

# CONVENTION OF STATES PROJECT

**USA**  
PENNSYLVANIA NEBRASKA IDAHO  
OKLAHOMA MISSISSIPPI INDIANA  
FLORIDA NEW MEXICO DELAWARE  
WASHINGTON ILLINOIS WYOMING  
VIRGINIA NORTH DAKOTA KANSAS  
SOUTH CAROLINA OREGON TEXAS  
ARIZONA NEW JERSEY VERMONT  
CONNECTICUT ARKANSAS NEW HAMPSHIRE KENTUCKY  
NORTH CAROLINA NEVADA WEST VIRGINIA UTAH HAWAII  
MICHIGAN ALASKA MASSACHUSETTS CALIFORNIA IOWA  
LOUISIANA MONTANA RHODE ISLAND WISCONSIN MAINE  
MINNESOTA MARYLAND SOUTH DAKOTA GEORGIA OHIO  
MISSOURI TENNESSEE NEW YORK COLORADO ALABAMA

A Project of Citizens for Self-Governance  
[Selfgovern.com](http://Selfgovern.com)



# THE PROBLEM

*Washington, D.C. is Out of Control and Will Not Relinquish Power*

# Four Major Abuses Perpetrated by the Federal Government

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- The Spending and Debt Crisis
- The Regulatory Crisis
- Congressional Attacks on State Sovereignty
- Federal Takeover of the Decision-Making Process



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# The Spending and Debt Crisis

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- The \$17 trillion national debt is staggering, but it only tells a part of the story
- If we apply the normal rules of accounting, the federal government owes trillions more in vested Social Security benefits and other programs
- Even if they confiscated everything, it would not cover the debt!



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# The Regulatory Crisis

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- The Federal bureaucracy has placed a regulatory burden upon business that is complex, conflicted, and crushing
- Little accountability exists when agencies—rather than Congress—enact the real substance of the law
- Research from the American Enterprise Institute shows that since 1949 federal regulations have lowered the real GDP by 2% and made America 72% poorer



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# Congressional Attacks on State Sovereignty

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- For years, Congress has been using federal grants to keep the states under control
- By attaching mandates to these grants, Congress has turned state legislatures into their regional agencies rather than truly independent republican governments
- A radical social agenda accompanies all this



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# Federal Takeover of the Decision-Making Process

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- The Founders believed that the structure of a limited government would provide the greatest protection of liberty
- There were to be checks and balances at the federal level
- Collusion among decision-makers in Washington, D.C., has replaced those checks and balances



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# What Does This Mean?

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- This is not a partisan issue
- Washington, D.C., will never voluntarily relinquish meaningful power—no matter who is elected
- States and citizens must be proactive about taking this power back



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We are approaching a crossroads.

One path leads to escalating power of an irresponsible centralized government, ultimately resulting in the **financial ruin** of generations of Americans.

The other path leads to the **restoration** of liberty and an American renaissance.



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## ARTICLE V

*The Founders Gave us a Solution: A Convention of the States*

# There Are Two Methods to Propose Amendments to the Constitution



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# Amendment Process #1



Amendments proposed  
by 2/3 of Congress



Ratified by 3/4  
of state legislatures



Ratified by conventions  
in 3/4 of states



# Amendment Process #2



Amendments proposed by a Convention of States, called at the request of 2/3 of the state legislatures



Ratified by 3/4 of state legislatures



Ratified by conventions in 3/4 of states



# The Process for Method #2

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1. 34 states submit applications for the same issue
2. Congress is required to call the convention
3. Commissioners debate, propose, and vote upon possible amendments
4. Proposed amendments are sent to the state for ratifications
5. If 38 states ratify, the proposed amendments become part of the Constitution



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# Calling a Convention of States Can Curb the Abuses of Washington

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- The Founders knew the federal government might one day become drunk with the abuses of power
- The most important check to this power is **Article V**
- Article V gives states the power to call a convention for the purpose of proposing amendments to the Constitution



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# HOW OUR PROPOSAL IS DIFFERENT

*Unique Application Strategy - Strong Grassroots Support*

# COS - The Big Picture

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- Founded by Citizens for Self-Governance  
Mark Meckler and Michael Farris
- Our Mission – “To urge and empower state legislators to call a Convention of States to propose amendments to the Constitution to curb the abuses of the federal government.”



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# Two Goals Separate Our Plan

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- Call a convention for a particular subject rather than a particular amendment
  - For the purpose of **limiting the power and jurisdiction of the federal government**
  - Creating a complete package of restraints



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# Two Goals Separate Our Plan

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- Build a strong network of grassroots support
  - Grassroots mobilization has been missing from Article V efforts thus far
  - Build a political operation in a minimum of 40 states



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"LIBERTY, WHEN IT BEGINS TO TAKE ROOT, IS A PLANT OF RAPID GROWTH."

