

Florida Taxation and Budget Reform Commission  
Ad hoc Committee on Telephonic Participation and Voting  
Teleconference Meeting  
Friday, May 11, 2007  
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM  
221 Senate Office Building  
Tallahassee, FL

## **MEETING MINUTES**

### Committee Members:

John M. McKay  
Lesley J. “Les” Miller  
Bob McKee, Chair

### Commissioners Present by Phone:

John M. McKay  
Lesley J. “Les” Miller  
Bob McKee, Chair

Call to order by Chairman McKee.

### Discussion by Committee Members:

- Telephonic Participation and Voting relating to the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission (TBRC)
  - Circumstances of “extraordinary” – If a decision were made to allow members to participate by phone under “extraordinary” circumstances, what would constitute “extraordinary,” who would make that decision, and what procedures would be required to invoke such participation?
    - Commissioner Miller expressed concern that if such a provision were made, it should be broad enough to encompass different types of “extraordinary” circumstances.
  - Limit on number of telephonic votes
    - Commissioner McKay expressed that all members should be required to be present to vote on all final actions, constitutional or statutory change proposals, and the Commission’s final report. Commissioners McKee and Miller concurred.
    - Commissioner McKee expressed that the business of the TBRC was of such importance that members should be required to be present for all votes.
    - Commissioners McKay and Miller agreed in concept, but Commissioner McKay indicated that there may be situations which could require a member to be allowed to vote by phone. He proposed that members be allowed to participate by phone no more than three times, and not for final votes. No action was taken on this proposal.

- Physical quorum at meetings
  - All three members agreed that a physical quorum of thirteen voting members must be present to hold a meeting, and to vote on any topic.
- Telephonic public participation
  - Commissioner McKee expressed a strong position that he wants to assure that if Commission members have telephone access to participate, the same accommodations must be made for the public.

The committee makes the following recommendations:

- There must be a quorum present physically for all full TBRC meetings in order to take a vote on any topic
- For all votes on final actions, constitutional or statutory change proposals, and the Commission's final report, a member must be physically present to vote

Further, the committee directed staff to complete the following tasks:

- Examine telephonic public participation at PSC meetings
- Investigate capability and practicality of telephonic public participation for TBRC meetings

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:25 PM.