



Third Northern Mariana Islands Constitutional Convention

Second Floor, Joeten Dandan Center
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. No.: (670) 235-0843 • Fax No.: (670) 235-0842

September 29, 1995

Mr. Juan M. Diaz
Executive Director
Board of Elections
Saipan, MP 96950

Re: Draft Ballot Regarding the Proposed Amendments to the Constitution

Dear Mr. Diaz:

On behalf of the Post Convention Committee I am enclosing the draft ballot for the 19 amendments to the Commonwealth Constitution proposed by the Third Constitutional Convention. We have prepared three separate versions -- one each in English, Chamorro and Carolinian -- and are confident that this approach will help the voters understand the issues before them on the ballot.

We understand from previous discussions with you and other Board representatives that you require the draft ballot by October 4, 1995 in order to prepare the official version and send it to the printer in time to be ready for the general election scheduled for November 4, 1995. We have made considerable effort to meet this deadline so that the Board of Elections can meet its statutory obligations to prepare for the general election.

We are aware that the Legislature has passed a bill on September 25, 1995 that seeks to defer the vote on the proposed amendments until March 1996. The Post Convention Committee does not know whether, or when, the Governor will decide whether to sign this bill into law. It remains the Post Convention Committee's position that the proposed amendments should be put before the voters at the November general election because the public education campaign is now well under way and funds have already been committed. This position was communicated to the Legislature by letter dated September 21, 1995 before it acted on the deferral proposal.

Please advise the Post Convention Committee if you have any questions regarding the enclosed draft ballot. The translations have been prepared carefully by experts, and preparations are under way with respect to translations of the full Constitution and other materials to be made available at the polling locations. Article XVIII of the Constitution requires that the proposed amendments be on the ballot at the general election unless legislation providing for a special election has been timely enacted. No such legislation has been enacted. The Post Convention Committee stands ready to assist the Board of Elections to make any further necessary arrangements in order to comply with the Constitutional mandate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Esther S. Fleming".

Esther S. Fleming
Vice-Chair, Post Convention Committee