

GVMC Legislative Committee

Minutes

September 18, 2012, 2:00 p.m.

GVMC Offices

Present:

Haris Alibasic	City of Grand Rapids
Alex Arends	Alpine Twp.
Sam Bolt	City of Wyoming
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Richard Clanton	City of Kentwood
Bill Cousins	Cascade Twp.
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Twp.
Carol Hennessy	Kent County
Don Hilton	Gaines Twp.
Bob Homan	Plainfield Twp.
John Hoppough	City of Greenville
Andy Johnston	Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
Elias Lumpkins	City of Grand Rapids
Audrey Nevins-Weiss	Byron Twp.
Erika Rosebrook	Office of Gov. Snyder
Andy Schor	Michigan Municipal League
Floyd Scoby	City of Greenville
Michael Selden	City of Wayland
Dan Strikwerda	City of Hudsonville

I. Call to Order

- A. The meeting was called to order by Executive Director John Weiss at 2:00 p.m. The purpose of the Legislative Committee Meeting was to discuss the proposals on the upcoming November 6 general election and determine if the Legislative Committee desires to take further action or make recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding the proposals.

- B. Legislative Committee Chairman Mike DeVries joined the meeting at 2:10 pm.

II. Proposal Discussion

- A. There was a great deal of discussion on each of the individual ballot proposals with brief presentations by panel members Johnston, Rosebrook and Schor. Following the presentation, members of the Legislative Committee expressed their opinions on the issues and the impacts they may have on their communities. There was also an extended discussion of the impacts of using the Michigan Constitution as a vehicle for mandating change that serves special interests, specific constituencies, or deals with issues that should be handled by the Michigan Legislature.
- B. Three of the ballot proposals were determined to deal specifically with local government, local government funding, or specifically to the well-being of our region. The Legislative Committee recommends to GVMC Board of Directors the following actions on those three issues based on the wording, and impact the issue will specifically have on our region.

PROPOSAL 12-1

PROPOSAL 12-1 A REFERENDUM ON PUBLIC ACT 4 OF 2011 - THE EMERGENCY MANAGER LAW

Public Act 4 of 2011 would:

- Establish criteria to assess the financial condition of local government units, including school districts.
- Authorize Governor to appoint an emergency manager (EM) upon state finding of a financial emergency, and allow the EM to act in place of local government officials.
- Require EM to develop financial and operating plans, which may include modification or termination of contracts, reorganization of government, and determination of expenditures, services, and use of assets until the emergency is resolved.
- Alternatively, authorize state-appointed review team to enter into a local government approved consent decree.

Should this law be approved?

**MOTION – To Recommend to the GVMC Board Support the Emergency Manager Referendum and Encourage a YES Vote on Proposal 1. MOVE – Homan.
SUPPORT – Bolt. Yes-13 No-2 Abstain -1 Motion Passed**

PROPOSAL 12-5

**PROPOSAL 12-5
A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION
TO LIMIT THE ENACTMENT OF NEW TAXES BY STATE GOVERNMENT**

This proposal would:

Require a 2/3 majority vote of the State House and the State Senate, or a statewide vote of the people at a November election, in order for the State of Michigan to impose new or additional taxes on taxpayers or expand the base of taxation or increasing the rate of taxation.

This section shall in no way be construed to limit or modify tax limitations otherwise created in this Constitution.

Should this proposal be approved?

PROPOSAL 12-6

**PROPOSAL 12-6
A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION
REGARDING CONSTRUCTION OF
INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES AND TUNNELS**

This proposal would:

Require the approval of a majority of voters at a statewide election and in each municipality where "new international bridges or tunnels for motor vehicles" are to be located before the State of Michigan may expend state funds or resources for acquiring land, designing, soliciting bids for, constructing, financing, or promoting new international bridges or tunnels.

Create a definition of "new international bridges or tunnels for motor vehicles" that means, "any bridge or tunnel which is not open to the public and serving traffic as of January 1, 2012."

Should this proposal be approved?

MOTION - To Recommend to the GVMC Board to Oppose the Constitutional Amendments Proposed in #5 & #6 and Encourage a NO Vote on Both Proposals 5 and 6. MOVE – Arends. SUPPORT – Buck. Yes-15 No-0 Abstain-1 Motion Passed

- III. The Legislative Committee recommendations on Proposals 1, 5, and 6 will be placed on the agenda for the Board of Directors Meeting of October 8, 2012

- IV. It was further decided that the Legislative Committee to convene again on October 1 at 2:00 pm to further discuss Proposal 2, 3, and Due to scheduling conflicts including the beginning of the Michigan Municipal League Conference and other issues it was determined by the Chair to cancel the October 1st meeting.

- V. Adjourn
 - A. The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 4:05 pm.