



CONVENTION OF STATES

A PROJECT OF CITIZENS FOR SELF-GOVERNANCE

WHY WE SUPPORT [RES NUMBER], CALLING FOR AN ARTICLE V CONVENTION OF STATES TO LIMIT THE POWER OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT:

- 1 The federal government is out of control, operating far beyond the scope of its specific, enumerated powers, and simply trying to elect “the right people” is a strategy that has proven unsuccessful. The problem is not a partisan one. It is a problem of structural breakdown that demands a structural repair.
- 2 The problems we now face are the result of constitutional interpretations that capitalize on ambiguities in the wording of some phrases (i.e., the General Welfare Clause). If we correct these ambiguities by clarifying the Founding Fathers’ original intentions regarding the limitations of federal power, we can restore the federal government to its proper, limited place.
- 3 [Res Number] calls for an Article V Convention limited to crafting and proposing amendments that “impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for its officials and for members of Congress.” If 34 states pass this application, it will trigger an amendment-proposing convention.
- 4 Even if the state legislatures calling for limitation of federal power selected rogue delegates who proposed bad amendments, it is completely unrealistic to imagine that an outlandish amendment would be ratified by the requisite 38 States. Against the incredibly remote possibility that any damage would be done to the Constitution by an Article V Convention of States under these circumstances, those who yearn for the restoration of our republic must weigh the virtual certainty that the American people will be subject to increasing oppression and tyranny if we allow things to continue according to the status quo.
- 5 An Article V Convention of States is not a new idea, but was the very recourse given to us by the Founding Fathers to correct a federal government that has abused its powers. They recognized the possibility that the federal government might become oppressive, and they entrusted us with this process to restore the balance of power between the federal and state governments.
- 6 This is not a partisan effort. Whether one favors conservative or liberal public policies, we can surely agree that the best public policy decisions are those made closest to home. Through a Convention of States, we can restore to the states the power that is rightfully theirs under the Constitution. We want the vast majority of laws governing our state to be made in our state—not in Washington, D.C.