



OHIO CONSTITUTIONAL MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE

FOR THE MEETING HELD
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2015

Call to Order:

Chair Kathleen Trafford called the meeting of the Coordinating Committee to order at 12:40 p.m.

Members Present:

Committee members in attendance included Chair Trafford, Vice-chair Davidson, and committee members Fischer, and Mulvihill.

Presentations:

Chair Trafford indicated the committee would be reviewing the progress of the subject matter committees, and, in that capacity, is hearing status reports from the chairs of two subject matter committees.

Education, Public Institutions, and Local Government Committee

Chair Trafford then recognized Chad Readler, chair of the Education, Public Institutions, and Local Government Committee, who reported on the progress of the committee's work.

Mr. Readler said the committee has four areas of responsibility: public education, public institutions, local government issues, and miscellaneous. He said the committee first is addressing the six sections relating to education in Article VI, with Section 2, regarding school funds, being the most controversial. He said he expects it will take six months for the committee to complete its review of all of the education sections, then the committee will move on to the public institutions sections in Article VII. He said that article has only three sections, with Section 1 referencing the "insane, blind, deaf and dumb," a phrasing he hopes can be altered to reflect more modern usage. He said after Article VII, the committee will review Article X and XVIII, with a number of sections in those provisions possibly needing change. He said he is not sure where that discussion will lead. He said the committee also has been assigned the miscellaneous provisions in Article XV, noting that he hasn't heard a lot of discussion about potential proposals for change in those provisions. He referenced Article XV, Section 11,

relating to marriage, commenting that part of that section is now unconstitutional based upon a ruling by the United States Supreme Court, and he expects a discussion will occur on whether that section continues to be needed.

Chair Trafford asked whether it is his plan to address each article separately as the committee goes through the process, and Mr. Readler agreed that this is how he anticipates the committee will proceed. Mr. Readler having concluded his report, Chair Trafford thanked him for appearing.

Legislative Branch and Executive Branch Committee

Chair Trafford then recognized Fred Mills, chair of the Legislative Branch and Executive Branch Committee, to report on the activities of his committee. Mr. Mills said the committee has been busy, describing the meeting that had just concluded in which the committee had heard a presentation by Attorney John Kulewicz on the one-subject rule and talked at length about a possible amendment that would create a new procedure for drawing Congressional districts. He said that redistricting, and the topic of term limits the committee dealt with some months ago, are the major issues the committee has looked at. He said he knows there are many sections the committee hasn't talked about, but that a number of provisions in Articles II and III won't require any change and could be dealt with quickly when the committee gets the chance to address them. He said he offered the governor's office a chance to present to the committee, and would welcome the governor's legal counsel to present to the committee. He said he anticipates the committee's other charges, involving addressing provisions relating to the state militia and the livestock standards board, will be addressed in the next two-year time frame.

Chair Trafford asked Mr. Mills whether it is the committee's intention to finish with the legislative branch article before moving to the executive branch article, and he agreed that this is the plan.

Vice-chair Davidson commented that the committee "can partially lay claim to having something passed by the electorate," referring to Issue 1 on the November 2015 ballot that reformed the legislative redistricting process.

Chair Trafford commented that the committee had completed its work on term limits as well.

Mr. Mulvihill asked what the committee's recommendation was on term limits, to which Mr. Mills replied the committee had recommended extending the terms of state legislators from a limit of eight years to 12 years. He said the committee did not address whether the proposed new limits should apply only prospectively, instead deciding the full Commission should address that question.

Chair Trafford then noted that the committee lacked a quorum, so it would be unable to entertain any other business. Director Hollon said the committee will meet earlier in the day in December, no later than 12:30 p.m., because it is the goal to get approved reports and recommendations to the full Commission for its 1:30 p.m. meeting. He said the reports and recommendations for Article I, Section 20 (Powers Reserved to the People); Article V, Section 4 (Exclusion from

Franchise for Felony Conviction); and Article II, Section 2 (Term Limits), would be submitted for consideration by the Coordinating Committee in December.

Adjournment:

With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Approval:

The minutes of the November 12, 2015 meeting of the Coordinating Committee were approved at the December 10, 2015 meeting of the committee.

/s/ Kathleen Trafford

Kathleen M. Trafford, Chair

/s/ Jo Ann Davidson

Jo Ann Davidson, Vice-chair