

Convention of States: COS has a solution as BIG as the problem!
Patriot Coalition: COS has a problem as BIG as the solution!

Broad coalitions of opportunists have joined forces to convince *We the People* and our state legislatures that the only solution to reining in an out-of-control federal government is to amend the Constitution. This requires you to abandon common sense.

They prey on the ignorance of both legislators and citizens, and appeal to the desperation of people for a quick or simple fix to our nation's problems. Unfortunately, their main appeal is to a group of public servants who themselves have abysmal records of supporting the Constitution, and a worse record of defending our God-given unalienable Rights.

Entrusting state legislators with amending the Constitution makes about as much sense as asking atheists to amend the Bible. Neither group has a history or predisposition that indicates they understand or respect the documents they'd be entrusted to amend.

Among the proponents of an Article V "Convention for proposing Amendments" are Tea Party Patriots co-founders Jenny Beth Martin and Mark Meckler, radio pundits [Mark Levin and Glenn Beck](#), and the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC).

This is not a flash-in-the-pan scheme. It is well-funded, very organized, and a clear and present danger to our Constitutional Republic.

Keep in mind that the underlying problem with the COS solution is that it doesn't address the problem, and won't fix the primary problem: Public servants do not currently uphold the Constitution they've taken an oath to support. None of the amendments they propose will make public servants keep their oath. Until *We the People* decide to only elect honest men and women to represent us, and then hold them accountable, no amendments to the Constitution will matter.

Read their FAQ's, their answers, and our responses below. They are using various strategies to trick you into drinking their koolaid. Like one observer who survived the rise and fall of the Third Reich offered in response to a question about how the German People were fooled into empowering Hitler, "If you can get people asking the wrong questions, then the answers won't matter."

Meckler, Martin, Levin, Beck, Hannity, Farris, Natelson, ALEC, etc... are banking on you wasting time answering questions that don't matter. Patriot Coalition believes the truth matters, and that you are smart enough and have enough common sense to recognize you are being used and misled.

Below in **BLACK** is Meckler's "Convention of States" Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) section from their website. The Patriot Coalition analysis of each question is in **BLUE**.

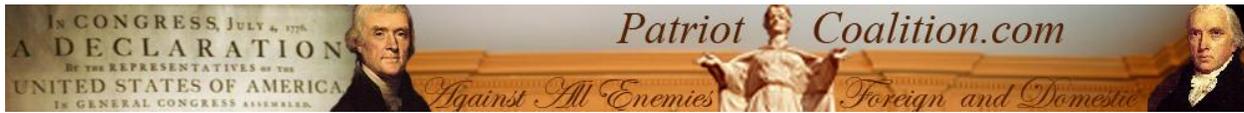
Frequently Asked Questions (Frequently Avoided Questions)

COS: Why Do We Want to Call a Convention of States?

Washington, D.C., is broken. The federal government is spending this country into the ground, seizing power from the States and taking liberty from the people. It's time American citizens took

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a stand and made a legitimate effort to curb the power and jurisdiction of the federal government. The Founders gave us a tool to fix Washington, D.C. – Article V of the U.S. Constitution. We must use it before it is too late.

Patriot Coalition: Why does COS call a federal Article V Convention a “convention of states?” *Government at all levels is broken, not just Washington, D.C. It’s a symptom. We the People are the problem. Nearly every allegation against the federal government can also be levied against state and local government, i.e., seizing power from the People, over-stepping their jurisdiction and authority, and “taking liberty from the people.”*

Why COS believes out-of-control state government will rein in out-of-control federal government defies common sense. If state governments would uphold the Constitution, the federal government wouldn’t get out-of-control. If state governments would protect the God-given unalienable Rights of the People, many of which are directly and specifically protected within the Bill of Rights, the federal government wouldn’t be able to “infringe” on free speech, religious expression, “the right to keep and bear arms,” etc... And why don’t they? The answer is simple: We the People don’t require the people we elect to keep their oath to support the Constitution. If we don’t respect the “supreme Law of the Land,” why should they?

COS, and its parent, CSG, want an Article V Convention. I won’t go into it here, but conventional wisdom says, “Follow the money,” and follow the special interests that are promoting it. The motivations aren’t all the same, but the net result is a clear and present danger of the Constitution being revamped to give state governments or the purveyors of global governance more power. I don’t believe for one second these folks care at all about upholding the Constitution and protecting individual rights. Their efforts are not centered around defending the Constitution, but rather, on amending it.

If the Constitution isn’t the problem, why is amending it the solution? It isn’t.

