



OHIO CONSTITUTIONAL MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

REVISED MINUTES OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS AND VOTING COMMITTEE

FOR THE MEETING HELD
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2013

Call to Order:

Vice-chair Judith French called the meeting of the Bill of Rights and Voting Committee to order at 12:40 p.m.

Members Present:

A quorum was present, with Vice-chair French, and committee members Amstutz, Bell, Clyde, Cole, Fischer, Peterson, and Skindell in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the September 12, 2013 meeting of the committee were approved.

Discussion:

Vice-chair French led a review of the proposed “road map,” or plan, to guide the committee's deliberations for the coming months. Discussion pertained to the establishment of anticipated timelines for each topic that the committee will consider. All subjects for potential discussion were divided into a set of tiers. Tier I topics are provisions that appear to be non-controversial and so may not require receipt of testimony. Tier II topics are provisions that appear to require some reflection and possible explanation or revision, and may require one or more meetings for review and testimony. Tier III topics are provisions that already appear to have proponents for change, and will require more than one meeting for review and testimony. Tier IV topics are provisions that are general or aspirational in nature, and each will require thoughtful reflection and possible redrafting. The committee decided that it would consider additional provisions that are not already included in the current Ohio Constitution after all tiers are discussed. After all tiers and additional provisions have been discussed, the committee will conclude by drafting a final report.

The committee engaged in additional discussion related to methods for seeking and encouraging public testimony. The committee also affirmed the need for flexibility as additional topics and different timeframes become apparent.

Senator Mike Skindell motioned to approve the “road map” and Representative Ron Amstutz seconded the motion. Without objection, the “road map” was approved.

The committee decided that the first subject for deliberation would be a review and comparison of what other states and Ohio have in their state constitutions with regard to Bill of Rights and voting issues.

Adjournment:

With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Approval:

The minutes of the October 10, 2013 meeting of the Bill of Rights and Voting Committee were approved at the November 14, 2013 meeting of the committee.

/s/ Richard Saphire
Richard Saphire, Chair

/s/ Jeff Jacobson
Jeff Jacobson, Vice-chair