

SECOND NO. NORTHERN MARIANAS CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

SAIPAN, CM 96950

Telephone
6517/6572

Officers

Herman T. Guerrero, President
Vicente M. Calvo, 1st Vice President
David M. Cing, 2nd Vice President
Maria T. Pangelinan, 3rd Vice President
William B. Nabors, Convention Secretary
Juan T. Lizama, Floor Leader

REPORT TO THE CONVENTION BY THE
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS

Members

Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero
Alonzo Iglisomar
David L. Igitol
Rita H. Inos
Benusto R. Kaipat
Estevan M. King
Luis M. Limes
Jesus P. Mafnas
Paul A. Manglona
James M. Mendiola
Aniceto H. Mundo
Felicidad T. Ogunoro
Karl T. Reyes
Joaquin A. Tenorio
Francisco Tomokane
William S. Torres
Ramon G. Villagomez
Ignacio Villanueva

Subject: COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION NO. 65

The Committee on Governmental Institutions recommends that the Convention meeting in Committee of the Whole adopt the attached recommendation with respect to Composition of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The Committee believes that the number of proposals referred to it are of a quantity that requires a separate report. After extensive deliberation on Delegate Proposal Nos. 54-85 and 55-85, we recommend that the Convention, meeting as the Committee of the Whole, adopt the attached Constitutional amendment.

The issue of legislative reform is of significance to the delegates of this convention as reflected in the proposals which address length of legislative session, a budget ceiling for the legislature, and the establishment of a legislative bureau. Composition of the legislature is an important component of the issue of legislative reform and should be considered in the context of the package of proposals addressing legislative reform.

The Committee supports the recommendation of a constitutional amendment to reduce the number of members in the House of Representatives from fourteen (14) to ten (10) with eight (8) members being elected from Saipan and the islands north, one member from Rota, and one member from Tinian. While reducing the cost of government by reducing the number of members and consolidating the number of Standing Committees, this amendment would still ensure that comprehensive representation would continue to be provided and the people throughout the commonwealth would continue to have their voice in the conduct of government. It is estimated that approximately \$260,000 will be made available through enactment of this amendment and thereby will allow other essential public programs and services to be supported.

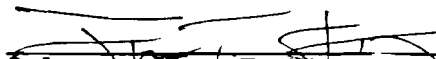
The Committee supports the recommendation of a constitutional amendment to reduce the number of members in the Senate from nine (9) to six (6) with two (2) members being elected from each of the three (3) senatorial districts, Rota, Saipan, and Tinian. As with the rationale accompanying reduction in the composition of the House of Representatives, reducing the number of members in the senate would, while reducing the cost of government, ensure an equity of representation according to senatorial district.

Support for adopting these recommendations with respect to the composition of the legislature will demonstrate the sincerity the people of the Commonwealth have to become accountable for the limited resources that are available and, when taken in the context of the other proposals for legislative reform, demonstrate that the interest in reform is not piecemeal but is for total remodeling.

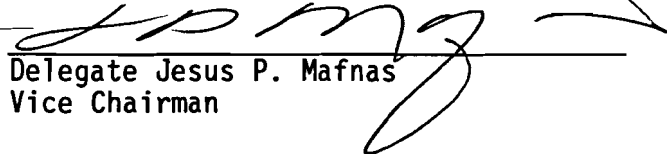
Delegate Proposals: Three (3) delegate proposals with respect to composition of the legislature were referred to the Committee for discussion and consideration. The delegate proposals are numbered 8-85, 54-85, 55-85, and 103-85. The Committee has incorporated the substance and intent of these proposals into the constitutional amendment attached herewith.

The Committee strongly urges all delegates of the Convention to adopt the attached recommended constitutional amendment.

