

ary Department considered sections of the Declaration of Rights and constitution dealing with courts in the state. The Committee on the Legislative Department considered sections of the Declaration of Rights and constitution dealing with legislation and the General Assembly. The Committee on Political Subdivisions and Local Legislation considered sections of the constitution dealing with powers and duties of county and municipal governments. The Committee on State Finance and Taxation considered sections of the Declaration of Rights and constitution dealing with state taxes and receipt and disbursement of state funds. The Committee on Miscellaneous Provisions considered sections of the constitution not assigned to the other committees, such as those dealing with oaths of office, education, and jury trials.

The other three committees were assigned procedural matters. The Committee on Convention Procedures developed recommendations for organizing a constitutional convention. The Committee on Style considered the form and style for a draft constitution. The Coordination Committee helped the chairman coordinate the work of the commission and maintained liaison with the governor and General Assembly.

In preparation for the referendum on holding a constitutional convention Governor Tawes appointed a Citizens Committee on Constitutional Convention Referendum. The committee publicized the election, encouraged people to vote, and advocated the need for a new constitution. The records of this committee were later given to the historian of the convention.

On September 13, 1966, the citizens of Maryland voted in favor of a constitutional convention to frame a new state constitution. The General Assembly had provided that, in the event of such a favorable vote, a convention of 142 delegates should assemble on September 12, 1967. The Constitutional Convention Commission drafted a bill to establish procedures for the convention and to provide for the election of delegates. The bill was amended and adopted by the General Assembly at its 1967 session, and signed into law on March 24 (Chapter 4, Acts of 1967). The special statewide election of delegates took place on June 12, 1967.

The site of the convention was the House of Delegates Chamber in the State House in Annapolis. The sessions were to continue no later than January 12, 1968, thus permitting the convention up to four months to do its work. The Enabling Act authorized the Governor to assemble the delegates before September 12, 1967, for the limited purpose of electing officers, organizing committees, and adopting rules of procedure, thereby assuring that the convention, once convened, would be ready for work. This organizational meeting was held on July 11, 1967.

Under the rules of procedure four principal officers were to be elected by the convention: an honorary president, president, first vice-president, and second vice-president. At its organizational meeting the convention elected former Governor J. Millard Tawes honorary president. It elected the chairman of the convention commission, H. Vernon Eney, as president. James Clark, state senator from Howard County, was elected first vice-president and William S. James, president of the Senate, was elected second vice-president.

The president was the chief executive officer of the convention. He presided at sessions of the convention and Committee of the Whole, exercising all the usual duties and powers of a presiding officer. He appointed the chairmen and members