OHIO CONSTITUTIONAL MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

REVISED MINUTES OF THE
BILL OF RIGHTS AND VOTING COMMITTEE

FOR THE MEETING HELD
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2013

Call to Order:

Chair Richard Saphire called the meeting of the Bill of Rights and Voting Committee to order at 9:07 a.m.

Members Present:

A quorum was present, with Chair Saphire, and committee members Amstutz, Clyde, Gilbert, Peterson, and Skindell in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the July 10, 2013 meeting of the committee were approved.

Discussion:

Chair Saphire recognized Senior Policy Advisor Steven H. Steinglass, who presented on the history of voting rights in Ohio. Mr. Steinglass referenced race, property ownership, and gender as early impediments to voting in Ohio, and explained how each impediment was overcome over time. Mr. Steinglass then outlined Articles V and XVII of the Ohio Constitution, which concern the elective franchise and elections. Throughout his presentation, committee members discussed the substance of each article and section. Discussion generally revolved around which sections of Articles V and XVII had the most potential for change through a constitutional amendment.

Chair Saphire called Representative Alicia Reece to testify before the committee. Rep. Reece presented a proposal for a constitutional amendment that would establish a Voter Bill of Rights. Rep. Reece argued the necessity of establishing constitutional rights for Ohio voters. Discussion between committee members and Rep. Reece ensued about various details of the proposal.

Chair Saphire noted the committee would be addressing a "roadmap" for future committee meetings at a future meeting.

Adjournment:

With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Approval:

The minutes of the September 12, 2013 meeting of the Bill of Rights and Voting Committee were approved at the October 10, 2013 meeting of the committee.

/s/ Richard Saphire
Richard Saphire, Chair

/s/ Jeff Jacobson
Jeff Jacobson, Vice-chair