

Third Constitutional Convention Committee  
Post Committee  
Opening Statements by  
President/Chairman Herman Guerrero

Buenas and Hafa Adai:

The purpose of today's news conference is to explain to the various news agencies the goals of the Post Committee in regards to educating the public about our proposed amendments.

First of all, we have a booklet on the Third Constitutional Convention for each reporter. We realize that the public is relying on you to tell them what's going on in their community, so you need to understand the issues well enough to explain them to your readers, viewers and listeners.

The Delegates of the Third Constitutional Convention are proposing changes in our current constitution. There are a total of nineteen (19) suggested amendments that the people will have to vote on.

Although the General Election is in November, the Delegates have requested a Special Election so that the people will have the opportunity to study the proposed Constitution rather than mixing a political elections with such an important document.

Regardless of whether we are granted a Special Election, the Delegates are determined that as much accurate and balanced information reach every voter because they must decide for themselves whether they want to approve the proposed changes.

Our public Education Campaign will include the use of newspapers, television and radio stations. We will also schedule public hearings.

We will be explaining to the people that these proposals were created in a democratic process of compromise and negotiation, based on research, public hearings, committee hearings and debate. In every case, over two-thirds (2/3rds) of the delegates agreed on this final product.

Some voters will want to know how these amendments will affect them or their jobs. Other voters will want to know whether the Delegates considered alternate ideas. It will be our jobs to explain the process that the Delegates went through to arrive at the proposed Constitution. But, it is not our job to debate or argue force these amendments. The Constitution is too important. The voters need to decide for themselves if this proposed Constitution will be better for the majority of our society.

(more)

We understand there is a lot of public education ahead of us, and we accept the challenge. This is our future. Life is not as simple as a 10 second sound bite or newspaper headline. I happen to believe that our voters are smart people, people who care about their community and the future of their society. All we have to do is give the people all the information, and they already know how to make up their own minds.

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Q: This is a complex document...too much for the people to understand--  
For those people who say it's a complex document--I sure hope so! It's only the single most important document of our community and our times, which we hope will last a lifetime, this time!

Q: What's your budget, how will you spend your money?

We have \$-\_\_\_\_\_ and have requested an addition \$100,000 from the Governor for the purpose of educating the public. Most of that money will likely be spend on printing costs so people can read the documents for themselves and make up their own minds.

Q: When will you know whether there is going to be a special election, and what happens if there's not one?

The proposal for a Special Election is with the Commonwealth Senate now. We just think it would be easier to hold a Special Election. But, if the election is held with the general Elections in November, that's okay--because traditionally, the voter turn out is better in a General Election and we want as many people as possible to vote on this Constitution.

Q: Will people have to vote on the whole thing, or can they vote Amendment by Amendment?  
(What about voting on the same / similar issues?) Or will it be, "Take this or leave it?"

Q: What kind of majority vote is required for passage. And, if it passes, how long before the new Constitution takes over?

Q: Give us an example of the most drastic change between the current and the proposed Constitution....

(Why are these proposals so important?)

(Which are the most controversial, and why?)

(Are these proposals more favorable to the Governor or Democrats or Republicans, or Businesses?)

**What is the most important point you want to make today or let people know about the proposed Amendments?**