



MARK LEVIN

## TAKE YOUR POWER BACK!

“I have whole-heartedly endorsed the Convention of States Project,” says constitutional scholar Mark Levin. “I serve on its Legal Board of Reference because they propose a solution as big as the problem.”

Levin’s book on Article V, *The Liberty Amendments*, has been a #1 *New York Times* bestseller and is credited with kicking off the movement to call a Convention of States for proposing amendments to the Constitution.

Yet when it comes to his specific endorsement of an Article V project, Levin has thrown his support fully behind the Convention of States Project and our three-pronged call for fiscal restraints, limitations on the power and scope of Washington, and term limits on federal officials.

Levin’s endorsement came during his impassioned speech to the American Legislative Exchange Council’s 2014 State

& Nation Policy Summit. In that speech, he explained why a convention surrounding a single amendment simply is too small of a solution, saying, “When they met in Philadelphia they didn’t just sit there and say, ‘Hey, let’s talk about a balanced budget.’ They said, ‘Let’s talk about liberty. What kind of government do we want to live under?’ And that’s what this Convention of the States is all about.”

Although many organizations are calling for term limits or a balanced budget, Convention of States is the only Article V resolution calling for both term limits *and* fiscal restraints. More importantly, we are targeting the deeper issue — the continual growth of Washington’s overreach — by

imposing limits on the power and jurisdiction of the federal government.

Levin said, “Why are we solely focused on a balanced budget amendment when the Supreme Court is a runaway court? Why are we solely focused on a balanced budget amendment when we have other issues that are problematic like the entrenched ruling class in the bureaucracy? If you’re going to go through the process, don’t be myopic...don’t get caught up in one matter. This is a structural, systemic issue...”

“We’re trying to restore the republic and save what’s left of the Constitution. I say we can coalesce a group around saving the Republic.”

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And for those in favor of limited government, the Republic does, indeed, need to be saved. Recent Supreme Court rulings have advanced an agenda of judicial activism. However, Levin noted that the problem of federal expansion is deeper than that.

He asked: “Today the federal government is the nation’s largest creditor, debtor, lender, employer, consumer, grantor, property owner, tenant, insurer, healthcare provider, and pension guarantor. Does that sound like limited government to you?”

Many state legislators fear that a Convention of States will not be able to be controlled and will “runaway,” to which argument Levin gave a sharp response: “Do you realize there can never be a runaway

convention, never, ever? It’s impossible! Since three-fourths of the states must ratify whatever is proposed by the delegates sent by two-thirds of the states...All you do is you propose specific amendments, and the states consider them or reject them. Congress does this, it’s done it before. Now you do it, it’s your turn, that’s why it’s in there.”

Not only has Levin fought against the notion of a runaway convention, he has spoken out on the air against legislators who have held up the Convention of States application from going to the floor for a vote:

“If we get a full vote in these states, we win. We win. But you see, these Senate presidents, and some of these Speakers, are part of the problem, wherever they are.

They like big government...They pretend they’re originalists. They’re not.”

Levin was specifically addressing Senator Craig Estes (R) of TX, Senator Andy Biggs (R) of AZ, and Senator John Alario, Jr. (R) of LA.

The Convention of States movement is filled with constitutional originalists who believe that this is the only way to curtail Washington’s intrusion into our lives. Colonel Allen West, Governor Sarah Palin, Governor Bobby Jindal, Governor Mike Huckabee, Glenn Beck, Sean Hannity, and others have joined Levin as full-fledged endorsers of this project.

“We’re not some cult over here,” Levin said, “We’re the majority. We’re not some extreme, hard-right group over here, we’re constitutionalists. We’re not some wackos over here...we embrace the American Heritage. We are the ones trying to lead an effort to save what’s left of this country.”

**Levin reminded legislators not only of their ability, but also their duty, to call a Convention of States. “I want you to understand that you as individuals... have a capacity as state representatives and state senators — you alone, not your governors, not congressmen, not senators, not the president, not the court — but you have it within yourselves, and it ought to be your number one priority when you leave here, to help restore this republic and give us our constitution back.”**



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