*-George Washington*

help us grow our grassroots.

**THE GRASSROOTS**

# Organization Can Happen

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- Widespread grassroots organization missing from Article V movement
- Mark Meckler - co-founder of Tea Party Patriots
- Michael Farris - founder of Home School Legal Defense Association, 30 years grassroots leadership in all 50 states



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# Success Depends on American Citizens

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## The Plan

- Viable political operation in at least 3,000 of the 4,000 state house districts in 40 states
- 3,000 district captains who will organize 100 people
- Three statewide leadership positions
  - State Director
  - Legislative Liaison
  - Coalitions Director

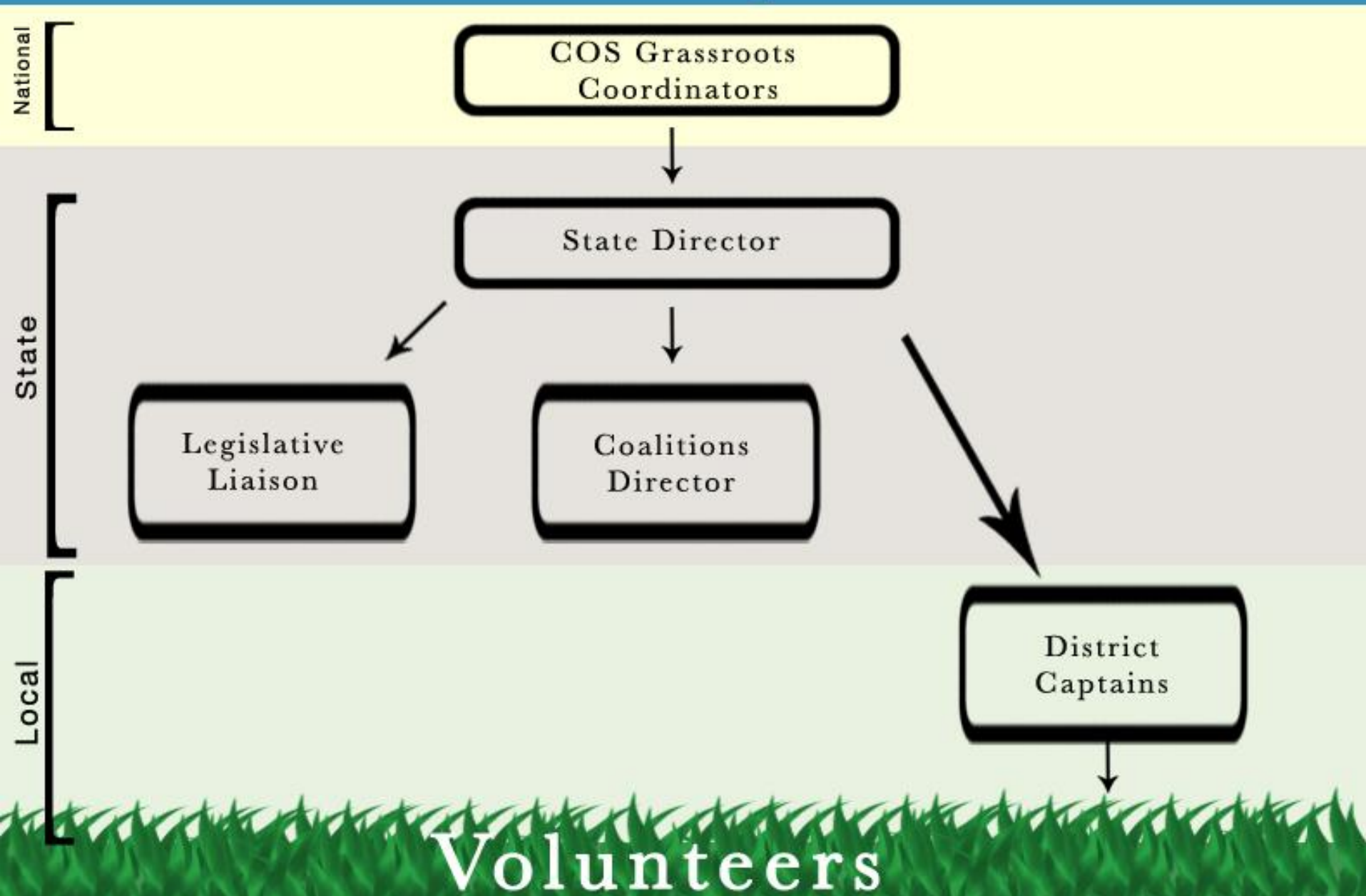


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# Convention of States Project

## Volunteer Leadership Structure





# State Director

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- The Manager
  - Train and recruit District Captains
  - State leaders
- The Leader
  - Building a state strategy
  - Representing COS



