

# Keynotes



Bryce Barras



Original "Bill Of Rights"



Louisiana Round-Up!



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# Bryce Barras

**R**ecognizing the need for a convention of states, Louisiana became the *eighth* state to pass the Convention of States Resolution. This resolution will ultimately bring about the passage of amendments to the United States Constitution that will limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, impose fiscal restraints, and place term limits on federal officials. Since then, 11 more states have passed the resolution.

Article 5 of the Constitution states that two-thirds of the states must pass such a resolution before this convention can be called to assembly. Therefore 15 more states, for a total of 34, must pass their own Article 5 Convention of States Resolution. A state legislature's approval of a COS Resolution does not come about on its own, but requires a similar effort as was put forth by Louisiana's Bryce Barras of New Orleans to accomplish this task.

## Commitment

Barras' love of history was part of the catalyst that led him to involvement in the political process. He was particularly interested in U. S. history and western thought and read many books that had influenced the country's founders. At age 24, Barras heard about the Convention of States organization through Mark Levine's radio program and jumped on board. He became even more involved when asked to be the Louisiana State Director for COS. Coming out of Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond ready for the information technology field, Barras faced decisions. Should he go full speed into his career or spend long hours and have a very limited social life by leading in advancing a Convention of States Resolution through the

Louisiana legislature? Taking into consideration his future children and grandchildren and the character of the country that he would be a part of forming, he chose the latter.

## Strategy

Barras took the COS state director position and together with other key players, developed and implemented a strategy to add Louisiana to the two-thirds tally. They saw this as an uphill battle since they would be lobbying a Democrat-controlled committee, but they planned a sound strategy. *They met and began building relationships with Louisiana legislators, especially the committee chairman that would handle their resolution.*

Barras' team was influential in promoting the resolution in Louisiana high schools to garner support among educators and those about to become part of the electorate. Some of the girls from these high schools took what they had learned about Article 5 and the need to put additional constitutional restrictions on the federal government and testified before the committee considering the convention of states resolution. Their persuasive testimony provided additional leverage for Barras and company to move the committee in their direction.

## Trailblazing

Initially, the bill failed but Barras' team pressed on with their game plan of persuading politicians and others through relationship building and educating on the purpose of Article 5. Their efforts bore the desired results in 2016 when the resolution was passed. Through their continued work and that of Representative Mark Abraham, a template was created in 2018 for selecting commissioners to represent the state when a convention of states is called. HCR4 is an example that other states can follow to help expedite their readiness for a convention of states.

## Shift of Focus

Now that Louisiana is part of the two-thirds, Barras says the focus should be on building grassroots activism. He believes power is in locality, and continued relationship building with legislators will establish a conduit for that power to pull back the juggernaut that the federal government has become. He recommends walking into the local legislator's office, letting them know you are with COS, and building that relationship. *Take the initiative, strategize, and get involved. Activist training is key.*



*Take the initiative, strategize, and get involved.*

*Activist training is key.*



*First LA State Director*

## Be a Part

Barras is confident that within 10 years, an Article 5 constitutional convention will be held. You can be part of this by going to COSAction (conventionofstates.com). If others work as diligently as Barras and his team, the convention could be held much sooner. Thanks go to them, and thanks to all who are involved in helping to return our country to its position of protection, prosperity, and freedom.

*Danny Bolden*

# Declaration of Independence • Constitution • Bill of Rights

These three documents, known collectively as the **Charters of Freedom**, have secured the rights of the American people for more than two and a quarter centuries and are considered instrumental to the founding and philosophy of the United States.

## The U.S. Bill of Rights

**Note:** The following text is a transcription of the first two amendments to the Constitution in their original form. These amendments were ratified December 15, 1791, and form part of what is known as the “**Bill of Rights**.”

### Amendment I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

### Amendment II

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

The first and second amendments are under assault today by forces that oppose our founding documents.

There are those that desire to radically change us into a Marxist / Socialist nation.

Click on link below to encounter the original founding documents of the United States in the Rotunda for the Charters of Freedom, the permanent home of the Declaration of Independence, Constitution of the United States, and Bill of Rights

Encounter the original founding documents [museum.archives.gov/founding-documents#billofrights](https://www.museum.archives.gov/founding-documents#billofrights)

Virtual Tour of the Museum in English and American Sign Language (ASL) [youtu.be/6uZac3anNM0](https://youtu.be/6uZac3anNM0)

As Daniel Webster observed. “The Constitution has enemies, secret and professed... They have hot heads and cold hearts. They are rash, reckless, and fierce for change, and with no affection for the existing institutions of their country. Other enemies there are, more and cool, and with more calculation. These have a deeper and more fixed and dangerous purpose. These are those in the country who profess in their own words, even to hate the constitution...”

