

**The Sixth Constitutional Convention Working Group 2 – Taxation, Finance & Commerce Report
Articles 10, 11, 12, 6 and 7 of the proposed Fifth Constitution of the United States Virgin Islands**

Member Delegates:

Delegate John M Canegata - Group Leader

Delegate Akima Richardson - Co-Leader

Delegate/ President Usie R Richards

Delegate/Vice President Stedman A. Hodge Jr.

Delegate Ronald E. Russel

Delegate Imani Daniel

Delegate John Abramson Jr.

Delegate Arturo Watlington Jr.

On February 28, 2025, a meeting was held to discuss the proposed revisions, changes, edits, and deletion to Articles: XI & XII [Taxation, Finance & Commerce] of the proposed Fifth Constitution of the United States Virgin Islands.

In the absence of delegate Canegata (because of personal family matters), Vice President Stedman Hodge Jr., coordinated the efforts of working Group 2.

Articles 10 & 11 Taxation, Finance Commerce

There was an extensive discussion regarding Article XI on Taxation and Finance. In simple terms, the group anticipates that there will be “a lot of revisions” to section XI when we transition from working groups to committees.

In Article XI there remains a need to update the dates (timeframe) for the Tax Commission appointments.

There was mention that a review of technologies associated with block chain services should be investigated along with all new technologies that were not available during the period that the draft of the Fifth Constitution was proposed.

Also, in Article XI Section 5 (c) some research is required to determine the clear intent of what is expected to be accomplished.

In Article XI Section 5 (g) the applying of this particular benefit or privilege to “Ancestral Native Virgin Islander” is one of the concerns identified by the United States Department of Justice memorandum.

Article 12. Economic Development

Although very little comments were made on economic development, I believe this is an area we should also expect many edits and revisions, primarily in energy efficiency.

In Article XII Section 2 the extension of the nautical miles to 12 contradicts the international boundaries of 3 nautical miles as outlined as a concern in the United States Department of Justice memorandum.

MEMBERS ALSO RECOMMENDED THE NEED TO ADDRESS DIGITAL BANKING AND THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN MANAGING AND REGULATING THIS TYPE OF CURRENCY. ALSO SUGGESTED THE REVIEW OF SIMILAR LANGUAGE IN THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS DOCUMENT AS RELATED TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

Article 6 & 7. Public Services and Virgin Islands Subdivision

A recommendation was made by the group to Look at other island nations and determine via consensus what makes sense for us in our territory.

Mr. President, as you requested, this is a summary of the efforts of Group No. 2 as we transition from “working groups” into the official committees of the Sixth Constitutional Convention.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, followed by the date "3/11/25" also in blue ink.

John M. Canegata

Delegate 6th Constitutional Convention