



10,092 register for Con-Con election

BY DAN PHILLIPS

With the special election on 19 proposed amendments to the Commonwealth Constitution set for this Saturday, a total of 10,092 CNMI citizens will be eligible to vote, according to Board of Elections figures.

The number of CNMI voters eligible for Saturday's election includes 8,184 voters from Saipan, another 1,076 from Rota, and 832 from Tinian.

Polling places will be open from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m., and the counting of the ballots will be held at the Saipan Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Voters who are unsure of where they should vote should

contact the Board of Elections at 234-6880.

The election will mark the culmination of an effort that started early last year with the election of delegates to the Third Northern Mariana Islands Constitutional Convention.

The Convention was held and the delegates recommended widespread changes to the existing CNMI Constitution. The changes were originally headed for a vote in last November's general election, but then the vote was put off so that the public could be given a better chance to learn more about the proposed amendments.

Since the Convention

ended, some opposition and criticism has been aired about the proposed amendments, while the delegates and the post-convention committee have actively lobbied in favor of the proposed changes.

While the delegates have encouraged voters to vote "yes" on all 19 amendments, some opponents—like former Gov. Carlos S. Camacho—have encouraged voters to vote "no" on all of the amendments.

Some of the delegates have also urged voters to study the amendments carefully, compare them with the language of the existing CNMI Constitution, and vote according to the merits of each individual amendment.