COS: What is a Convention of States?

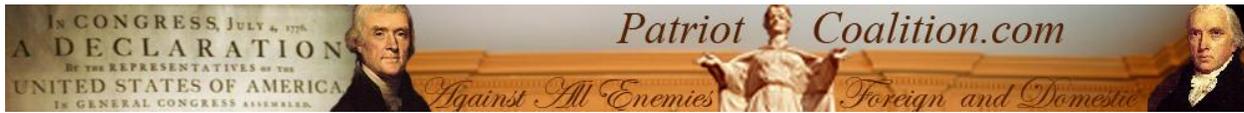
A Convention of States is a convention called by the state legislatures for the purpose of proposing amendments to the Constitution. They are given power to do this under Article V of the Constitution.

It is not a constitutional convention. It cannot throw out the Constitution because its authority is derived from the Constitution.

Patriot Coalition: *Assuming that a “convention of states” is an Article V “Convention for proposing Amendments,” and not an interstate convention such as the Annapolis or Washington Peace Conference conventions which were in fact called by the States, then the States do not have the authority to “call” an Article V “Convention for proposing Amendments.” If they were able to do so, then why, after hundreds of applications, has there never been one? It’s a federal convention, not a “convention of states,” and it most certainly is a “constitutional convention.” It is a convention authorized by the Constitution to amend the Constitution. It’s a constitutional convention in layman’s terms. COS will get technical, and say that a “constitutional convention” is only one type of convention: the kind called to draft a new form of government. I disagree. Any*

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convention authorized by the Constitution, for whatever purpose, is a “constitutional convention.”

COS operatives try to use this subtle distinction to imply those in opposition to it don't know what they're talking about, and to divert away from the reality that an “amendment” can include a wide variety of changes to the Constitution, ranging from changing one word to changing everything but one word. It's still an amendment, and it still doesn't address the root problem.

COS is trying to trigger an Article V “Convention for proposing Amendments,” yet they are calling it a “convention of states.” Why are they baiting and switching? The answer is simple. They can't refer to an Article V Convention in our history to illustrate how such a convention would be conducted because there has never been one. They must refer to conventions called by states “outside” the Article V Convention process requirements, and refer to these conventions as examples of how it is safe to call an Article V Convention.

They are guessing at best, and misleading the public and our public servants at worst.

COS: How Do the State Legislatures Call a Convention of States?

Thirty-four State legislatures must pass a bill called an “application” calling for a convention of states. The applications must request a convention of states for the same subject matter. They submit these applications to Congress.

Patriot Coalition: *They don't. State legislatures “apply” to Congress for an Article V “Convention for proposing Amendments.” There is NOTHING in the Constitution that places any restrictions on “subject matter” whatsoever, and certainly no requirement that the applications be “for the same subject matter.” COS can say that's the case all they want, but they are reading something into the Constitution that simply isn't there.*

Remember, the Constitution was written for the average man, the “average voter” to understand. It was not written such that Joe and Jane Citizen would need to consult an attorney to interpret it for them. When attorneys start reading things into the Constitution that aren't there, under the pretense of defending our rights, they are no different than the scoundrels who read things into it to usurp power and violate our rights.

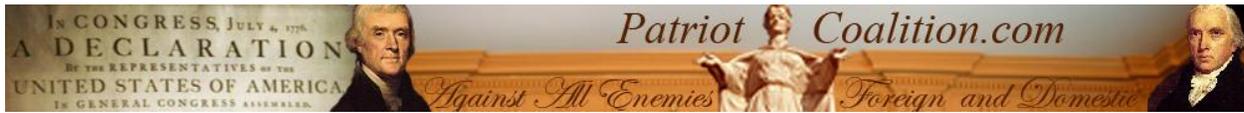
COS: Can Congress Block a Convention of States?

No. As long as each States applies for a convention that deals with the same issue (i.e., limiting the power and jurisdiction of the federal government), Congress must call the convention. Congress can name the place and the time for the convention. If it fails to exercise this power reasonably, either the courts or the states themselves can override Congressional inaction.

Patriot Coalition: *A “convention of states” is merely an interstate convention called by states. Rob Natelson, author of the ALEC Article V Convention handbook for state legislators, and the prime source for Mark Levin's “Liberty Amendments” would have you believe an Article V “Convention for proposing Amendments” and a “convention of states” are one and the same. Natelson's “It's Been Done Before: A Convention of the States to Propose Constitutional Amendments” article muddies the waters by claiming the 1861 interstate convention called by Virginia synonymous with an Article V*

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“Convention for proposing Amendments.” It most certainly was not, and Mr. Natelson knows it.