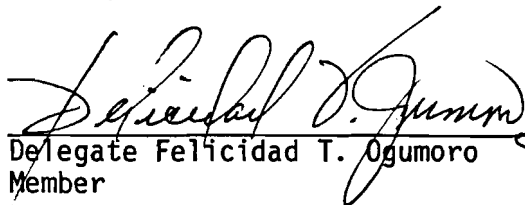
Respectfully submitted,



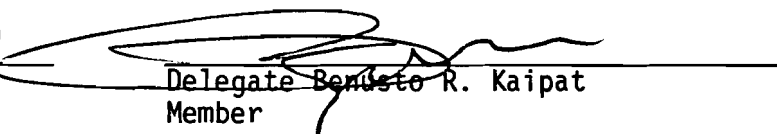
Delegate Juan T. Lizama
Chairman



Delegate Jesus P. Mafnas
Vice Chairman



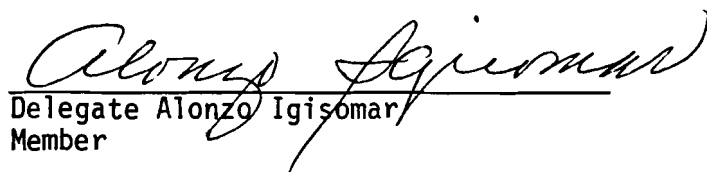
Delegate Felicidad T. Ogumoro
Member



Delegate Benito R. Kaipat
Member

Delegate Vicente M. Calvo
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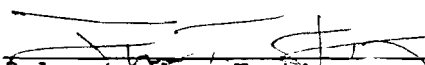
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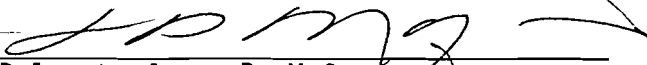
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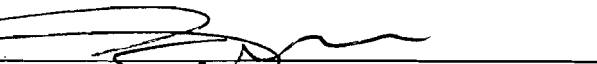
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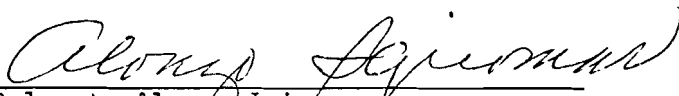
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Member



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Member

Delegate Vicente M. Calvo
Member

Delegate David M. Cing
Member



Delegate Alonzo Igisomar
Member

A PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

To amend Section 2(a), Section 3(a) and Section 3(b) of Article II of the Northern Marianas Constitution, relating to the composition of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

BE IT ADOPTED BY THE SECOND CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION:

Upon ratification pursuant to Section 5 of Article XVIII of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Constitution and Public Law No. 4-30, the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is amended as follows:

1 I. Effective upon ratification, Section 2(a) of Article II of the Northern
2 Marianas Constitution is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 "Section 2: Composition of the Senate.

4 a) The senate shall consist of six members with two members
5 elected at large from each of three senatorial districts. The first
6 senatorial district shall consist of Rota, the second senatorial
7 district shall consist of Tinian and Aguiguan, and the third senatorial
8 district shall consist of Saipan and the islands north of ~~it~~. The
9 senate shall be increased to eight members and two members shall be
10 elected at large from a fourth senatorial district consisting of the
11 islands north of Saipan at the first regular general election after
12 the population of these islands exceeds one thousand persons."

13 * II. Section 3(a) of Article II of the Northern Marianas Constitution is hereby
14 amended to read as follows:

15 "Section 3: Composition of the House of Representatives.

16 a) The House of Representatives shall consist of ten members
17 with eight members elected from Saipan and the islands north of ~~it~~,
18 one member elected from Rota and one member elected from Tinian and
19 Aguiguan. The number of representatives may be increased by law to
20 not more than ~~twelve~~ ^{FIFTEEN}. The term of office for representatives shall
21 be two years.

*** ADOPTED BY COW 7/20/85

7/20/85
A - 8
N - 0
Y - 8

Defeated

Absent - 6

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b) For purposes of electing representatives Rota shall constitute one district, Tinian and Aguiguan shall constitute one district, and Saipan and the islands north of ^{SAIPAN} it shall constitute four districts. The legislature may change the number and boundaries of these districts only pursuant to its duties under section 4 of this article. When the population of the islands north of Saipan equals or exceeds the number of persons represented by any member of the House of Representatives these islands shall constitute a separate district electing one representative."

Committee on Governmental Institution

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18 one member elected from Rota and one member elected from Tinian and
19 Aguiguan. The number of representatives may be increased by law to
20 not more than twelve. The term of office for representatives shall
21 be two years.

1 b) For purposes of electing representatives Rota shall
2 constitute one district, Tinian and Aguiguan shall constitute one
3 district, and Saipan and the islands north of it shall constitute
4 four districts. The legislature may change the number and
5 boundaries of these districts only pursuant to its duties under
6 section 4 of this article. When the population of the islands
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