



## INTRODUCTION TO CONVENTION OF STATES PRESENTATION GUIDE



### INSTRUCTIONS:

To advance to the next slide, simply click the white arrow at the bottom of the presentation window.

**IMPORTANT:** For videos, don't click the "play" button. Click the same white arrow once, and the video will play. When the video is finished, click the arrow again to advance to the next slide.

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### INTRODUCTION (1/33)

Welcome! My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I'm glad you're here. Over the next twenty minutes, I'm going to provide everything you need to know about the Article V Convention of States Project – the problem, the solution, how it works, our strategy, and, finally, how to get involved. If you're unfamiliar with this idea and this movement, don't worry! I was sitting right where you are not too long ago, and hopefully by the end of our time together you'll have a good grasp of the basics.

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### THE PROBLEM (2/33)

The Convention of States Project is designed to address the three biggest problems we see in Washington, DC: the debt and spending crisis, the overreach of the federal government, and the negative effects of career politicians.

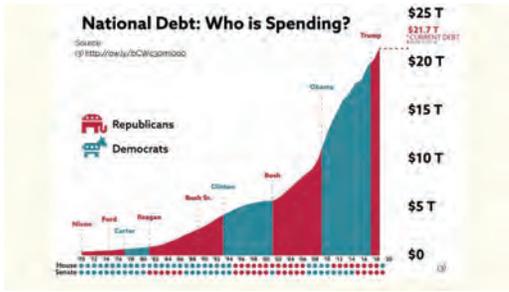
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### DEBT + SPENDING (3/33)

First, the debt and spending crisis. Here's the most important fact about our spending problem: *party doesn't matter.*

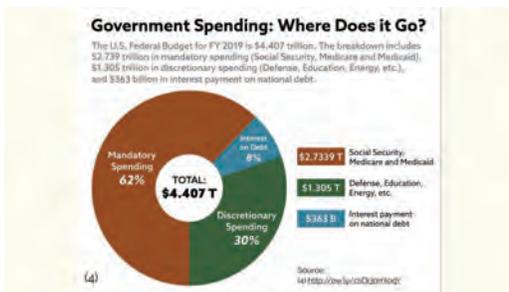
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Democrats and Republicans both spend far beyond our means, and it's jeopardizing the future of our children and grandchildren.

DEBT GRAPH (4/33)

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But we'll feel the effects of this irresponsible spending even before our grandchildren are saddled with the national debt. According to expert analysis, the Medicare fund will be depleted by 2026 and Social Security will be gone by 2034.

GOVT SPENDING (5/33)

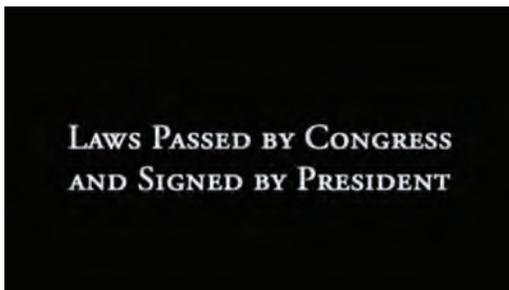
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The second problem is government overreach. There are many ways that Washington abuses its power, but one of the most egregious happens every day in federal bureaucracies. Most people don't realize that bureaucrats are not elected, and yet they are responsible for the vast majority of the laws and regulations under which we live. Here's the problem: Article I of the Constitution says that "all legislative power is vested in Congress." I think this video does a great job illustrating how far we've departed from that idea.

REGULATIONS (6/33)

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Click button at bottom twice to start video.

And the federal bureaucracy isn't the only branch that creates laws out of thin air. The Supreme Court does it too, as Mike Farris explains in this next video.

LAWS V. REGS (7/33)

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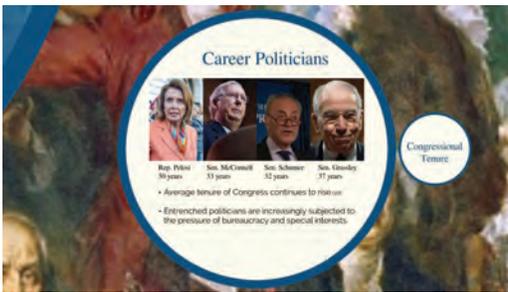
3K PG CONSTITUTION (8/33)



Click button at bottom twice to start video.

Neither bureaucrats nor Supreme Court justices are elected, which takes power away from the people and gives it to entities that are almost never held accountable for their actions. And speaking of unaccountable federal officials...

