



## **Bill of Rights and Voting Committee Discuss Mental Capacity to Vote**

September 10, 2015

The Bill of Rights and Voting Committee of the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission met Thursday, September 10, 2015 to continue its discussion on Article V, Section 6 regarding excluding mentally incapacitated persons from voting.

The committee recommended that Article V, Section 6 be repealed, and that a new section be adopted. Article V, Section 6 of the Ohio Constitution reads, “no idiot or insane person, shall be entitled to the privileges of an elector.” The committee brought forth a report and recommendation suggesting that the language be changed to, “no person who [has been adjudicated to lack] [lacks] the mental capacity to vote shall have the right to vote and the privileges of an elector during the time of incapacity. After discussion regarding the use of adjudication, the committee voted that the language be changed to read, “no person who lacks the mental capacity to vote shall have the right and privileges of an elector during the time of incapacity.” Article V, Section 6 has not been amended since its adoption as part of the 1851 Ohio Constitution. The Bill of Rights and Voting Committee will meet again on November 12, 2015.

Meeting packets for the Bill of Rights and Voting Committee, which include reports and recommendations, can be found [here](#). For more information regarding the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission, visit our website at [www.ocmc.ohio.gov](http://www.ocmc.ohio.gov).

### **About the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission**

The OCMC was created in 2011 by the Ohio General Assembly in House Bill 188 of the 129th General Assembly. It is modeled after the Ohio Constitutional Revision Commission which completed its work in the 1970’s