

AN ARTICLE V CONVENTION OF THE STATES AN OVERVIEW



Article V: The Framers Plan for Amending the Constitution

Article V of the U.S. Constitution provides two distinct methods for proposing/suggesting amendments to the Constitution. The first grants Congress the authority to propose/suggest amendments with a two-thirds majority vote in both houses. **The second allows two-thirds of state legislatures (34 states) to call a convention for proposing/suggesting amendments.**

Regardless of the method by which amendments are suggested/proposed, the ratification requirement remains the same, demanding approval by three-fourths of the states (38 states). This safeguard ensures that amendments reflect the collective will of the people, and make ratification of anything “radical” virtually impossible.

History of the 2nd Clause of Article V

During the Constitutional Convention of 1787, George Mason, mentor to George Washington and James Madison, recognized a critical flaw in the document just two days before the Constitution's signing. Initially, they had only allowed Congress the power to propose/suggest amendments. Mason asked, “**Are we so naive that we believe that a federal government that becomes a tyranny will ever propose amendments to restrain its own tyranny?**” Per Madison's notes, the second clause of Article V was then **unanimously adopted, without debate**, enabling the states to convene to propose the proper kinds of amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

Ensuring Constitutional Integrity

While the Constitution itself was written to limit the power of the federal government, over the last 115 years, federal court interpretations have exponentially expanded the power and scope of the federal government. Potential amendments are a powerful tool to restore the Framers’ original intent and to restrain these inappropriately expanded federal powers.

COS Resolution Model Application

The resolution contains identical operative language in every state, which limits what types of amendments can be proposed at the convention. See following:

The legislature of the State of _____ hereby applies to Congress, under the provisions of Article V of the Constitution of the United States, for the calling of a convention of the states limited to proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States 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.**

Broad Support and Endorsements

Endorsements and support from: Mark Levin, Sean Hannity, Ben Shapiro, Sen. Jim DeMint, Sen. Rand Paul, Sen. Marco Rubio, Gov. Ron DeSantis, Speaker Mike Johnson, The Heritage Foundation and many more like minded thought leaders highlight the almost universal support for the Convention of States movement among liberty minded Americans.

THE PROCESS OF CALLING AN ARTICLE V CONVENTION

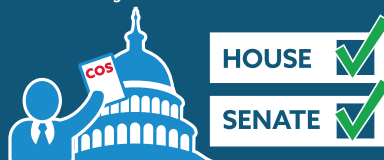
1 THE PEOPLE LEAD

Citizens ask state legislators to sponsor and support an Article V Convention Resolution.



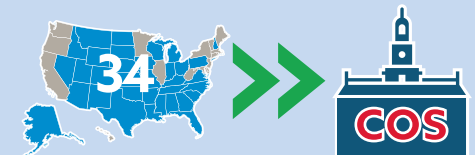
2 STATE LEGISLATORS ACT

- A state legislator sponsors the resolution and files it in his/her state legislature.
- The resolution passes out of committee and floor votes in both chambers of the state legislature.



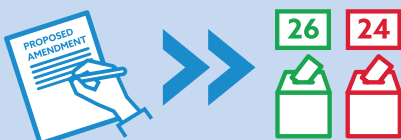
3 CONVENTION CALLED

- When 34 states pass the resolution, the states elect commissioners to represent them at the convention.
- States send as many commissioners as they choose, but each state only gets one vote.



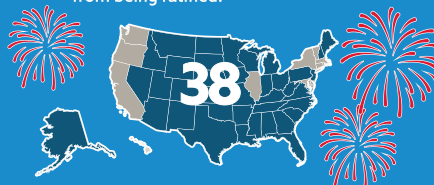
4 AMENDMENTS PROPOSED

- Commissioners propose, debate, and vote on amendments limited to the language of the resolution. Proposed amendments outside of that agenda would be out of order.
- Proposed amendments passed by a majority of state delegations are sent to the states for ratification.



5 AMENDMENTS ARE RATIFIED

- Proposed amendments only become valid if ratified by 38 states.
- It only takes 13 states to stop a bad amendment from being ratified.



6 CONSTITUTION IS AMENDED