Natelson claims they are the same to allay fears about how an actual Article V Convention would manifest. His assertions are mere speculation and wishful thinking. It is no different than President Obama’s sales pitch that individuals could keep their existing insurance under the Affordable Care Act.

COS: How Do States Choose Their Delegates?

States are free to develop their own selection process for choosing their delegates--properly called "commissioners." Historically, the most common method was an election by a joint session of both houses of the state legislature. Despite how many delegates are sent, each state has one vote.

Patriot Coalition: *CSG’s bold assertion that “commissioners” is the proper nomenclature for delegates is puzzling. The state legislatures, in their official documents naming the persons who would attend the Philadelphia Convention, used a wide variety of terms: commissioners, delegates, and deputies were all used. In some cases, state legislatures used a variety of these terms interchangeably within the same document.*

The term most folks are familiar with is “delegates,” which, by the way, was the only term used by Congress in the resolution calling for the Philadelphia Convention.

“Resolved, That, in the opinion of Congress, it is expedient that, on the second Monday in May next, a convention of delegates, who shall have been appointed by the several states, be held at Philadelphia, for the sole and express purpose of revising the Articles of Confederation, and reporting to Congress and the several legislatures such alterations and provisions therein as shall, when agreed to in Congress, and confirmed by the states, render the federal Constitution adequate to the exigencies of government and the preservation of the Union.”

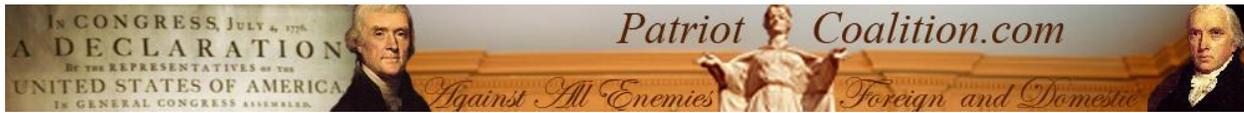
- Congress, Feb. 21, 1787, Elliot’s Debates, Volume I, page 120.

In an interstate convention, COS claims may be accurate, but since there has NEVER been an Article V Convention, and knowing that Congress has arguably different opinions about the whole process, even the assertion that each state will only have one vote is merely an educated guess. There are those in Congress and academia that propose an Article V “Convention for proposing Amendments” might be apportioned based on population, much like the Electoral College. That battle has yet to be fought, let alone resolved.

Additionally, while most presume that the participants to said convention would be state actors/agents, Article V doesn’t specify. Some argue that the convention could be apportioned based on population rather than statehood in order to more fairly represent the will of the People. Such has been posited before Congressional Committees pondering the respective roles of Congress and the States should an Article V “Convention for proposing Amendments” be triggered. Farris’ assertion of the “one state, one vote” concept is a strong argument, but it is anything but settled.

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COS: What Happens at a Convention of States?

Commissioners from each state may propose, discuss, and vote on amendments to the Constitution.

Amendments the convention passes by a simple majority will be sent back to the states for ratification. Again, each state has one vote at the convention.

Patriot Coalition: *“Delegates” at an Article V “Convention for proposing Amendments” certainly may “propose, discuss, and vote on amendments to the Constitution.” Their assertion that proposed amendments require only a “simple majority” to pass is pure speculation. The delegates themselves, once convened, will determine the rules by which the convention will proceed. It may take a simple majority, or two thirds, or three fourths. No one knows. Also, proposed amendments approved at an Article V “Convention for proposing Amendments” are NOT sent back to the states for ratification. They are sent to Congress, who may choose to send the proposed amendments to the state legislatures, or conventions in the states.*

The uncertainties regarding who controls an Article V “Convention for proposing Amendments” will pit the states against Congress, each jockeying for control through a variety of legislative and legal maneuvers.

COS: How are Proposed Amendments Ratified?

Thirty-eight States must ratify any proposed amendments. Once States ratify, the amendments become part of the Constitution.

Patriot Coalition: *Article V requires that “three fourths” of the several states ratify. Currently, that threshold is thirty eight states.*

COS: How Do We Know How a Convention of States Will Work?

