

PUBLIC EDUCATION FOR THE MAY 31, 2024 REFERENDUM

INFORMATION

FOR

THE TASK FORCE ON PUBLIC EDUCATION

Prepared by the Task Force and the Department of Youth and Civic Affairs

The issue on the ballot for the voting public as per Yap State Law no. YSL11-27 and Governor' Executive Order No. 2023-02

WILL THE STATE OF YAP REVIEW ITS CURRENT POLITICAL STATUS?

The current political status of the State of Yap since the adoption of the Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia in 1977 and the first FSM Government was inaugurated on May 10, 1979 is that Yap District then became the State of Yap along with the States of Chuuk, Kosrae and Pohnpei.

So today, Yap State is one of the four (4) autonomous states of the Federated States of Micronesia with its State Constitution, the Supreme Law of the State of Yap.

A Bit on History:

Yap was established as Yap District under the Trusteeship Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands along with five other districts of Palau, Saipan, Truk, Ponape (Kusai was part of Ponape District) and the Marshall Islands.

In 1965, the Congress of Micronesia was established and the districts voted senators and congressmen to the two-house Congress of Micronesia, composed of two (2) Houses, the Senate and the House of Representatives.

In 1968, the Congress formed the Political Status Commission and began investigating the suitable political status with understanding of the important relations with the United States, which administered the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands as a strategic Trust Territory. In their investigation they went to Cook Islands, which has a Free Association relations with New Zealand and that is where the Free Association Status was adopted and the Agreement/Treaty with the United States became the Compact of Free Association. The difference between the Free Association by Cook Islands and New Zealand and the one that the Congress of Micronesia was contemplating was the Free Association of Cook Islands and New Zealand is that New Zealand is responsible for the conduct of foreign affairs for Cook Islands but the Free Association contemplated Micronesia and the United States was for Micronesia to become self-governing as called for by the Trusteeship Agreement and for eventual become responsible for their foreign relations.

In 1975, the elected delegates from all of the six (6) districts elected their delegates to the Constitutional Convention that convened in Saipan to draft the Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia. The delegates from Marshall Islands and Palau began to register their interest to seek separate status as two Independent Republics and Saipan opted to become a Commonwealth of the United States.

