks and subnetworks, currently represented by a token for each. HIP 51 - 53 also established the Vote Escrowed Model of token Staking for Voting Power.

The veToken model

The veToken model originated from Curve (veCRV) as a native token initiating a lockup and creating voting rights. Curve's native token is CRV and has three functions: voting, staking, and boosting yield. To perform any of those functions, CRV is required to be locked in the form of veCRV. The "ve" in veToken stands for "Voter/vote escrowed." Today, this model has been emulated by various DeFi protocols within many Layer 1 ecosystems. The Helium Network has adopted the model originally introduced and passed by the community in HIP 51.

The veToken initiatives within the Helium Network serve two primary purposes: maximizing rewards, specifically for protocol emission earnings and governance. Governance seeks to establish the best outcomes for new projects, new initiatives, and for the future of decentralized wireless.

The Value of veTokens for Governance

In the context of the Helium Network, the veToken model's primary use is to establish voting strength and governance rights. The additional on-chain object (the veToken) represents that wallet's voting strength.

The veToken model requires users to stake the underlying token, locking the tokens up for a period of up to four years. The longer the staking period, the greater the voting strength. By locking up tokens, economic interests and voting rights are effectively aligned. The native token holders retain the tokens' economic value and utility, while the veToken assumes the voting rights. All Helium veTokens are non-transferable, 'soulbound,' and have zero intrinsic economic value. They are represented by an NFT in your Helium Wallet App.

Visit Realms, the Helium Network, and subnetworks at:

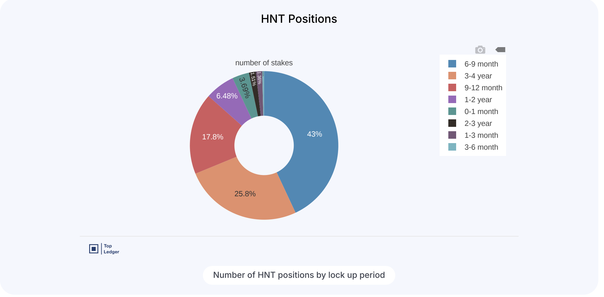
- Helium (HNT): [realms.heliumvote.com/dao/hnt][realms-helium]
- IoT subnetwork (IOT): [realms.heliumvote.com/dao/iot][realms-iot]
- Mobile subnetwork (MOBILE): [realms.heliumvote.com/dao/mobile][realms-mobile]

Staking

To vote in the Helium Network for changes to either the Network at large, the IoT (LoRaWAN) subnetwork, or the Mobile (5G) subnetwork, a participant must stake HNT.

Staking is a process of locking up a token amount (as little as one token) for a specific period of time in an on-chain program on the Solana Blockchain. This program defines the parameters for lockup. In the Helium Network users can stake tokens for up to 4 years. Staking allows users to make a commitment to the future, creating long-term alignment to increase the value of the Network.

> HOW TO STAKE TOKENS
>
> For a full walkthrough on how to stake your tokens to the Helium Network, see the staking guide.



Number of HNT positions by lock up period

Voting Power

Voting Power is your HNT amount multiplied by the duration of a lock-up period. Voting Power creates a weight of your vote against others. This Voting Power enables those with strong incentive alignment with the network to have greater influence over governance decisions.

Vote Escrowed Positions as NFTs

When you stake a token, you'll receive a veToken position in your wallet. 've' represents the Vote Escrowed position created by staking your tokens for a voting power multiplier. For all users, the veToken positions will be shown in a web3 wallet as Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs). They are not tradable or transferable and are considered 'soulbound' to your wallet. Vote Escrowed simply means the tokens sit in an escrow period until the staking, or locking, position is over and is only to be used for voting and governance while in escrow.

veHNT

The Helium Network serves as the overarching system that enables both the Mobile and IOT networks to exist. As such, veHNT's role in network governance is in matters affecting the entire network. For example, a proposal affecting HNT emissions would be voted on using veHNT.

Additionally, veHNT can be delegated to either the Mobile or IOT networks in order to earn a portion of that network's tokens.

veIOT

The IOT network focuses on the growth and development of IoT devices and applications. Delegating your HNT IOT network grants veIOT which can be used to vote on matters specific to the IOT network. For example, a proposal affecting proof of coverage behavior for IOT Hotspots.

veMOBILE

The MOBILE network is dedicated to the growth and expansion of the Helium Network in the mobile and telecommunications sectors. Staking your HNT to the Mobile network grants veMOBILE which can be used to vote on matters specific to the Mobile network. For example, a proposal affecting proof of coverage behavior for Mobile Hotspots.

Supermajority

A proposition is deemed 'Approved' and accepted by the community if it achieves a super-majority of 67% of the Voting Power. This is not a new rule for the Helium Community and was first established in Phase 2 of Governance.

The duration for which a proposal must be made available for voting is not predetermined. Generally, voting occurs within seven days.

Quorum

A quorum of tokens represented must be met to certify the proposal as a valid outcome. The quorum is 100,000,000 tokens represented at the time of the vote in the vote results. This quorum is equal across the Network and all subnetworks. If a proposal does not reach this quorum, the proposal will automatically fail. Even if the proposal received a 66% super majority of Voting Power, the proposal did not reach quorum and therefore is invalidated.