

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding):
Delegate Schloeder.

DELEGATE SCHLOEDER: The intention of the Committee was to provide for the local elections to be on four-year terms, yes. A great deal of discussion and thought went into staggered elections but the feeling was that under this provision we would maintain four-year terms or eight-year terms.

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding):
Delegate Maurer.

DELEGATE MAURER: In an attempt to prevent staggering of terms, if you have four-year terms, you cannot have some elected in one year and the rest elected two years later. That is, in the guise of an election law you are prescribing the terms of offices of local officials and the composition of the board in a sense. Is that not right?

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding):
Delegate Schloeder.

DELEGATE SCHLOEDER: Yes, I would not say we were attempting to prevent anything. We were weighing, of course, on the one hand what would happen and what would be precluded from happening and felt that having the visibility and short ballot and lack of coattail effect on the local level would overbalance the situation, as I understand it, in Montgomery County where the Board of Elections is elected to a staggered term.

If something could be worked out whereby staggered terms would still be possible for Board of Education officials, there would be no problem as far as we would be concerned.

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding):
Delegate Maurer.

DELEGATE MAURER: May I then ask you this. You consider us local officials, not state officials?

DELEGATE SCHLOEDER: No, this is all under the assumption that Board of Education officers would be considered local. I thought we were working under the premise that that was the basic assumption.

Of course, with your state officials, that would be something else.

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding):
Delegate Maurer.

DELEGATE MAURER: Delegate Schloeder, there has been a good deal of interest

in our community to have the school board terms similar in length, to the terms of appointed members, which would provide for a slower turnover, six-year terms, three, two, two.

Were you attempting to prohibit that kind of an arrangement in the Constitution?

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding):
Delegate Schloeder.

DELEGATE SCHLOEDER: No, there was no attempt to prohibit it. The language may end up doing that, but there was no intent or motivation on our part to do that.

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding):
Delegate Maurer.

DELEGATE MAURER: Mr. Schloeder, would your Committee be willing to attempt to provide some kind of language to provide flexibility in terms of staggering of terms of office both for county councils, boards of education, and other locally elected representative bodies?

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding):
Delegate Schloeder.

DELEGATE SCHLOEDER: I would certainly think that at all times we would be open to any considerations that you might want to make, certainly. We would never want to foreclose that opportunity.

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding):
Delegate Chabot.

DELEGATE CHABOT: Delegate Schloeder, could you look at article 17, section 2. I believe you had referred to section 1 in response to a question by Delegate Mudd.

DELEGATE SCHLOEDER: I have it before me.

DELEGATE CHABOT: As I understand section 2 it says that elections by qualified voters for state and county officers shall be held and then specifies 1926 and the same day in every fourth year thereafter.

Would it be the Committee's understanding, or am I correct in believing that it is the Committee's understanding of this point, that whatever it is that now permits the Montgomery County School Board to hold staggered terms, to have staggered terms despite this provision in the constitution, would not be disturbed by the Committee. The same route would be available under our new constitution.

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding):
Delegate Schloeder.