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# Coalitions Director

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- Build relationships with state wide organizations and coalitions
- Educate
- Grow support for a Convention of States



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# Legislative Liaison

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- Build favorable relationships with state legislators
- Report to the State Director
- Empower legislators to call a Convention of States by connecting them with grassroots support



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# District Captain

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- One per State house legislative district
- Educate
- Recruit 100+ volunteers in their district

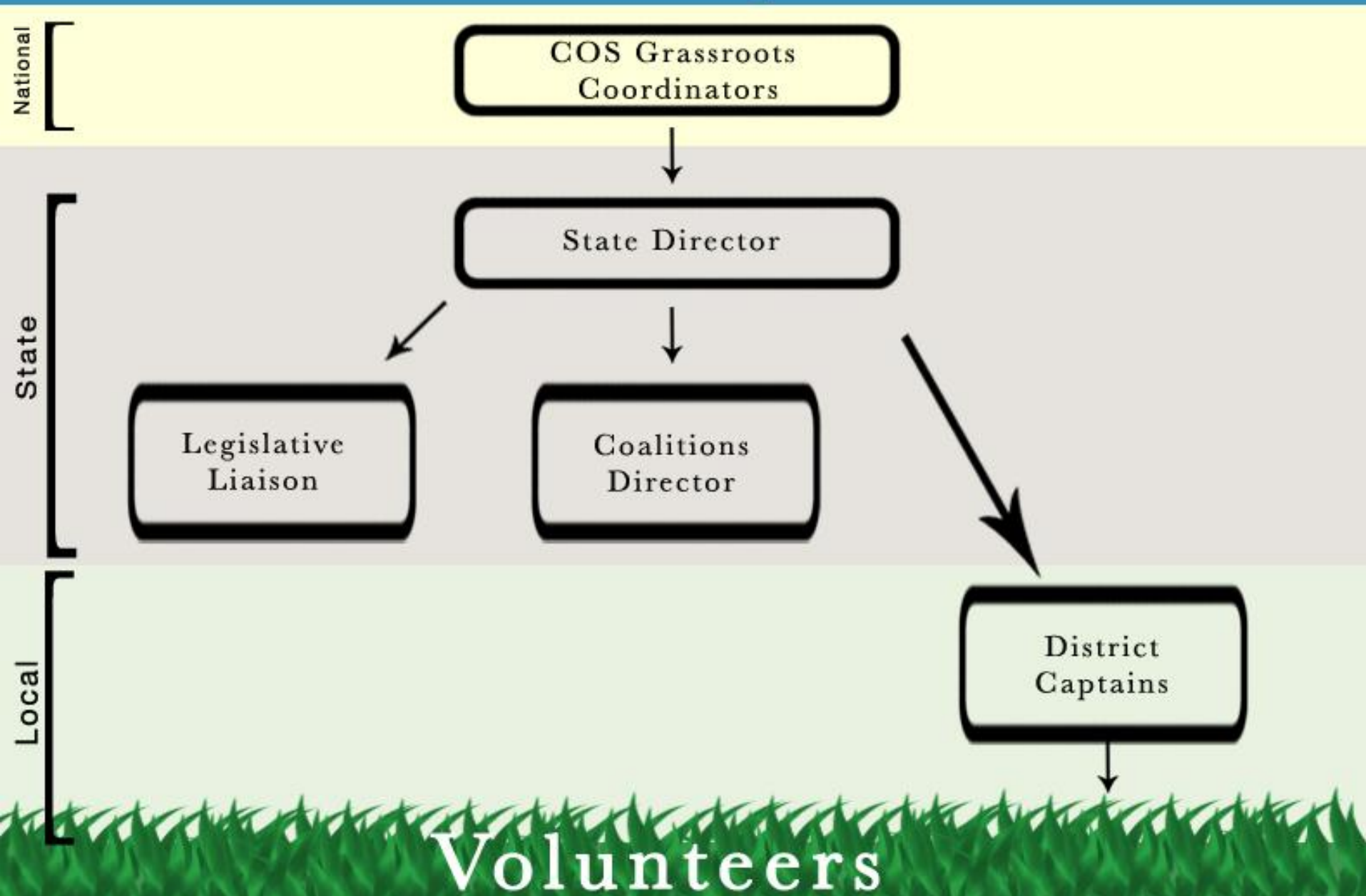


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# Convention of States Project

## Volunteer Leadership Structure





# How You Can Help

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- Join our team by signing up on the Action Center!
- Educate your circles
- Donate
- [www.conventionofstates.com](http://www.conventionofstates.com)



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Spread the word and encourage friends to join the movement today!

[www.conventionofstates.com](http://www.conventionofstates.com)