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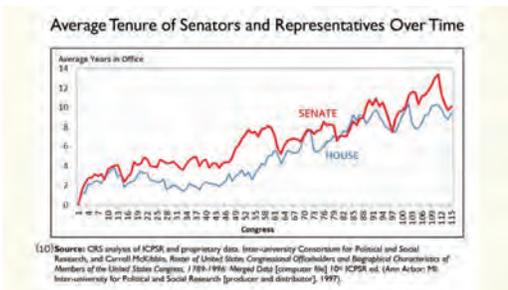
CAREER POLITICIANS (9/33)

Our Founders never wanted anyone to make a career out of public service. But look how long these men and women from both sides of the aisle have been in Washington.

You might say, "What's wrong with that? Their constituents elect them. Why shouldn't they continue serving?"

The problem is that the longer someone stays in D.C., the more they smell like the swamp. The more they become tied to the bureaucracies and special interests, the less they're willing to stick their neck out for the good of their constituents or, more importantly, the good of the country.

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AVG. TENURE (10/33)

And, as you can see, the problem is getting worse.

And why shouldn't it? Our federal officials – whether we're talking about bureaucrats, the Supreme Court, or Congresspeople – don't have any incentive to change the status quo. They're perfectly happy to continue acquiring more power, wealth, and influence as long as We the People will let them.

This is one of our core beliefs at the Convention of States Project: the federal government will never fix itself. They'll never stop spending, abusing their power, or seeking reelection.

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THE SOLUTION (11/33)



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Fortunately, the Founders predicted this would happen. That's why they included the Convention of States option in Article V of the Constitution.



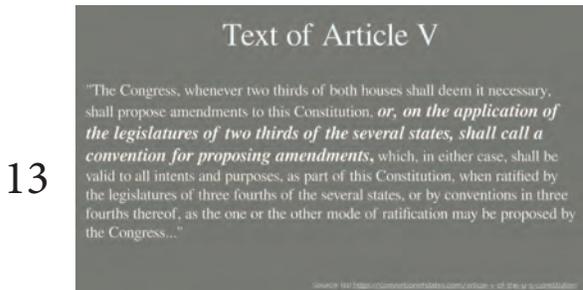
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## FOUNDERS SAY (12/33)



Click button at bottom twice to start video.

As that video explains, the Founders wrote Article V for one specific reason: so that the states could check federal power. They knew that without the Convention of States option, a corrupt, powerful federal government would never fix itself. Which brings us to the actual text of Article V. Here's what it says.



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## ARTICLE V (13/33)

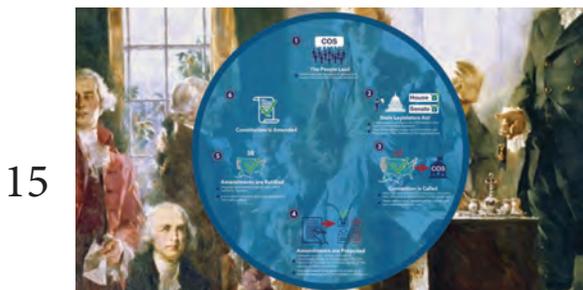
**Read Slide.** At its most basic level, Article V allows the state legislatures to call a convention for the purpose of proposing amendments. This convention can only be called if two-thirds of the states – today that would be 34 – pass resolutions calling for such a convention. And note the word “proposing.” An Article V Convention of States is a meeting of states in which they discuss *potential* amendments to the U.S. Constitution. Those amendments, as Article V says, must then be sent back to the states and ratified by 38 legislatures. This is a very high bar, but it ensures that only the best, most popular amendments will finally be added to our founding document.



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## OUR PLAN (14/33)

Our plan is simple – we want to use Article V as the Founders intended. We believe the federal government has gone off the rails, and we want to encourage the states to use their power under Article V to get our nation back on track. Like the colonists during the War for Independence, our desire isn't to scrap everything and start something brand new. Instead, we want to get back to our founding principles, and we believe the best, most effective way to do that is to call a Convention of States.



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## HOW IT WORKS (15/33)



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Fortunately, the Founders predicted this would happen. That's why they included the Convention of States option in Article V of the Constitution.

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First, citizens ask their state legislatures to pass a resolution calling for an Article V Convention of States. Millions of patriots all across the country have done this by signing the Convention of States Petition, and thousands more have called, emailed, and met with their state representatives.

## STEP 1 (16/33)

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Next, the Convention of States resolution follows the same process as any other resolution. It must pass committees in both chambers and finally pass the full chamber in the House and the Senate.

## STEP 2 (17/33)

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Once 34 states pass identical resolutions calling for a Convention of States, Congress is obligated, under Article V, to name a time and place for the convention. The state legislatures decide how to select delegates to the convention, but no matter how many delegates they send, each state gets only one vote.

## STEP 3 (18/33)

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At the Convention, delegates propose, debate, and vote on amendments. We'll get into the details of this in a minute, but for now it's important to know that all amendments proposed must be *limited to the language in the Convention of States resolution*. Any off-topic amendments will be considered out of order. Amendment proposals are passed when a simple majority of the state delegations vote for them.

