

The JEFFERSON STATEMENT



WHEN THE NATION'S FINEST LEGAL MINDS gathered at the Jefferson Hotel in Washington, D.C. in 2014, they set out to consider arguments for and against the use of Article V to restrain federal power. But like the Founding Fathers in 1787, they soon realized that they agreed unanimously that the option of an Article V convention is safe, effective, and necessary.

These experts, who subsequently signed the Jefferson Statement reproduced below, rejected the argument that an Article V convention is likely to be misused or improperly controlled by Congress. They shared the conviction that Article V provides the only constitutionally effective means to restore our federal system, and they formed the core of our Legal Board of Reference, whose names you can find on the opposite side of this document.



THE CONVENTION OF STATES mechanism is safe, and it is the only constitutionally effective means available to do what is so essential for our nation.

The Constitution's Framers foresaw a day when the federal government would exceed and abuse its enumerated powers, thus placing our liberty at risk. George Mason was instrumental in fashioning a mechanism by which "we the people" could defend our freedom—the ultimate check on federal power contained in Article V of the Constitution.

Article V provides the states with the opportunity to propose constitutional amendments through a process called a Convention of States. This process is controlled by the states from beginning to end on all substantive matters.

A Convention of States is convened when 34 state legislatures pass resolutions (applications) on an agreed topic or set of topics. The Convention is limited to considering amendments on these specified topics.

While some have expressed fears that a Convention of States might be misused or improperly controlled by Congress, it is our considered judgment that the checks

and balances in the Constitution are more than sufficient to ensure the integrity of the process.

The Convention of States mechanism is safe, and it is the only constitutionally effective means available to do what is so essential for our nation—restoring robust federalism with genuine checks on the power of the federal government.

We share the Founders' conviction that proper decision-making structures are essential to preserve liberty. We believe that the problems facing our nation require several structural limitations on the exercise of federal power. While fiscal restraints are essential, we believe the most effective course is to pursue reasonable limitations, fully in line with the vision of our Founders, on the federal government.

Accordingly, I endorse the Convention of States Project, which calls for an Article V Convention for "the sole purpose of 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." I hereby agree to serve on the Legal Board of Reference for the Convention of States Project.

Signed,

*Randy E. Barnett**

*Charles J. Cooper**

*John C. Eastman**

*Michael P. Farris**

*Robert P. George**

*C. Boyden Gray**

*Mark Levin**

Nelson Lund

*Andrew McCarthy**

*Mark Meckler**

Mat Staver

**Original signers of the Jefferson Statement*

“The Convention of States mechanism is safe, and it is the only constitutionally effective means available to do what is so essential for our nation.”



Randy E. Barnett is a graduate of Harvard Law School and a professor at the Georgetown University Law Center.

He represented the National Federation of Independent Business in its constitutional challenge to the Affordable Care Act.

Charles J. Cooper is a founding member and chairman of Cooper & Kirk, PLLC. A member of the Reagan



Administration, Mr. Cooper has argued before the Supreme Court, and he spent much of his career defending constitutional rights as a top lawyer for the National Rifle Association.



John C. Eastman is the Founding Director of the Center for Constitutional Jurisprudence, a public interest law firm affiliated

with the Claremont Institute. Prior to joining the Fowler School of Law faculty, he served as a law clerk with Justice Clarence Thomas at the Supreme Court of the United States and served in the Reagan administration.

Michael P. Farris is the Co-Founder and Senior Advisor at Convention of States Action. Mr. Farris was the founding president of the Home



School Legal Defense Association, where he currently serves as Board Chairman. He became the founding president of Patrick Henry College in 2000, where he currently serves as Chancellor Emeritus. He has argued before the appellate courts of 13 states, eight federal circuit courts of appeals, and twice before the Supreme Court of the United States. Mr. Farris is largely known for his work in constitutional appellate litigation, religious freedom, homeschooling, and political advocacy.



Andrew McCarthy is a bestselling author, a Senior Fellow at National Review Institute, and a contributing editor at *National Review*.

Mr. McCarthy is a former Chief Assistant U.S. Attorney in New York.

The late **C. Boyden Gray** was the founding partner of Boyden Gray & Associates, in Washington, D.C. Prior to founding his law firm, Ambassador Gray served as Legal Counsel to Vice President Bush (1981–1989), as White House Counsel in the administration of President George H.W. Bush (1989–1993), and as counsel to the Presidential Task Force on Regulatory Relief during the Reagan Administration.



Mark Levin is one of America’s preeminent constitutional lawyers and the author of several New York Times bestselling

books including *Men in Black* (2007), *Liberty and Tyranny* (2010), *Ameritopia* (2012), and *The Liberty Amendments* (2013), which helped launch Convention of States Action onto the national political scene. In addition, he is the host of the nationally-syndicated radio program *The Mark Levin Show* and the top-rated Fox News show *Life, Liberty & Levin*. Mr. Levin has also served as a top advisor to several members of President Ronald Reagan’s Cabinet—including as Chief of Staff to the Attorney General of the United States, Edwin Meese.

Robert P. George is one of the nation’s leading conservative legal scholars and is the founding director of the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions. He is chairman of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (US-CIRF) and has served as a presidential appointee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights.



Nelson Lund is University Professor at George Mason University School of Law. After clerking for Justice Sandra

Day O’Connor, he served in the White House as Associate Counsel to President George H.W. Bush.

Mark Meckler, (BA ’85/ JD ’88) is President of Convention of States Action, home for the nation’s largest and most



active grassroots army, operating in all fifty states. Mr. Meckler practiced business, real estate, and internet law, and owned and ran multiple businesses for over twenty years. In 2009, he left the business and legal world when he co-founded and served as the National Coordinator of the Tea Party Patriots. In 2013, he co-founded the Convention of States Project with Michael Farris, and has subsequently focused on political and grassroots organizing and constitutional law.



Mat Staver, B.A. M.A., J.D., B.C.S., serves as Senior Pastor, Founder and Chairman of Liberty Counsel; Chairman of Liberty Counsel Action,

Faith and Liberty, National Pro-life Center, Freedom Federation, Salt & Light Council, and National House of Hope; Founder and Chairman of Liberty Relief International; Vice President and Chief Counsel of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference (which includes over 42,000 Evangelical Hispanic churches); Trustee, Timothy Plan, a family of mutual funds traded in New York and Tel Aviv; and former dean of Liberty University School of Law. He has produced the “*Why Israel Matters*” TV show, as well as produces and hosts Faith & Freedom and Freedom’s Call, daily radio programs, and Freedom Alive, a weekly TV program. He is married to Anita, who is president of Liberty Counsel. Mat and Anita have one daughter, three grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

Support the only solution that is as big as the problem.
Sign the petition at ConventionOfStates.com.

www.conventionofstates.com info@conventionofstates.com