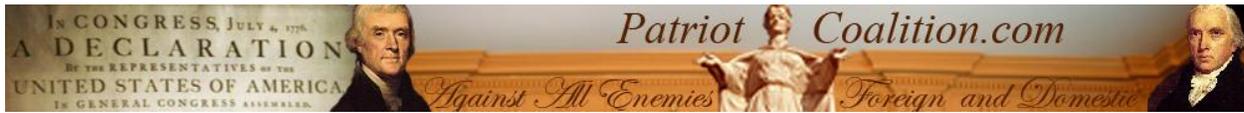
Interstate conventions were common during the Founding era, and the procedures and rules for such conventions were widely accepted. Thus, we can know how a Convention of States would operate by looking at the historical record. Dr. Rob Natelson has done extensive research on this topic, and more details can be found in the Handbook.

Patriot Coalition: *An Article V “Convention for proposing Amendments” is NOT an “interstate convention,” and it is NOT a “convention of states.” While it is true that states may “call a convention,” and that by such an action, if two or more states attend, it would be an “interstate convention” or “convention of states” such as the Annapolis Convention that preceded the Philadelphia Convention called by Congress, or the 1861 Convention called by Virginia, and the “procedures and rules for such conventions” may very well have been “widely accepted.”*

However, there is no “historical record” for Article V “Conventions for proposing Amendments” to look at, and there is certainly no way to “know” how such a convention would manifest. Dr. Natelson is not the only one who has done “extensive research” on this. His conclusions require mosaic thinking, speculation, and a blending of interstate convention histories with the non-existent Article V “Convention for proposing Amendments” history.

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COS: Is a Constitutional Convention Safe?

Yes! The ratification process ensures no amendment will be passed that does not reflect the desires of the American people. Additionally, there are numerous safeguards against a “runaway convention,” all of which can be found in the Handbook.

Patriot Coalition: *It is interesting that CSG/COS vehemently deny that an Article V “Convention for proposing Amendments” is a “constitutional convention” in numerous articles, handbooks, and their talking points, yet in their post-convention conjecture they acknowledge what common sense revealed was the truth all along. An Article V “Convention for proposing Amendments” is indeed a “constitutional convention.”*

The only “safeguard” the Framers envisioned to prevent a convention from drastically altering the Constitution was to not call one. Dr. Natelson, Mr. Meckler, and Mr. Farris know this to be true, but would have you believe otherwise.

Farris’ assertion that “no amendment will be passed that does not reflect the desires of the American people” sounds good, but one might argue that authorizing a federal income tax via the 16th Amendment probably didn’t reflect “the desires of the American people,” but rather, reflected that of the ruling class.

COS: If the Federal Government Ignores the Current Constitution, Why Would They Adhere to an Amended Constitution?

When the Founders wrote the Constitution, they did not anticipate modern-day politicians who take advantage of loopholes and vague phraseology. Even though the federal violation of the Constitution is obvious to all reasonable Americans, Washington pretends otherwise, claiming the Constitution contains broad and flexible language. Amendments at a convention of states will be written with such politicians in mind. The language they use for these amendments will be unequivocal. There will be no doubt as to their meaning, no possibility of alternate interpretations, and no way for them to be broken.

Patriot Coalition: *To suggest that the Framers did not anticipate corrupt politicians is absurd at best, and a dishonest misrepresentation of the facts. It takes a tremendous amount of arrogance to even suggest that delegates to a constitutional convention today would be more altruistic and clearer in the language than the Framers were.*

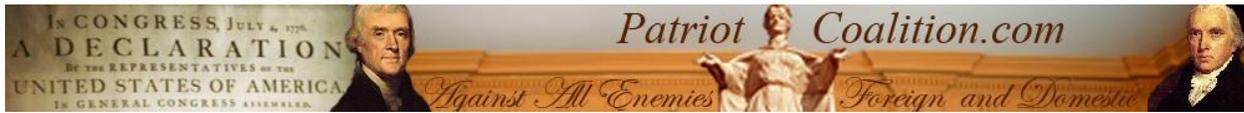
There is little doubt among honest men what the Constitution says and means. To suggest that a newly-amended Constitution would guarantee “no doubt as to their meaning, no possibility of alternate interpretations, and no way for them to be broken” is either extremely naïve or presumes you are the “sucker” born this minute.

COS: In addition to this, it should be noted that the federal government has not violated the amendments passed in recent years. Women’s suffrage, for example, has been 100% upheld.

Patriot Coalition: *The XIX Amendment (suffrage) was not passed “in recent years,” but nearly 93 years ago on August 18, 1920. Only four amendments have been ratified in the past 50 years, the last of which was over 20 years ago concerning Congressional pay.*

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That the federal government hasn't violated all 27 Amendments provides no logical nexus to the conclusion that it won't violate unknown amendments that haven't even been proposed, let alone ratified.