## STEP 4 (19/33)

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STEP 5 (20/33)

Next, the amendment proposals that pass out of the Convention are sent back to the states for ratification.

Thirty-eight states must vote “yes” for any amendment proposal to become part of the Constitution. Again, this is a very high bar, and it all but ensures that no bad amendments will end up in our founding document.

You can think of it like this: it only takes 1 legislative chamber in 13 states to keep any amendment from moving forward. I don’t know about you, but I can easily think of 13 states that would kill any amendment limiting freedom or drastically restructuring our system of government.

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STEP 6 (21/33)

Finally, once that entire process is complete, the amendment proposals become part of the Constitution.

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OUR STRATEGY (22/33)



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Our strategy consists of two main arenas: the state legislatures and the grassroots.

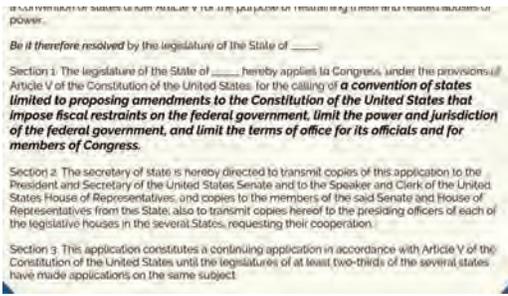
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MODEL APP 1 (23/33)

On the legislative side, we’re seeking to pass the Convention of States resolution in at least 34 states. We’ve already passed it in \_\_\_\_\_, which means we’re already \_\_\_\_\_ [fraction] of the way there.

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MODEL APP 2 (24/33)

Our resolution calls for amendments in three distinct categories that:

- limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government
- limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government
- limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government

Remember, like I said before, when the states call for a Convention of States under this resolution, they can only propose amendments that fall into one of these three categories.

The Convention of States Project doesn't endorse any particular amendments. Rather, we want the states to debate and propose specific amendment language under one of these three broad topics.

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GRASSROOTS (25/33)

Here's where you come in.

Along with lobbying in state legislatures, we're seeking to build the nation's largest grassroots army. And, as you can see, we're well on our way. We have volunteer teams with leadership structures in every state, millions of volunteers and supporters, and local leadership—what we call District Captains—in over 1,700 state house districts.

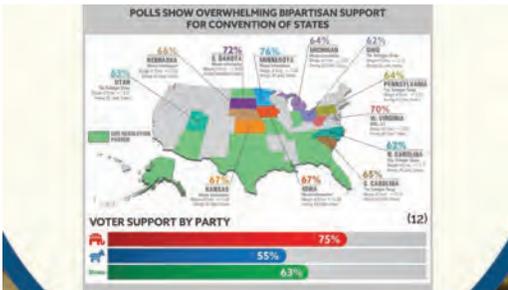
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PROGRESS 1 (26/33)

Thanks in large part to that grassroots army, the momentum for the Convention of States movement is building all across the country.

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PROGRESS 2 (27/33)

The green states represent state where we've already passed our resolution—there are \_\_\_\_\_ so far.

We've also conducted polling in \_\_\_\_\_ states that have yet to pass our resolution. In those states, over 60 percent of voters say they would support their state calling for a Convention of States.

Finally, one of the most exciting aspects of the Article V movement is that it enjoys bipartisan support. Over half of Democrats and 75 percent of Republicans say they would back a Convention of States to limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government.

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ENDORSERS (28/33)

Plus, some of the nation's most prominent thinkers and leaders have taken note of the growing Convention of States movement.



**Click on a few, whoever you think your audience will want to see. You might also ask the audience which endorsements they'd like to read.**

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GET INVOLVED (29/33)



**Click button at bottom twice to advance to slide.**

In conclusion, if you'd like to get involved, here are three of the best ways. We have additional volunteer and leadership positions available, and if you're interested in other opportunities, please don't hesitate to speak with me at the conclusion of the presentation. But these are the three ways you can be most helpful to our growing movement.

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SIGN PETITION (30/33)

First, you can simply sign the official Convention of States Petition at [ConventionofStates.com](https://conventionofstates.com). When you sign the petition and provide your full address, we'll automatically send a copy of the petition to your state legislators. This is a great, easy way to let your representatives know you support the Convention of States resolution in your state legislature. Next, you can volunteer to be a District Captain in your local community. Here's a brief video explaining that position.

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DISTRICT CAPTAIN (31/33)



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DONATE (32/33)

This last way to get involved is less important than the other two, but I still wanted to mention it. We rely heavily on our amazing volunteers, but, like any organization, the Convention of States Project also relies on our generous donors to keep up the fight for liberty. If you'd like to contribute, you can do so at [conventionofstates.com/donate](http://conventionofstates.com/donate).

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CONCLUSION (33/33)

That's it! Thank you so much for your time and attention today, and I'll be happy to answer any questions you have.

NOTES: