



MINUTES
CUYAHOGA COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 2018
CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
COMMITTEE ROOM A – 4TH FLOOR 4:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL 4:10pm

Commission Members: Chairperson Ronald B. Adrine, Michael W. King, The Honorable Susan A. Drucker, Claire Rosacco, Victor A. Ruiz, Vice Chairman Dennis G. Kennedy, Diane Downing. The Honorable Thomas P. Perciak and Davida Russell were absent.

Chairperson Ronald B. Adrine: we have a quorum.

2. DISCUSSION: Board of Elections Representative

Chairperson Ronald B. Adrine: working session to hear from the Board of Elections. Representative from the Board of Elections Tony Perlatti, Deputy Director.

Tony Perlatti, Deputy Director Board of Elections: here to answer questions and our initial concerns in regard to the draft for Executive Succession.

In regard to the Charter Amendment 4 – Replacing vacancies of County Executive. Staff have received potential draft language and had some concerns on it and after a meeting with Mr. King.

Initial Concerns: with the draft the proposal calls for when there is a vacancy for the County Executive that a special general election would be held 90 to 100 days after that vacancy and 4 weeks prior to that general election there will be a special primary election.

Time Frame is tough - language doesn't talk about filing deadlines. If there is a primary election it doesn't figure in people filing petitions. Time frame itself / for a special election needs 4 weeks before a general. We can't pull that off. We need at least 60 days in-between those two elections to make that happen. When people go and vote on election day that is the unofficial results. The BOE's have 11 to 21 days to certify the results. For the 10 days after an election we are not allowed to touch ballots. When we certify an election, we have a board meeting and get those things addressed. This also does not take into consideration a recount if it is needed or requested. Nor does the time frame take into consideration we have a contract with a moving vendor for election equipment. It takes 10 to 14 days to deliver and 10 days for pickup and we haven't even tested the equipment. If this goes forward, we ask if the window be at least 60 days between the primary and the general. Then going to the primary

election – there is nothing in here that talks about filing deadlines or any of those types of thing and so with the current proposed language if you're on the short end we having that being 90 days we really like to have about 90 days before a primary election to get that election set up.

Petition Process – we have to certify those and have a board meeting to do that. We have to have ballots ready to be disseminated 45 days before an election because that's when your uniform/oversees voters are eligible to get a ballot. Early voting starts the day after the close of registration.

Commission members asked questions of Tony Perlatti regarding the Executive Succession / County Council Succession which he answered accordingly.

Chairperson Adrine and Commission members discussed the proposal as it relates to the succession for both the Executive and Council.

3. DISCUSSION: Executive/Council Succession

Chairperson Adrine called for a motion as it relates to the proposal Executive and Council Succession.

Motion made by The Honorable Susan A. Drucker: Maintain the current Charter language and not recommend it for change to County Council. Motion seconded by Michael King. Motion was properly moved and seconded, all in favor. No dissention. Motion was carried.

4. DISCUSSION: Campaign Finance

Chairperson Adrine and Commission members discussed the proposal as it relates to Campaign Finance.

Motion made by Chairperson Adrine – recommendation of the Charter Review Commission that language be placed into the County Charter recognizing the importance of Campaign Finance regulation and requesting that regulation as appropriate be brought forward by county council by way of ordinance to implement that importance. It will be along the lines of what was contained in Mr. Tartar's recommendation. Seconded by Vice Chairman Dennis G. Kennedy. All in favor, no oppose. Motion carries.

6. PUBLIC INPUT:

Mr. William Tarter Jr.:

- Wanted to thank the commission for the work you've done as well as the vote you've just took on the topic of Campaign Finance. As you are aware a lot of work has gone into that topic.
- Succession topic – One of the things that was discussed by the BOE representative the ability of the political parties to appoint a person to a general election. Want to share my hesitancy to that is the role political parties play in appointing individuals to seats vs. the electorate having the ability to vote on who they want to see in the seats. I do hope that council will take on this issue sometime between now and the next Charter Review Commission.

Loh:

- Executive Succession: I still want to state my objection. Keeping the current language does not solve the problem. This is not a good idea.

6. DISCUSSION: Final report is due to council on July 1st.

Chairperson Adrine and Commission members discussed the remaining timeframe before the recommendations are made to council.

7. ADJOURNMENT - Chairperson Ronald B. Adrine adjourn the meeting.

Next Meeting: June 6th, 4:00 PM