

Convention of States Action Candidate Survey Program

Convention of States Action encourages state teams to survey all of your state legislative candidates and find out where they stand on COS. The election season is a critical opportunity for your state team to accomplish the following objectives:

- Secure written commitments of support from sitting and prospective legislators for the COS Application.
- Build personal relationships with legislators and candidates.
- Educate legislators and candidates about COS *before* they begin to receive misinformation from fear-mongering Article V opponents. (Once they commit to support or oppose, changing their minds is difficult.)
- Identify, in candidates who don't ultimately win, political activists who may be brought on board as COS leaders after the election.
- Create a "buzz" about COS among state legislators when they learn that our team is organized and politically engaged during election season.

In other words, this is an extremely important program! Please help us reach out to the candidates in your area. As you do so, please bear in mind the following:

- **You may NOT use your position with COS to support or oppose any candidate for public office.** COS does not tell people how to vote, but we always try to influence legislators, including potential future legislators, to support the COS Application. You may not use COS resources or channels of communication to promote or oppose any candidate's campaign for office.
- COS has put considerable time and effort into developing an online candidate survey program to assess candidates' positions on COS and encourage them to commit their support to COS. Our legal team has developed a specific set of instructions for implementing this survey program, and it is essential that you follow these instructions.

Process for Conducting Candidate Survey Program:

1. Identify a source for collecting the names and e-mail addresses of ALL candidates running for the state legislature. Sources vary by state, but the information can also be found on websites for the Secretary of State or Board of Elections.
2. Send EACH candidate the following e-mail:

Dear [Candidate Name],

On behalf of voters who are volunteers and supporters of Convention of States Action, I am conducting a survey to determine which candidates for our state legislature support our efforts to use Article V of the Constitution to impose fiscal restraints on Washington, D.C., limit federal power and jurisdiction, and consider term limits for federal officials. Please [follow this link to complete the survey](#).

We will be informing our supporters and donors of the survey results.

3. Survey results will be posted and regularly updated at www.cossurveyed.com.
4. Please reach out to candidates who are on the fence or oppose COS and try to get them to support our application.

Remember, this is an information-gathering and lobbying effort to get legislators on board when they are most receptive to constituent input. As a result, it is critical that you abide by the following restrictions in implementing this program:

- Your state team must give **all candidates** in **all districts**, regardless of party, an equal opportunity to participate in the survey. This includes candidates who are running unopposed or effectively unopposed in their district.
- If you want to communicate the survey results to COS supporters in your state, you must use the [email template we provide](#). This should be sent out only to known COS supporters in CitizenBuilder. The goal is to get as many COS supporters as possible contacting these candidates so they will support our application. Any changes to the template or decisions to communicate the results of the survey through other media must be run by the Convention of States Action Legal Department **before** they are published (legal@cosaction.com).
- Any communication of the survey results must include the full survey and any responses without any embellishment or endorsement (just the facts). **There can be absolutely no content that expresses a preference for one candidate over another.**