

The Ohio Senate

Tom Niehaus, President
Eric Kearney, Minority Leader



*The Ohio House of
Representatives*

William G. Batchelder, Speaker
Armond Budish, Minority Leader

OHIO CONSTITUTIONAL MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

**MINUTES
September 13, 2012**

Speaker William Batchelder called the meeting of the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission meeting to order at 10:12AM. The following members were present: Speaker Batchelder, Rep. Sykes, Rep. Amstutz, Rep. Clyde, Rep. Huffman, Rep. Murray, Sen. Cafaro, Sen. Obhof, Sen. Skindell, Sen. Tavares, Sen. Wagoner. Staff noted that an excuse letter for Sen. Jones had been received by the Co-Chairs prior to the meeting.

Speaker Batchelder asked the members to review and approve the minutes from the February 12, 2012 meeting and moved that the minutes be adopted; Rep. Sykes seconded the motion. Sen. Skindell requested that the proceedings of the Commission reflect the occurrence of the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Colloquium hosted by the Ohio State University Moritz College of Law on March 22, 2012. Seeing no objections, Speaker Batchelder directed staff to update the Commission records accordingly and noted that the Colloquium materials and video were available on the Commission website. Seeing no objections, the minutes were approved.

Speaker Batchelder noted that the Commission had received over 250 applications for the 20 public member seats on the Commission from many qualified and talented Ohioans across many different disciplines and backgrounds. Rep. Huffman moved that the Commission appoint the following 20 persons as public members of the Commission:

Janet Gilligan Abaray
Herb Asher
Roger L. Beckett
Karla L. Bell
Paula Brooks
Douglas R. Cole
Jo Ann Davidson
Patrick F. Fischer
Judith L. French
Edward L. Gilbert

Charles F. Kurfess
Larry L. Macon
Frederick E. Mills
Dennis P. Mulvihill
Chad A. Readler
Joseph P. Rugola
Richard B. Saphire
Robert A. Taft
Kathleen M. Trafford
Richard S. Walinski

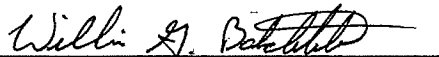
The motion was seconded by Rep. Sykes. Speaker Batchelder asked if there was any discussion on the motion. Senator Obhof stated that after consulting with the Joint Legislative Ethics Commission, he requested pursuant to Senate Rule 47 to be excused from the vote. Rep. Sykes stated that he was proud of the credentials of the applicant pool and stated that the Co-Chairs

would retain the list of other applicants as a pool of potential future appointees since the commission is able to continue making recommendations until July 1, 2021. The roll was called and the Commission public members were appointed to terms ending January 1, 2014 by a vote of 10-0.

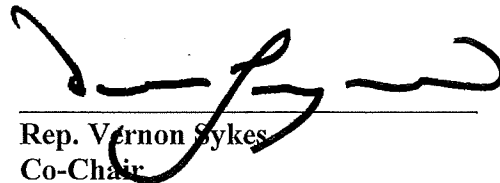
Speaker Batchelder invited Steven Steinglass, Dean Emeritus of the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, to introduce himself to the Commission, present a roadmap on how the commission should proceed with its work and how he could be of assistance. Professor Steinglass suggested that the Commission allow some time for members to get to know each other, educate members on the successes and failures of the 1970s Constitutional Revision Commission and other state constitutional commissions; and decide upon an organizational structure and initial schedule. In response to a question from Rep. Matt Huffman, Professor Steinglass stated that in the 100 years since the 1912 constitutional convention, 102 out of 150 amendments the General Assembly placed on the ballot were approved, which compared favorably to only 18 out of 67 voter initiated amendments that were ratified. Sen. Tavares thanked Professor Steinglass for his suggestions, and noted that involving the primary and secondary education community in the work of the Commission was important.

Speaker Batchelder next raised the issue of setting the calendar for the remainder of the year. He proposed that the staff survey the Commission members – including the newly appointed public members – on their availability for the remainder of the calendar year so that the Co-chairs could plan the schedule accordingly. Seeing no objections, the staff was directed to proceed with surveying member availability.

Speaker Batchelder asked if there was any further business to come before the Commission. Seeing none, the Commission was adjourned.



Speaker William Batchelder
Co-Chair



Rep. Vernon Sykes
Co-Chair