

Why are we doing this?

Congress will never impose restrictions on itself; nor will it voluntarily exercise fiscal restraints with taxpayer dollars. The Judicial branch must stop legislating from the bench. Structural changes are needed in Washington. Replacing representatives has never been, nor will it ever be, the answer. The issues are much bigger than any one person or group.

Many people today, including many state legislators, believe that an Article V Convention of States is the only viable way to affect the necessary, long-term structural changes at the federal level.

Convention of States by the numbers

Nationally:

- Supporters – Over 4.6 million
- Petition Signers – Over 1.6 million

Ohio:

- Volunteers – Over 5,000
- Petition Signers – Over 68,000

Fifteen states have already joined the call for a Convention of States: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas and Utah.

Research: Voters Favor Convention of States

During the previous two years, the Convention of States authorized outside pollsters to survey active voters regarding an Article V Convention of States initiative. Ohio was one of the twelve states selected. Surprisingly, all state results were very similar. Ohio respondents supporting the initiative were divided by political preferences: **Democrats – 50%; Republicans – 71%; Other (no affiliation) – 66%. Overall, almost two-thirds (62%) of Ohio voters supported a Convention of States.** Sample size: 2,023.

How you can help!

As an Ohio Resident:

1. Go to: conventionofstates.com
Please sign our petition on the Home Page. Thank you! While there scroll down to view our progress map & “Endorsers List.”
2. Become a COSP – Ohio volunteer; we welcome your help!
3. For more information, call or go to:
Ohio – 419-528-8697
Website: conventionofstates.com

THE CONVENTION OF STATES PROJECT OHIO



CONVENTION *of* STATES ACTION

We are a national grassroots movement with organizations in each state urging our state legislatures to use their powers under Article V of the U.S. Constitution to propose amendments restoring limits on the power of all three branches of the federal government (including the increasingly independent national bureaucracies)



Background – What, How & Why

Article V of the U.S. Constitution provides two ways to propose amendments to our Nation’s most important document of freedom:

1. By Congress

2. By a Convention of the States

To date, Congress has proposed 33 amendments; 27 being adopted by at least 38 (3/4ths) states. The importance of Article V cannot be overstated. Without it, the U.S. Constitution would no longer be relevant.

Today, all 50 states have Convention of States teams organized by state legislative districts. Volunteer district captains recruit, organize and educate fellow citizens about the Convention of States Resolution, thereby enabling them to seek support from their state representatives.

In order to trigger a convention of the states, 34 states (2/3ds) must each **pass substantially identical resolutions** in both chambers of their legislatures. Since August 2013, 15 states have achieved that step for the Convention of States Resolution (passed states, see page 4).

Our Motivation – Federal government overreach is excessive and undeniable, so it is time for “We the People” to bypass Washington and use an Article V Convention of States to rein in unaccountable federal officials by returning power back to the States. A Convention of the States **can only propose** amendments to our Constitution. The topics which may be addressed in those amendments are limited to the subjects outlined in the Convention of States Resolution.

For a proposed amendment to be adopted, it must be ratified by at least 38 state legislatures or by ratifying conventions in 38 states.

Convention of States Resolution

The resolution consists of three major topics:

I. Fiscal Restraints

We want amendments to address the unsustainable deficit spending and massive growth of the national debt.

II. Restricting The Power, Scope & Jurisdiction Of The Federal Government

We want amendments to return power to the states and restore the balance of power between the states and the federal government as established by our Constitution. We want to restore “Federalism.”

With the use of federal mandates and executive orders, the federal government has usurped many of the legitimate roles of the states. Our Founding Fathers believed, as stated in the tenth amendment, “The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.”

III. Term Limits For Federal Officials

We want the convention to consider term limits for members of Congress, appointed federal judges (including Supreme Court Justices) and for the more than 4,000 federal agency managers.

NOTE: These three topics are the only ones that can be addressed at the Convention. See SJR No.2 (ohiosenate.gov) for express limitations to Convention powers.

The Legislative Process

The process begins with legislators introducing the Convention of States Resolution in their respective chambers, i.e. the Ohio Senate* and the Ohio House of Representatives.

In step two, the resolution is assigned to a specific committee in each chamber for hearings and a vote. If the committee votes in favor of the resolution, it is presented to chamber membership for a “floor vote.”

This process is the same in both chambers of a state legislature. A simple majority is required to pass the resolution in assigned committees and in all floor votes. As a resolution, the state Governor has no role in this process.

*Currently filed in Ohio Senate. Go to ohiosenate.gov to read SJR No.2.