

REASONS FOR CHANGES

- 1. MAKE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT LOWER COST AND MORE EFFECTIVE**
- 2. HAVE LOCAL AND VILLAGE MATTERS HANDLED BY MAYOR AND MUNICIPAL COUNCIL AND LOCAL VOTERS**
- 3. STRENGTHEN PROTECTION FOR LOCAL PEOPLE IN LAND MATTERS**
- 4. UPDATE OUR CONSTITUTION WHERE NECESSARY**

MAKE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT LOWER COST AND MORE EFFECTIVE

1. Decrease cost of the legislature

- . Decrease size of each house
- . Cap on overall expenses
- . Limit discretionary funds to \$70,000 per legislator per year
- . Improve openness of legislative process

2. Improve quality of candidates

- . Increase term to 4 years
- . Have candidates run island-wide
- . Disqualify felons
- . Support representation in the U.S. Congress
- . Make recall of elected officials easier

3. Balance the budget

- . End guaranteed budgets
- . Protect against deficits

4. Strengthen programs for local people

5. Strengthen the courts and civil service

AMENDMENTS 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 16

MAKE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT LOWER COST AND MORE EFFECTIVE

1. Decrease cost of the legislature

- . Decrease size of each house
- . Cap on overall expenses
- . Limit discretionary funds to \$100,000 per legislator per year
- . Improve openness of legislative process

2. Improve quality of candidates

- . Increase term to 4 years
- . Have candidates run island-wide
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- . Support representation in the U.S. Congress
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AMENDMENTS 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 16

HAVE LOCAL AND VILLAGE MATTERS HANDLED BY MAYOR AND MUNICIPAL COUNCIL AND LOCAL VOTERS

1. LOCAL CONTROL OF MUNICIPAL ORDINANCES

- . Expanded powers for mayors
- . Expanded size of municipal councils
- . Provision for Northern Islands
- . Legislative power for municipal councils
- . Controls on funding from Commonwealth

2. LOCAL SHARE OF CONTROL OF EDUCATION

- . Remove constitutional limitation on charging fees
- . Elected School Board on each island to guide implementation of policy and budget
- . Regular government department like public safety or health to handle policy and budget
- . Basic appropriation for instruction so we know what each child is entitled to, as a floor
- . Additional appropriations by the Legislature for special instruction needs, administration, and CIP

3. LOCAL SHARE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

- . 5% share of revenues from natural resources on or beneath public lands

4. LOCAL CONTROL OF GAMBLING

AMENDMENTS 6, 13, 14, 15

STRENGTHEN PROTECTION FOR LOCAL PEOPLE IN LAND MATTERS

1. EXPAND HOMESTEAD PROGRAMS

- . New housing homesteads
- . Expedite land homesteads
- . Owner gets title immediately
- . New homesteads (after 1996) to be held for 25 years
- . Mortgages and homeowner loans available through Trust

2. CONTROL COMMERCIAL LEASES

- . Notice, public hearings, and competing bids
- . 3 years to commercialize or lease canceled
- . Legislature approves if more than 25 years or 5 hectares
- . Legislature acts in 60 days so no delays

3. PUT MONEY IN INDIGENOUS PROGRAMS

- . Interest income from Trust to programs for local people

4. ESTABLISH PERMANENT PRESERVES

- . Beaches, scenic high spots, wildlife preserves, and parks protected from development or leasing

5. STRENGTHEN ARTICLE 12

- . Family lands may be given to children regardless of Northern Marianas descent (adoptions okay if before age 6)
- . Land owners protected against lease clauses affecting buildings and other rights at end of 55 year lease term

AMENDMENTS 11, 12

UPDATE OUR CONSTITUTION WHERE NECESSARY

1. VOTER APPROVAL OF COVENANT CHANGES

- . Mutual consent changes in the Covenant approved by 60% majority vote

2. TOUGHER GOVERNMENT ETHICS

- . Public employees must not use their position for private gain or advantage

3. PROMOTE COMMONWEALTH UNITY

- . Commonwealth unity is an important constitutional goal
- . Title of a new article gathering existing provisions

4. FIX POSSIBLE LEGAL PROBLEMS

- . Article 1 proposed amendment developed after consultation and agreement of all concerned
- . Article 18 on constitutional amendment proposed to be changed because of one man-one vote rule; otherwise courts may impose simple majority

5. MAKE OTHER MINOR UPDATING CHANGES

AMENDMENTS 1, 8, 17, 18, 19