They would have you believe that by virtue of an amendment being "recent" guarantees they will uphold it, and therefore, if we amend it with some of their 60 proposed amendments, the feds will surely honor them.

"Recent" amendments don't address fundamental God-given unalienable Rights.

COS: What is the Convention of States Project's Plan?

The COS Project's plan is twofold:

1. To call a convention for a particular subject rather than a particular amendment, i.e., to limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government. Instead of calling a convention for a balanced budget amendment (though we are entirely supportive of such an amendment), our convention would allow other federal limiting amendments to be brought as well. (Term-limits, Tax reform, etc.)

2. To energize the grassroots support! We are building a grassroots operation in a minimum of 40 states, getting 100 people to volunteer in at least 75% of the state legislative districts. Volunteers will contact their State legislators, show up at hearings, and support the campaigns of those legislators who support COS.

www.conventionofstates.com

Patriot Coalition: *Citizens for Self-Governance, Tea Party Patriots, Mark Levin, and other proponents of an Article V "Convention for proposing Amendments" have over 60 such amendments they've drafted and promote. That they refer to it as "our convention" is very telling. It implies they can micromanage and control the entire convention process. They make a wide range of apples and oranges comparisons and assertions that common sense would define as wishful thinking, but that is NOT what is going on here.*

Meckler, Natelson, Farris, and Levin have incorporated the unethical and immoral Delphi Technique throughout their "plan." They are "change agents" and facilitators of a ruse. If you are not familiar with the Delphi Technique, you are a sucker, and will continue to be manipulated as a sucker for opportunistic and special interest change agents, many of whom have nefarious agendas not expressed openly.

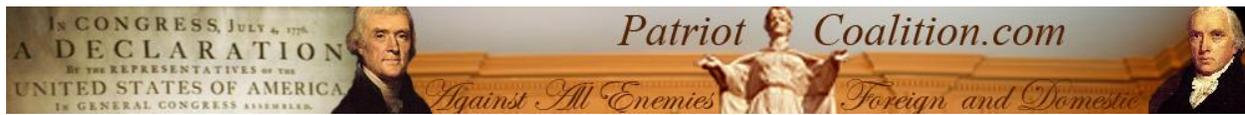
They prey on the ignorance and misery of the people to garner support for their agendas. They are false prophets who promise hope and change. Among them are opportunists seeking power, fame, and fortune, and still others whose plans include destroying our constitutional republic.

To them, the end justifies the means. They get rich feeding off the hopes and dreams of average Americans who want to believe the lies of the change agents are the truth.

All of these discussions about the particulars are interesting, and can be intellectually stimulating, but en masse they are irrelevant in that they are diversions away from the real questions we should be asking.

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Citizens for Self-Governance's Convention of States claims to have a "solution as big as the problem," but in fact their arguments and assurances have problems as big as their solution.

If the Constitution isn't the problem, then why is amending it the solution?

State legislatures have as horrible a track record of protecting our Rights under the Constitution as written as the federal government. How can we trust them to amend it? I certainly believe in redemption, but redemption requires a change in behavior. Have the state legislatures illustrated a willingness to reject unconstitutional usurpations of our God-given Rights by the feds?

Have these so-called brave and honorable state governments defended our Rights on education, property rights, privacy rights, the right to self-defense, the right to free speech or the free exercise of religion, or any other right protected by the Bill of Rights?

Some of them, such as the attendees of the recent Mt. Vernon conference, are already donning their powdered wigs, giddy with excitement about the possibility of being a "player" at an Article V "Convention for proposing Amendments."

Talk is cheap. Current state legislators talk the talk, but very few have walked the walk of actual statesmen. Until We the People put our "sleeping giant" foot down, and demand all public servants at all levels of government keep their oaths, we will continue to be ruled by the "whims of men," instead of the rule of law.

A simple risk benefit analysis shows the guaranteed risks outweigh the promised benefits of an Article V "Convention for proposing Amendments." Proponents argue the benefits outweigh the risks, yet neither position matters because the solution doesn't address the root problem.

Public servants do not keep their oath, and do not support the Constitution. Amending the Constitution won't make them keep their oath. It is also nonsense to believe amending the Constitution will result in a balanced budget, a reduction in federal spending, and/or an elimination of federal exercises of power in areas not "delegated" to the federal government.

As I've said before, if your spouse was cheating on you, would the solution be to amend your marriage vows? Common sense says that's crazy talk, and so is the "Convention of States" solution.

Jeff Lewis
National Director
Patriot Coalition
Jeff@patriotcoalition.com



Defending Life and Liberty is the Pursuit of Happiness

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