

REMARKS OF WILLIAM K. WEISENBERG
IN MY PERSONAL CAPACITY AND NOT
AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF ANY ORGANIZATION

January 12, 2017

OCMC Legislative-Executive Branch Committee

Discussion of Article II, Section 8 of the Ohio Constitution
and Reference to Article II, Section 14 (D),
Sessions of the General Assembly and Single-Subject

The two most often heard refrains in the General Assembly:

“We’ll take care of it in the budget.”

“We’ll take care of it in lame-duck.”

Let me explain why I view the lame-duck session as a problem.

- A time for mischief
- The Christmas tree approach to legislating
- Significant reduction in careful deliberation
- Postponing controversial issues to a “safe haven” moment
- Less time to review proposals
- Adoption of amendments that might not be able to stand on their own merits
- Abuse of the single-subject rule
- Recipe for bad legislation
- Not necessary

A proposed solution:

End post-general election lame-duck sessions as we know them today.

Amend Article II, Section 8 to provide that a post-general election session may only be convened by the Governor or presiding officers of the General Assembly for the sole

purpose of considering a specific piece of legislation that could not be subject to amendment of unrelated or extraneous issues.

There is already a provision for convening a special session. Let us extend it more definitively to a post-general election session to avoid the mischief we experience today.

Respectfully Submitted,

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