OCMC Recommended Constitutional Amendment Timeline

I. OCMC Votes

During full commission meetings, the OCMC will accept recommendations for amendments from individual committees and vote on whether to present the recommendation to the General Assembly. Per ORC § 103.61, a commission recommendation is void unless it receives a two-thirds vote of the membership of the commission.

III. Legislative Service Commission

Sponsor(s) will provide amendment language to the Legislative Service Commission (LSC) for review.

V. Submit Language to Secretary of State

Per Article XVI, § 1, any proposed amendment shall be entered on the journals, with the yeas and nays, and must be filed with the secretary of state at least ninety days before the date of the election at which the amendment will be submitted to the voters.

VII. Publish to the Public

Per Article XVI, § 1, proposed amendments, ballot language, an explanation and any arguments prepared by the OBB must be published in a newspaper of general circulation in every county once a week for three consecutive weeks before the election.

IX. Election

Elections on amendments proposed by the legislature can take place on general election days or special election days. To be adopted, the amendment must pass by a simple majority vote on the amendment itself.

II. Determine Sponsors

Determine the sponsor(s) of the amendment who will present the amendment to each of their respective houses of the General Assembly.

IV. Present to General Assembly

Sponsor(s) will present the amendment to their respective houses within the General Assembly. Per Article XVI, § 1 either branch of the General Assembly may propose amendments to the constitution, but the proposed amendment must be approved by at least a 3/5 vote of the members of each house.

VI. Secretary of State Submits the Joint Resolution to the Ballot Board (OBB)

Per Article XVI, § 1, the Secretary of State submits the proposed amendment to the OBB, which prescribes the ballot language and explanation for the proposed amendment and certifies them to the Secretary of State no later than 75 days before the election.

VIII. Potential for Challenges

Per Article XVI, § 1, the Supreme Court of Ohio has original jurisdiction over any challenge to a ballot proposal as long as the challenge is made no later than 64 days before the election.