



# The Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission

*We, the people of the State of Ohio, grateful to Almighty God for our freedom, to secure its blessings and promote our common welfare, do establish this Constitution.*

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## *Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission*

OCMC was established in 2011 by the 129th General Assembly with the passage of House Bill 188 and is charged with studying Ohio's Constitution, promoting discussion of changes, and making recommendations to the Ohio General Assembly for the amendment of the Constitution.

## *Quarterly Newsletter*

## *Newsletter*

Features of the Winter 2015 newsletter include a welcome to OCMC's newest members, Representatives Cupp, Manning and Sykes; an overview of the work of the Judicial Branch and Administration of Justice Committee and the Bill of Rights and Voting Committee; and, much more.

## *I Would Like To*

- § [Read the Constitution](#)
- § [Contact OCMC](#)
- § [Join OCMC Mailing Lists](#)
- § [Learn More About the OCMC](#)
- § [FAQ](#)

## *Calendar*

- § The next meetings of the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission will take place on Thursday, May 14, 2015

## *Reports*

- § [2013-2014 Biennial Report](#)
- § [2012 Report of Proceedings](#)

Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission  
Riffe Center, 77 S. High St., 24th Floor | Columbus, OH 43215  
Phone: 614.644.2022 | Email: [ocmc@ocmc.ohio.gov](mailto:ocmc@ocmc.ohio.gov)





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## *Members*



Janet Gilligan Abaray



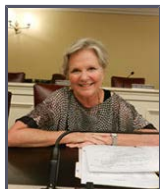
Rep. Ron Amstutz



Herb Asher



Roger L. Beckett



Karla L. Bell



Paula Brooks



Rep. Kathleen Clyde



Douglas R. Cole



Sen. Bill Coley



Rep. Robert R. Cupp



Rep. Michael F. Curtin



Jo Ann Davidson



Patrick F. Fischer



Edward L. Gilbert



Jeff Jacobson



Charles F. Kurfess



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## Public Member



### Janet Gilligan Abaray

Cincinnati, Ohio

Email Janet Gilligan Abaray

- § Constitutional Revision and Updating Committee
- § Coordinating Committee
- § Judicial Branch and Administration of Justice Committee, Chair

Janet Abaray is an attorney from Cincinnati practicing in the area of complex civil litigation. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa and summa cum laude from the University of Cincinnati McMicken College of Arts and Science in 1979, with high departmental honors in English literature. She graduated Order of the Coif from the University of Cincinnati College of Law in 1982, where she also served as Business Manager of the Law Review. A member of the Ohio Bar since 1982, Ms. Abaray has focused her practice on complex civil litigation, with a particular emphasis on pharmaceutical mass tort. She has served as national lead or liaison counsel in numerous multidistrict litigations involving medical products, has been appointed lead counsel in class actions involving contract disputes, and has acted as trial counsel in major class action and pharmaceutical litigations. Ms. Abaray has argued before the Ohio Supreme Court concerning the constitutionality of tort reform, and has litigated significant issues concerning employment law, federal preemption, admissibility of expert testimony, arbitration clauses and class action certification. She practices in Cincinnati, where she is the managing shareholder of the Ohio office of Burg Simpson Eldredge Hersh Jardine, P.C.



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## Full Commission

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Sen. Charleta B. Tavares  
Assistant Minority Leader  
Co-Chair



Rep. Ron Amstutz  
House Speaker Pro Tempore  
Co-Chair

There is established an Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission consisting of thirty-two members. Twelve members shall be appointed from the General Assembly as follows: three by the President of the Senate, three by the Minority Leader of the Senate, three by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and three by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives. On or before the tenth day of January every even-numbered year, the twelve General Assembly members shall meet, organize, and elect two co-chairpersons, who shall be from different political parties. Beginning in 2014, the twelve General Assembly members shall elect one co-chairperson from each house of the General Assembly. The members shall then, by majority vote, appoint twenty Commission members, not from the General Assembly. All appointments shall end on the first day of January of every even-numbered year, or as soon thereafter as successors are appointed, and the Commission shall then be re-created in the manner provided above. Members may be reappointed. Vacancies on the Commission shall be filled in the manner provided for original appointments.

### Meeting Materials:

April 09, 2015

February 12, 2015



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## Bill of Rights and Voting Committee

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Richard B. Saphire  
Chair



Jeff Jacobson  
Vice Chair



Rep. Ron Amstutz



Karla L. Bell



Rep. Kathleen Clyde



Douglas R. Cole



Patrick F. Fischer



Edward L. Gilbert



Sen. Bob Peterson



Sen. Michael Skindell

The Bill of Rights and Voting Committee shall serve as a subject matter committee for the purpose of reviewing the provisions of Article I (Bill of Rights) of the Ohio Constitution dealing with the rights of all, including Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 11, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 19b, 20, and 21. In addition, the Committee shall review the provisions of the Ohio Constitution

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Constitutional Revision and Updating Committee  
Education, Public Institutions, and Local Government Committee  
Finance, Taxation, and Economic Development Committee  
Judicial Branch and Administration of Justice Committee  
Legislative Branch and Executive Branch Committee

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Organization and Administration Committee  
Public Education and Information Committee  
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Coordinating

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