



CONSTITUTION REVISION COMMISSION

2017 - 2018

CARLOS BERUFFE, CHAIRMAN

March 24, 2017

Dear Fellow Commissioners:

It was a pleasure meeting everyone for our organizational meeting and I look forward to working with you over the next thirteen months. We have a lot of work to do, and as you noticed, we are off to a running start. We do have several outstanding items that need to be addressed, and I look forward to your comments.

Public Hearings:

With regard to the schedule of our public hearings, it is important that we balance the heavy work load of the Commission with the short time in which we have to complete our task; while at the same time accommodate the participation in these meetings of as many Commissioners as possible.

After announcing the first four dates of public hearings, I received feedback from some members with unavoidable conflicts. Therefore, I am revising the commission public hearing schedule to maximize commissioner participation and public input opportunities. First, we are working to move the public hearing on April 12th scheduled for Escambia County to Leon County and we will notice this change once all details are finalized. All public hearings will be recorded and published on our website along with a written transcript. In the event a commissioner cannot attend any portion of a public hearing they can review the hearing on the website. I have asked commission staff to work with each commissioner to identify available dates for each of the proposed public hearing week blocks below. Please contact Jeff Woodburn with your feedback no later than March 31st to convey your schedule availability each of the weeks below. We will do everything that we can based on your feedback to schedule meetings when the most number of Commissioners are available.

The confirmed schedule:

1. Hearing 1: March 29 – Orlando
2. Hearing 2: April 6 – Miami Dade
3. Hearing 3: April 7 – Boca Raton
4. Hearing 4: April 12 – Escambia (working to move to Tallahassee)

For planning purposes, please find below a draft itinerary for future public hearings:

- Week of April 24 – Alachua/Duval Counties (2 hearings)
- Week of May 1 – Escambia/Bay Counties (1 hearing)
- Week of May 8 – Lee County (1 hearing)
- Week of May 15 – Hillsborough County (1 hearing)

Also, please note that we will be planning more public hearings this fall.

If you have suggestions on venues in the above draft, please make sure our staff is aware of those because you know your particular region of the state best and will have excellent feedback for us particularly on venues options.

Rules:

As I mentioned during our organizational session, I am creating a process to make headway in the development of our rules.

I know that questions remain regarding the proposed rules that were presented at our organizational session meeting. My goal with this process is to reach agreement where we can and allow for spirited debate where we cannot. In order to facilitate a conversation and try to find consensus where possible, I will be taking the following steps:

I will ask each appointing authority to name two commissioners from their respective appointee groups to serve on an informal rules work group. These eight commissioners will be charged with reviewing the proposed rules and making any suggestions for improvement.

1. At a noticed time (or times) and open to the public, the work group shall meet. The work group will present all agreed to amendments to the full commission. In order to give every Commissioner the opportunity to have input on the rules, the rules work group product will be advisory in nature only and non-binding on the full commission.
2. If any Commissioner has their own amendments to the proposed rules, they will have an opportunity to file and present them before the final rules vote. Commission staff will develop an amendment process that will generally reflect the legislature's amendatory process. Please notify Jeff Woodburn for any suggestions you have on this process.
3. At a noticed full Commission meeting, the proposed rules and any amendments that are timely filed and follow the developed amendment process will be taken up. All votes to amend the proposed rules and a vote on final passage will be decided by a majority vote of the Commission.

Public Records:

I have asked Meredith Beatrice, CRC External Affairs Director, to serve as the Commission's Public Records Coordinator. Compliance with Florida's public records law is essential, and Meredith will be responsible for ensuring that requests for public records from the public and the media are timely fulfilled. Please do not hesitate to call upon Meredith (Meredith.beatrice@flcrc.gov) if you have any questions – she is a valuable resource for you in complying with Florida's public records law.

Again, thank you for your service and see you next week in Orlando.

Sincerely,



Carlos Beruff

Chairman- Constitution Revision Commission