



OHIO CONSTITUTIONAL MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

REVISED MINUTES OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION AND UPDATING COMMITTEE

FOR THE MEETING HELD
THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2014

Call to Order:

Chair Dennis Mulvihill called the meeting of the Constitutional Revision and Updating Committee to order at 10:20 a.m.

Members Present:

A quorum was present with Chair Mulvihill, Vice-chair Kurfess and committee members Abaray, Asher, Batchelder, Beckett, Curtin, Obhof, Readler, Sawyer, and Wagoner in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the June 12, 2014 meeting of the committee were reviewed and approved.

Presentations and Discussion:

Chair Mulvihill recognized Peg Rosenfield, elections specialist with the League of Women Voters of Ohio, who presented on signature requirements for initiated statutes, the supplemental petition process for initiated statutes, and a proposal for an indirect and direct process for initiated statutes in Ohio. Ms. Rosenfield addressed questions from committee members on these topics.

Senior Policy Advisor Steven H. Steinglass presented on the initiated statute process in Ohio, describing how proposed revisions by the committee compared to procedures in other states. Mr. Steinglass recommended the committee look at the timing of statutory initiatives in Ohio and the feasibility of completing the requirements in a single year.

The committee discussed the Legislative Service Commission draft joint resolution to reduce the geographic requirement for initiated statutes from 44 to 22 counties and to create a five-year time period in which initiated statutes would require a two-thirds vote by the legislature for

modification. The committee considered whether to add a requirement that legislative changes must “further the purpose” of initiated statutes.

The committee unanimously agreed that it would submit a comprehensive package of recommendations to the full Commission, rather than sending individual recommendations.

In relation to constitutional amendments, the committee discussed requiring an initiated constitutional amendment to pass in two subsequent elections, requiring a super majority vote for passage, increasing the signature requirement from 44 to 66 counties, and creating a mechanism for the General Assembly to put competing amendment language on the ballot.

The committee discussed the importance of reaching a resolution on reapportionment reform prior to sending a comprehensive package of recommendations to the full Commission.

Adjournment:

With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Approval:

The minutes of the July 10, 2014 meeting of the Constitutional Revision and Updating Committee were approved at the October 9, 2014 meeting of the committee.

/s/ Dennis P. Mulvihill
Dennis P. Mulvihill, Chair

/s/ Charles F. Kurfess
Charles F. Kurfess, Vice-chair