Our founding fathers signed their lives and rights away. “We the People” need to ensure that their sacrifices were not in vain.

We need to defend and preserve our great constitution for ourselves and our posterity.

[www.archives.gov/founding-docs/bill-of-rights-transcript](https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/bill-of-rights-transcript)



**T**hree major areas in the state, **Greater Baton Rouge, the Northshore,** and the **New Orleans Metro Area,** hold regular monthly **COS meetings.** Attendance at these meetings grow steadily each month, due in part to a great line-up of guest speakers addressing issues of interest to the people of Louisiana.

Current **Legislative Liaison Dale Clary** and **JC Harmon,** who held the position previously, have been popular speakers in all three locations, speaking on such issues as getting to know your legislators, how a bill becomes a law, and specific pieces of legislation strengthening self-governance, always of interest to our grassroots organization. State legislators have been invited to speak on their own self-governance legislation.

Greater Baton Rouge area guest legislators have included *Senator Franklin Foil* and *Representatives Rick Edmonds, Blake Miguez, and Larry Frieman.* *Legislative Assistant, Tori Hymel,* spoke recently about *Representative Valarie Hodges's* proposed legislation for the upcoming legislative session. The **COS Northshore Region** has heard from *Representatives Mark Wright, Mary DuBuisson* and *Ray Garofalo* while New Orleans Metro had *Representative John Illg, Senator Kirk Talbot* and *Senator Cameron Henry* as guest speakers.

**Election integrity** is a topic of great interest to the *COSLA team.* As a commissioner on the Secretary of State's Voting System Commission, **LL Dale Clary** kept all three regions apprised of the progress of this commission. *Dr. Randy Russ* and *John Scanlan,* who have done extensive research into election integrity in Louisiana, have been popular speakers in all three regions.

**Education** is a topic that Louisianans want to hear about. COS Volunteer Activist **Jennifer Carignan, the founder of Save Our Schools** Louisiana, has presented information about CRT and SEL to both the Northshore and New Orleans meetings. **Tiffany Hatten,** also a COS Volunteer Activist and the **founder of LA Parents Choice,** has kept the Baton Rouge area informed about these same topics.

All three regional meetings have provided their audiences with information about getting involved in the election process with speakers such as *Sue Roundtree, St. Tammany Parish Elections Commissioner-in-Charge* at the Northshore meeting; *Jefferson Parish Clerk of Court Jon Gegenheimer;* and *Brandon Abadie, East Baton Rouge Parish Clerk of Court.*

Other popular events/speakers have included former state *Representative Woody Jenkins* in Baton Rouge; *Chris Alexander,* founder **Louisiana Citizen Advocacy Group (LACAG)** in the Northshore; and a movie night in Metairie.

The public is invited to any of these meetings:

**Baton Rouge - the first Thursday of the month at the EBR Parish Main Library on Goodwood Blvd. at 6:00.**

**Northshore - the first Thursday of the month; locations rotate among the Covington, Mandeville, and Slidell libraries and start at 6:00.**

**New Orleans Metro Area - 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:30; locations vary.**

**District 65 - the third Sunday of the month; EBRPL Central Branch at 3:00 p.m.**

(For more information, please go to the state calendar at) <https://teamup.com/ksstk54j8phu5ksjtg?>

# Advocacy Day Reminder!

## Advocacy Day!

### What is Advocacy Day?

- A day to share information about Convention of States with legislators and with the public.
- An opportunity to tell our legislators **“Thank you” for serving the people of Louisiana.**
- A chance to meet and greet freedom-loving patriots from around the state.
- An opportunity to see the legislature at work in committee and on the House or Senate floors.

**When?** Tuesday, April 11, 2023

**Where?** The Rotunda of the State Capitol - 900 North Third Street Baton Rouge, LA 70802

**Time?** We will arrive to set up our tables at 10:00 a.m. We would like for everyone to assemble at the COS tables at 11:00 for pictures and further instructions.

