

The Ohio Senate
Keith Faber, President
Eric Kearney, Minority Leader



*The Ohio House of
Representatives*
William G. Batchelder, Speaker
Armond Budish, Minority Leader

OHIO CONSTITUTIONAL MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

Recommendations from Staffing and Budget

1. Hiring of Consultants:
 - a. The Commission give the Co-Chairs the ability to contract with a consultant to assist with the implementation of the Commission. Duties would include assisting Commission members with determining staffing levels, appropriate budget requests and other items deemed necessary by the Commission.
 - b. Hiring of consultants in the future should be made upon the recommendation of the Executive Director or other Commission staff and approved by the Commission.
2. Commission Hearings:
 - a. Commission hearings should be held around the state of Ohio to give Ohioans access to the Commission.
 - b. There will likely be additional costs to the Commission to do this including mileage, lodging and meals when necessary.
3. Office Space:
 - a. The Commission should acquire office space in one of the downtown office building that is easily accessible to Commission members and the public.
 - b. DAS will be able to assist the Commission in this process and other issues regarding office supplies etc.
4. Mileage and Other Reimbursable Expenses:
 - a. The Commission should adopt the OBM standards for reimbursement of expenses including mileage, lodging and meals. These standards are updated ever quarter by the Director of OBM.
 - b. The current levels of reimbursement for these items are included.

Items for Discussion from Staffing and Budget

- Budget Overview of the Previous Commission:
 - The Commission operated at a budget of \$300,000 per biennium in 1975. (OCRC mins. p. 508) Adjusting for inflation in 2012 dollars this amounts to a biennial budget of \$1,280,263.94. (Bureau of Labor Stat.)
 - In 1974-1975, \$100,000 was spent on salaries and personal services, or \$426,754.64 in 2012 dollars. (Bureau of Labor Stat.)
 - Part of that money was spent on consultants and temporary help.
 - A “very slim” part of that \$100,000 in 1974-1975 was spent to reimburse members of the Commission for travel costs of coming to Columbus. (OCRC mins. p. 521)
 - A director was hired by the commission, with the authority to procure office space and equipment, and to hire necessary personnel. In total the Commission hired seven staff. The salary of the director was given to be \$25,000-\$30,000 in 1970, the average salary for directors of state departments at the time. (OCRC mins. p. 3, 5) Adjusting for inflation in 2012 dollars, a salary of \$25,000 would equal \$147,934.28. (Bureau of Labor Stat.)
1. Initial Budget Discussions:
 - Executive Director salary range is likely to be \$85,000-\$120,000 plus benefits.
 - Legal Counsel salary range is likely to be \$65,000-\$100,000 plus benefits.
 - The standard benefits calculation for state employees is 30%
 - Other Costs to be considered:
 - Reimbursements to Members and Staff for travel due to Commission work
 - Website hosting
 - Communications and Outreach to the Public
 - Office space/equipment
 - Offsite hearing costs for venue etc.
 2. Proposed Initial Staff Structure: Job
 - Job descriptions provided by DAS are included as a reference.
 - Executive Director
 - Assistant Executive Director
 - Legal Counsel
 - Associate Legal Counsel/Researcher
 - Communications/PR

- Administrative Assistant
- Fiscal Officer