

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Gittens Says 'Great Strides' Being Made In Election Reform, New Working Session Dates Announced

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ST. CROIX -- Senator Kenneth Gittens, chairman of the Committee on Rules and Judiciary, is advising the general public through a press release issued on Monday of upcoming working sessions in the continued series on Election Reform.

"This next session in the series that began in June, will be held on St. Croix, this Wednesday and Thursday; October 28th and 29th at the V.I. Port Authority Administrative Conference Room, located at the Henry E. Rholsen Airport. These very intense working sessions will begin at 9 a.m. each day and we will work throughout the day until 5 p.m.," said the second-term Democrat.

Mr. Gittens said a lot of tentative changes have been made to the varying sections of Title 18 of the V.I. Code that speaks to the Election System and a number of bill drafts have been submitted to the Legislature's Office of Legal Counsel for their review and draft.

"We are making great headway as we work to identify the issues and concerns, including ambiguity and contradictions in the current laws, some that have led to the negative impact on our election process. We welcome the public to observe the process as we continue to engage in the various discussions and remind them that public hearings and community meetings will be scheduled at a later date to allow for further participation from the general public," Gittens added.

He concluded by stating that the committee made up of election officials and legislators have set a date of early next year to be completed with this final phase of the process and all parties who have been actively involved are working feverishly towards that end.

Inquiries can be addressed to Janella James, Legislative Director or Fiona Stokes, Legislative Correspondent within my office at (340) 712-2279 or via email jljames@legvi.org or fstokes@legvi.org.

Feature Image: Picture collage of election day, 2014.

Image Credit: VIC.