If you wish to go to the observation deck or take a tour, the Capitol opens at 8:00. You may also wish to attend any committee meetings in progress. Some of us will stay until the legislature dismisses for the evening; however, we understand that some of you will need to leave earlier to return home before it gets too late. Stay as long as you wish.

### Specifics you need to know:

State Capitol website:

<https://crt.state.la.us/tourism/welcome-centers/state-capitol/>

**Parking:** River Road levee - free, open-air parking lot. Walk East on State Capitol Drive and enter the building under the steps. Then, take the elevator to the first floor where you will see our tables.

**The House Dining Hall** is on the Ground Level and is open to the public from 7:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Meeting with your legislators: Find your legislators by going to <https://legis.la.gov/legis/home.aspx> and typing in your address. Someone on the team can show you how to complete a form to ask your legislators to come talk to you, if you wish.

**Dress:** We try to dress in similar fashion to the legislators. If in doubt, check out pictures on the legis.la.gov website.

**We hope to see you there. Please RSVP here:**

<https://conventionofstates.com/surveys/advocacy-day-april-11-2023/take>

**Suggested Business Casual Dress Shirt and Tie**

Louisiana Convention of States Advocacy Day at the Louisiana State Capitol is almost here. This is one of two in-person events that the LA COS team has each year, and we want you to be there!

# Core Values

Preserve Constitutional Originalism • Foster Responsible Self-Governance • Cultivate Servant Leaders  
Be Kind • Produce Meaning Results • Revere Judeo-Christian Values



## Preserve Constitutional Originalism: *The first* CORE VALUE

**W**e believe in the Golden Rule; we treat others the way we want to be treated. We seek to have positive interactions with others while being professional, respectful, and speaking the truth boldly and with love.

We adhere to the wisdom of the Founding Fathers as expressed in our governing documents, and to the original meaning of their language. We actively work to restore limited, constitutional government, federalism, individual rights, and America as the beacon of freedom to the World.

**T**he U.S. Constitution is under constant assault. The goal of COSA is to restore and preserve our Constitution as written. Article 1 of the Constitution gives law-making responsibilities to Congress.

Most of our laws are not being created by Congress.

They are being created by "executive orders" and bureaucratic regulations.

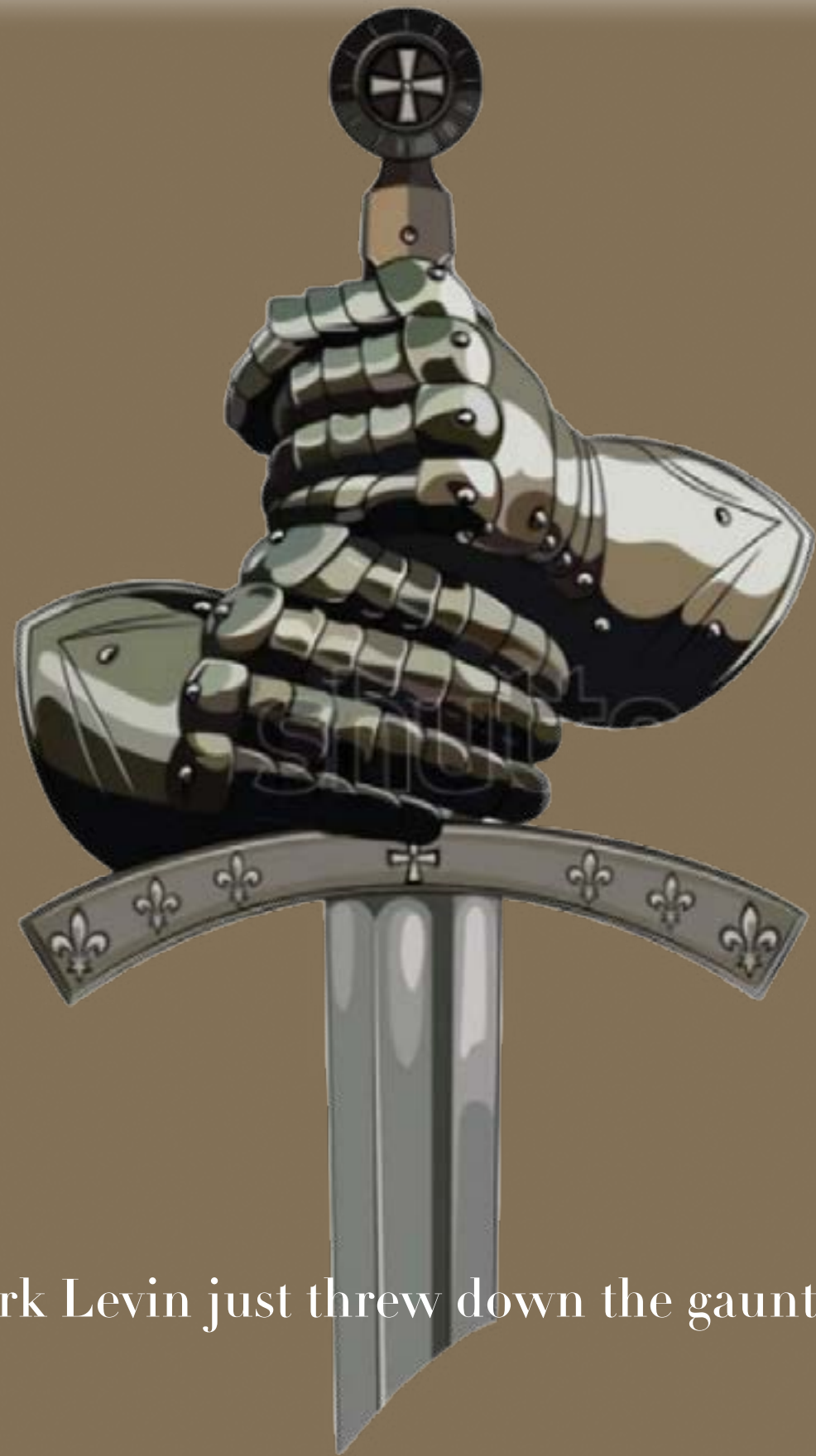
The court system also legislates from the bench.

