

Convention of States Project Wiki

Content Outline

External/Public Content

1) Problem.

- a. Discuss all of the current issues with our existing government and the sources to those issues. We have to know what is wrong in order to fix it!
- b. Presenting problems
 - i. Spending and Debt Crisis
 - ii. Regulatory Crisis
 - iii. Congressional Attacks on State Sovereignty
 - iv. Federal takeover of the Decision-making process.
- c. Trace each of the above back into root causes:
 - i. Supreme Court decisions (Welfare Clause, Commerce Clause, etc.)
 - ii. Lack of Term Limits
 - iii. 17th amendment
 - iv. 16th amendment

2) Solution:

- a. Article V process: discuss how the process works and possible concerns about the logistics at each step of the process and common objections by naysayers: (e.g., not a "runaway" convention with links to arguments and documents).
 - i. States submit applications on specific topics.
 1. https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/conventionofstates/pages/142/attachments/original/1416248525/COS_Handbook.pdf?1416248525
 - ii. Congress aggregates by topic.
 - iii. When 34 states call for a convention on the same topic, Congress calls the convention at a certain date and location.
 - iv. Commissioners Selected and Instructed.
 1. Each state selects Commissioners to send
 2. Each state instructs their delegates
 - a. Discuss "Faithful Delegate" Laws.
 - v. Commissioners meet at the appointed place and date.
 - vi. Commissioners use "one-state, one-vote" to select a leader.

- vii. Commissioners use "one-state, one-vote" to set rules.
 - viii. Commissioners propose, review and approve amendments
 - 1. Amendments not germane to the convention applications are excluded.
 - 2. Amendments are reviewed and modified.
 - 3. Amendments receiving a majority vote of the states are approved.
 - ix. When all proposed amendments have been approved (or rejected), the convention is closed and approved amendments are sent to Congress
 - x. Congress selects ratification methods for each amendment
 - xi. Ratification begins in the states.
 - xii. Note: Throughout all of the above, we need to discuss Rob Natelson's research on how the conventions prior to 1787 were run.
- b. Discuss other possible solutions and why they won't work:
- i. "Teach more people about the constitution"
 - ii. "Elect Better Officials",
 - iii. Nullification
 - iv. Interposition
 - v. Secession
- c. Organized Article V efforts (brief review / overview / status). Describe the groups behind the effort and the odds for success.
- i. Balanced Budget Amendment
 - ii. COS
 - iii. WolfPac
 - iv. etc.
- d. Possible Amendments
- i. Note: I don't believe we can just say "trust us, there are many good amendments would could be passed". I know that at the same time we should not support specific amendments / wording. We don't want the COS shot down because we are supporting specific wording which could be challenged. We need to at least discuss some ideas for some amendments.
 - ii. This would be a great place to collect and discuss ideas.
 - iii. Include (at least), a link to Mark Levin's Liberty Amendments
 - iv. Tie each into the three areas in the COS call (showing they are germane): term limits, power and jurisdiction of federal government and fiscal constraints.
 - v. Categorize the ideas in some way -- maybe by branch of government.
 - vi. List amendments which would NOT be germane (e.g., protection for the Bill of Rights)

e. Document Library

- i. Founding Documents. Inventory of founding documents with links.
- ii. COS Documents

1. Basic Documents

- a. COS Handbook:
https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/conventionofstates/pages/142/attachments/original/1416248525/COS_Handbook.pdf?1416248525
- b. Application for a COS:
<https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/conventionofstates/pages/142/attachments/original/1410009563/Application-for-a-Convention-of-States-v.5.pdf?1410009563>
- c. COS Endorsements Handout:
https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/conventionofstates/pages/142/attachments/original/1416188443/COS_Endorsements_handout.pdf?1416188443
- d. Legislative Process Handout:
https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/conventionofstates/pages/142/attachments/original/1410009862/Legislative-Process-1_0.pdf?1410009862
- e. Convention of States PowerPoint:
https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/conventionofstates/pages/142/attachments/original/1410009862/Legislative-Process-1_0.pdf?1410009862

2. COS Opposition Documents

- a. Frequently Asked Questions:
 - i. http://www.conventionofstates.com/frequently_asked_questions
 - ii. <http://www.conventionofstates.com/faqs>
- b. Short Answers to Common Article V Questions
 - i. http://www.conventionofstates.com/short_answers_to_common_questions
 - ii. https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/conventionofstates/pages/1002/attachments/original/1424900935/Short_Answers_to_Common_Questions.pdf?1424900935
- c. JBS Answers:
 - i. http://www.conventionofstates.com/answers_to_john_birch_society

