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Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission

An overview of state constitutions and recent state constitutional developments

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1, Introduction: Perspectives on state constitutional revision

2, The purposes and functions of state constitutions

Similar features of state constitutions and the U.S. Constitution: framework and rights provisions

Distinctive features of state constitutions: flexible amendment and revision processes

Distinctive features of state constitutions: length and detail

3, The debate about what to include in state constitutions

The nature of the debate in conventions, commissions, and legislatures

One position rooted in a functional view of constitutions – prominent in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century

Another position embodied in the Model State Constitution – prominent in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century

4, Recent constitutional developments and approaches to common issues in the 50 states

Constitutional amendment and revision processes

Designing the constitutional initiative process so it is used for beneficial purposes

Facilitating periodic review of state constitutions

Redistricting

Establishing independent redistricting commissions or other line-drawing agencies

Crafting detailed constitutional guidelines and prohibitions regarding line-drawing

Institutional design issues concerning the judiciary and legislature

Reconsidering judicial selection processes and retirement rules

Reconsidering legislative term limits

Rights

Eliminating obsolete or unenforceable language

Guaranteeing rights with no counterpart in the U.S. Constitution

Defining rights in different or more specific ways than in the U.S. Constitution

Defining rights in response to state court decision