

Memorandum

To: Speaker Batchelder and Senator Tavares
Co-Chair, Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission

From: Commissioner Richard B. Saphire, Chair, Bill of Rights and Voting Rights Committee

Re: Report of the, April 10, 2014 Committee Meeting

Date: April 14, 2014

Members Present: Karla Bell, Edward Gilbert, Patrick Fischer, Richard Saphire, Jeff Jacobson, Representative Clyde, Senator Skindell, Representative Amstutz, Senator Peterson

Topics Discussed: The Committee first discussed the procedures it would employ as it considered various proposals to modernize those provisions of the Ohio Constitution within its purview. The Committee agreed, by voice vote, that prior to considering any changes or other action, it would first post on the Commission website the specific provisions it intended to take up and inviting the public to comment on any of those provisions. At the next meeting after posting, the Committee would consider each of the provisions posted, or as many as time permits. In the event that the Committee votes to recommend to the full Commission any changes, or to make no changes, to a provision, it would post those recommended actions on the Commission website prior to its next meeting, once again inviting members of the public to comment on those recommendations. At the next meeting, the Commission would consider for a second time the recommended changes it had previously agreed upon, and would once again vote whether to forward its recommendations to the full Commission. Assuming its original recommendation was confirmed, the Committee would then report its recommendation to the full Commission. The Committee recognized that the nature of some of the provisions it will consider may require more extensive consideration than outlined above, in which case the Committee would indicate same on the Commission website and in other appropriate ways.

Votes taken: The Committee voted to recommend the following to the Commission that:

- Article V, Section 8 of the Ohio Constitution, pertaining to Term Limits for U.S. Senators and Representatives, be repealed, in light of United States Supreme Court holding that such provisions are unconstitutional.
- Article I, Section 2, pertaining to the Rights to Alter, Reform, or abolish Government, and Repeal Special Privileges, be retained in its current wording.
- Article I, Section 6, pertaining to Slavery and Involuntary Servitude, be retained in its current wording.
- Article I, Section 13, pertaining to Quartering Troops, be retained in its current wording.
- Article I, Section 17, pertaining to Hereditary Privileges, be retained in its current wording.

- Article I, Section 20, pertaining to Powers Reserved to the People, be retained in its current wording.

Next Meeting: The Committee will next meet on May 8, 2014. At its next meeting, the Committee will once again consider the provisions of the Ohio Constitution it had first considered at its April meeting, pursuant to the procedure outlined above. The Committee may also consider for the first time the following provisions:

- Article V, Section 2, pertaining to the requirement that all elections be held By Ballot.
- Article V, Section 2a, pertaining to Names of Candidates on Ballot.
- Article V, Section 7, pertaining to Primary Elections.
- Article V, Section 9, pertaining to Eligibility of Office Holders.
- Article I, Section 3, pertaining to the Right to Assemble and Petition.
- Article I, Section 4, pertaining to the Right to Bear Arms.

Any members of the public interested in commenting on any of these provisions, whether by writing or by appearing before the Committee, should make their interest known to the Committee's Chair.