- ii. http://www.conventionofstates.com/answers_to_jbs_arguments
- d. Real Answers to Article V Questions
 - i. http://www.conventionofstates.com/real_answers_to_article_v_questions
 - ii. https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/conventionofstates/pages/1003/attachments/original/1424902038/Real_Answers_to_Article_V_Questions.pdf?1424902038
- e. The States Control an Article V COS
 - i. http://www.conventionofstates.com/the_states_control
 - ii. <https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/conventionofstates/pages/145/attachments/original/1410015958/States-Control-Article-V.pdf?1410015958>
- f. Answering the Runaway Convention Myth
 - i. http://www.conventionofstates.com/can_we_trust_the_constitution
 - ii. <https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/conventionofstates/pages/145/attachments/original/1410015954/Can-We-Trust-the-Constitution-2.01.pdf?1410015954>
- g. Is "Nullification" the Answer:
 - i. http://www.conventionofstates.com/is_nullification_the_answer
 - ii. <https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/conventionofstates/pages/145/attachments/original/1410016670/nullification-response1.pdf?1410016670>
- h. An Article V Convention Can Be Limited
 - i. http://www.conventionofstates.com/an_article_v_convention_can_be_limited
 - ii. https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/conventionofstates/pages/899/attachments/original/1423177477/Kelly_Single_Subject_Convention.pdf?1423177477
- i. We know the Rules: Congress Does Not Control a Convention of States
 - i. http://www.conventionofstates.com/we_know_the_rules_congress_does_not_control
 - ii. <https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/conventionofstates/pages/145/attachments/original/1410016830/Response-to-EF-Handout.pdf?1410016830>

- j. What if Congress Refuses to Call an Article V Convention
 - i. http://www.conventionofstates.com/what_if_congress_refuses_to_call_a_convention
 - ii. <https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/conventionofstates/pages/145/attachments/original/1410016956/What-if-Congress-Refuses.pdf?1410016956>
- k. One-State, One-Vote, regardless of population size
 - i. <http://constitution.i2i.org/2015/02/06/trying-to-abolishing-the-convention%E2%80%99s-one-stateone-vote-rule-not-only-would-be-unconstitutional%E2%80%94it-wouldn%E2%80%99t-be-worth-trying/>
- l. Liberal Establishment's Disinformation Campaign Against Article V
 - i. http://www.conventionofstates.com/the_liberal_establishment_s_disinformation_campaign_against_article_v
 - ii. https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/conventionofstates/pages/145/attachments/original/1430418730/Campaign-Against-Article-V_Natelson.pdf?1430418730
- m. Response to NAGR
 - i. http://www.conventionofstates.com/response_to_the_national_association_for_gun_rights
 - ii. https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/conventionofstates/pages/1037/attachments/original/1425661004/Menges_NAGR_Response.pdf?1425661004
- n. Response to Joanna Scutari
 - i. http://www.conventionofstates.com/response_to_article_by_publius_huldah
- o. Congressional Research Service Report on Article V
 - i. http://www.conventionofstates.com/congressional_research_service_report
 - ii. <https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/conventionofstates/pages/145/attachments/original/1410016827/CRS-Response.pdf?1410016827>
- p. Article V Legislative Compendium
 - i. <https://www.dropbox.com/s/n1tqrzddjnguob0/Compendium%202.2.pdf?dl=0>

iii. Audio

1. Before the Convention: Mythbusting:
<http://www.mediafire.com/?56bsle9c4xrbacp>
 2. During the Convention: We Know the Rules:
<http://www.mediafire.com/?hgsxo5z7gmfkn93>
 3. After the Convention: A Vision for the Future:
<http://www.mediafire.com/?taxdy4emnb2lvep>
 4. Michael Farris Debates Andy Schlafly in New Jersey:
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/z4arv04db35o68q/AUDIO%20Michael%20Farris%20Debates%20Andy%20Schlafly.mp3?dl=0>
- iv. Third-party Documents
1. Natelson's documents
 2. Documents by others.

3) Strategy.

- a. COS Strategy not just to call a convention, but to also influence the convention and influence the ratification process.
- b. Status by State?
- c. Get Involved
 - i. Petition:
 1. Sign the Petition Online: <http://www.cosaction.com/>
 2. Paper Petition:
https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/conventionofstates/pages/142/attachments/original/1425408838/Convention_of_States_Petition.pdf?1425408838
 - ii. Create your account: http://www.conventionofstates.com/create_your_account
 - iii. Activist dashboard: <http://www.conventionofstates.com/dashboard>
 - iv. Volunteer: <http://www.conventionofstates.com/volunteer>
 - v. Volunteer Team Sign Up: http://www.conventionofstates.com/volunteer_teams
 - vi. Be a Leader: http://www.conventionofstates.com/be_a_leader
- d. Training
 - i. District Captain Video Training:
http://www.conventionofstates.com/training_calendar
- e. Events
 - i. http://www.conventionofstates.com/state_events

4) Education

- a. United States Constitution (outline from Wikipedia – could be adjusted -- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nullification_\(U.S. Constitution\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nullification_(U.S._Constitution)))
 - i. Articles
 - ii. Amendments
 - iii. Principles
 - 1. Separation of powers
 - 2. Individual rights
 - 3. Rule of law
 - 4. Federalism
 - 5. Republicanism
 - iv. Government Structure
 - 1. Legislative Branch
 - 2. Executive Branch
 - 3. Judicial Branch
 - 4. State Governments
 - v. Individual Rights
 - 1. See wikipedia
 - vi. Interpretation Theories
 - 1. Living Constitution
 - 2. Originalism
 - 3. Purposivism
 - 4. Textualism
 - 5. Strict Constructionism
- b. Madison's Notes
- c. Federalist Papers
- d. Etc.

Internal

- 1) Job Descriptions
- 2) Procedures