

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, May 8, 2014 Committee Meeting

Date: May 9, 2014

Members Present: Patrick Fischer, Richard Saphire, Representative Clyde, Senator Skindell, Representative Amstutz, Senator Peterson, Douglas Cole

Topics Discussed: The Committee considered, for the second time, proposals concerning those provisions of the Ohio Constitution listed in Tier 1 of the roadmap previously adopted by the Committee. The provisions considered, and the votes taken, were as follows:

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

- Article V, Section 8 of the Ohio Constitution, pertaining to Term Limits for U.S. Senators and Representatives, be retained in its current wording.
- 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.

Since all of the above proposals, with the exception of Article V, Section 8, were re-approved after a second consideration, those proposals will be forwarded to the full Commission for consideration. However, the Committee's vote on Article V, Section 8, represented a reversal of the vote taken at its April meeting. Therefore, Article V, Section 8 will once again be placed on the Committee's agenda at its June meeting for further consideration.

The Committee also considered for the first time the following provisions:

- Article I, Section 3, pertaining to the Right to Assemble and Petition.
- Article I, Section 4, pertaining to the Right to Bear Arms.
- Article V, Section 2, pertaining to the requirement that all elections be held by ballot.

The Committee voted to retain Article 1, Section 3 and 4 in their current wording. With respect to Article V, Section 2, the Committee discussed whether as written, the provision might be construed to prohibit or restrict the General Assembly, or other responsible state officials, from either requiring or permitting electronic voting in Ohio. The Committee agreed not to vote on the provision at this time, but conduct research into this matter and to place Article V, Section 2 on the agenda for its June meeting for further consideration

Any members of the public interested in commenting on any of the above provisions, whether in writing or by appearing before the Committee, should make their interest known to the Committee's Chair, Professor Richard B. Saphire, at [saphire@udayton.edu](mailto:saphire@udayton.edu).