Our goal is to preserve the Constitution as written by using the second part of Article V of the Constitution. What could be more righteous and more honoring to our Founding Fathers?

What could promote liberty more?

Dave Landry

*You can help us Preserve Constitutional Originalism through our Article V Project by going to [conventionofstates.com](http://conventionofstates.com) and signing the petition.*



Mark Levin just threw down the gauntlet!

## Mark Levin “The Great One”

**Mark Levin** just called out every politician in the room. *The Great One* was speaking on stage at **CPAC**, addressing a room full of conservative activists and politicians. He didn’t mince his words when it came to Convention of States.

“**Convention of States** is the **ONLY** constitutional way to get our country back. And it will get it back in fundamental ways. **We will use the constitution to save the constitution...**”

**Then he threw down the gauntlet.**

“**But wouldn’t it be nice if we heard here at CPAC at least one damn politician get up and say, ‘I’d encourage you to support Convention of States.’** Rather than say, ‘*We’re gonna cut this and we’re gonna cut that.*’ No you’re not! *Because Washington is not going to fix Washington. YOU are going to fix Washington through Convention of States, Article V!*”

There’s a reason nearly every conservative political commentator is an endorser of Convention of States.

They’ve spent their lifetimes closely tracking politics. They’ve watched administrations come and go, congressman after congressman promise change... and then fail.

After watching the same cycle repeat itself over and over, these men and women are realizing

that **Article V** is the only solution that will truly make a lasting impact.

And they’re using their megaphones to make sure every liberty loving American knows that COS is the **ONLY** solution.

While on **Gutfeld!**, **Pete Hegeseth** interjected, “*Thankfully, there is something called Convention of States Article V in our Constitution.* It’s gathering momentum. Twenty states have almost passed it...because you’re exactly right. *Federalism is our only way out of this.*”

Meanwhile, **Tucker Carlson** hosted **Mark Meckler** for a segment on how Convention of States will *limit the power and jurisdiction* of the federal government, impose *fiscal restraints*, and place *term limits* on federal officials — the only way to bring lasting change to Washington, D.C.

**But ultimately, it doesn’t matter what the talking heads think. What matters is that this is a movement of the American people.**

Thanks to our well-trained grassroots army, 19 states have passed the COS Resolution. It only takes 34 states to call the convention, and right now, we have our sights set on number 20.

*Thank you for standing with us,*  
Mark Meckler-  
President Convention of States Action



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*Also go to our Louisiana Home  
Webpage for Information*

*<https://conventionofstates.com/louisiana-home-webpage>*