



*The President*  
*Palikir, Pohnpei*  
*Federated States of Micronesia*

**EXECUTIVE ORDER**

**(Establishing and organizing a public education task force on the proposed constitutional amendments adopted by the 4<sup>th</sup> FSM Constitutional Convention)**

WHEREAS, the 21<sup>st</sup> Congress established a constitutional convention through passage of Public Law No. 21-19, which was signed into law on August 7, 2019;

WHEREAS, the Constitutional Convention adopted eight (8) separate proposed amendments to the various sections of the Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia, which if passed the amendments will be considered as parts of the Constitution;

WHEREAS, Article XIV Section 1 of the FSM Constitution provides that a proposed amendment shall become part of the Constitution when approved by  $\frac{3}{4}$  votes cast on an amendment in each of the  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the states;

WHEREAS, it is critical that voters are accorded the opportunity to examine and consider the rationale, the intent and the implications of the proposed constitutional amendments before making any informed decisions with respect to the amendments, and on this basis, a task force must be established in order to properly present and explain the amendments to the voters; and

WHEREAS, public education is key to familiarize the voters with the legal, practical and related issues involved in the amendment, either in favor or against the proposed amendments.

NOW THEREFORE, by the powers vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the Federated States of Micronesia, I order as follows:

1. A public education task force (the "Task Force") is hereby constituted for the purposes stated in this order. The Task Force, with Secretary of Justice as Chair and Deputy Secretary of Foreign Affairs as Vice Chair for organizational purposes, shall be made up of the following members:

- Secretary of Finance and Administration,
- Secretary of Transportation Communication & Infrastructure,
- Secretary of Health & Social Affairs, or designee
- Secretary of Education or designee,
- National Election Director,
- Acting Director of National Archives, Culture, and Historic Preservation,
- Secretary of Foreign Affairs,
- FSM Ambassador and Consuls General based in the United States,
- President's Special Assistant on Legislative Matters,
- FSM Public Information Officer,
- President of COM-FSM or designee, and
- FSM States Chambers of Commerce representatives.



2. Delegates to Constitutional Convention designated by the respective Chairs of the State delegations to the Constitutional Convention shall join the Task Force, apportioned as follows:
  - 3 from Chuuk delegation,
  - 2 from Pohnpei delegation,
  - 1 from Kosrae delegation, and
  - 1 from Yap delegation.
3. The Speaker of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Congress is invited to nominate four representatives from Congress to take part in the membership and activities of the Task Force.
4. The State Governors are invited to nominate their respective representatives to the Task Force, as members, two for every State as recommended by State Governors.
5. Under the supervision the Chair, the Task Force shall mandate the involvement and cooperation of international NGOs and civil society by inviting them to join and assist in the activities of the Task Force in conducting public education of the proposed constitutional amendments. Among the international NGOs invited for this purpose are the following: COFA Alliance National Network (CANN); We Are Oceania; and the FSM Association of Guam.
6. The main function of the Task Force is to conduct a fair, transparent, balanced and effective public education and public awareness campaign in order to inform, educate, and familiarize the voters concerning the issues relating to the constitutional amendments. In carrying out this role, the Task Force shall plan effectively in order to accomplish this task given the very limited time available prior to the special election when the proposed amendments shall be placed on the ballot for the special election to fill in the vacancy in Congress following the inaugural session of the 23<sup>rd</sup> FSM Congress. The Task Force may establish appropriate committees to facilitate its activities.
7. The Task Force shall have its first organizational meeting at the call of the Chair at the earliest date possible.
8. The Task Force may adopt such rules, procedures or guidelines, as may be necessary, governing its meetings and the overall conduct of the affairs of the Task Force.
9. Task Force shall have a secretariat appointed or designated by the Chair or Vice Chair. The secretariat shall be provided with a temporary office, fulltime personnel, with funding and provisions to ensure that the secretariat is fully equipped with essential capacity and resources (e.g., equipment and supplies) required to operationalize it.



10. The Chair of the Task Force shall report to the President of any progress of its work, on a periodic basis or as often as may be required by the President to make such report.

11. The Task Force shall review any existing budget and recommend supplemental budget appropriation, if needed.

SO ORDERED.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

9/06/22

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David W. Panuelo", written over a horizontal line.

David W. Panuelo  
President