



## OHIO CONSTITUTIONAL MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

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### REVISED MINUTES OF THE JUDICIAL BRANCH AND ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE COMMITTEE

FOR THE MEETING HELD  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2013

#### **Call to Order:**

Chair Janet Abaray called the meeting of the Judicial Branch and Administration of Justice Committee to order at 10:30 a.m.

#### **Members Present:**

A quorum was present with Chair Abaray and committee members Mulvihill, Murray, Obhof, Sapphire, Skindell, and Walinski in attendance.

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes of the August 8, 2013 meeting of the committee were reviewed and approved. Committee member asked that the minutes be amended to reflect his excused absence from the previous committee and Chair Abaray confirmed.

#### **Presentations and Discussion:**

Chair Abaray opened up the floor for discussion regarding the election of judges in Ohio.

Representative Dennis Murray advised that the questions Chair Abaray sent in an email to all the committee members be left up to the General Assembly to decide.

Committee member Dennis Mulvihill cited the lack of voter information in the election of judges was an issue and recommended the committee discuss whether partisanship should be put back into judicial races.

Senior Policy Advisor Steven H. Steinglass addressed the issue of term lengths for justices, then recommended that John VanNorman, senior policy and research counsel for the Supreme Court of Ohio, continue his presentation from a previous meeting on this topic. Mr. VanNorman continued his presentation on term lengths for judges.

Mr. Mulvihill asked Mr. VanNorman about voter turnout, comparing odd years to even years.

Committee member Richard Saphire asked if the committee should take up issues even if they are not politically palatable.

Chair Abaray suggested one area the committee should focus on is the election of judges.

Mr. Saphire suggested looking at other states and see what they have done in this area.

Senator Mike Skindell asked about having dialogue regarding judicial vacancies.

**Adjournment:**

With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

**Approval:**

The minutes of the September 12, 2013 meeting of the Judicial Branch and Administration of Justice Committee were approved at the October 10, 2013 meeting of the committee.

/s/ Janet Gilligan Abaray  
Janet Gilligan Abaray, Chair

/s/ Patrick F. Fischer  
Justice Patrick F. Fischer, Vice-chair