



Convention of States Senior Advisor: Senator Tom Coburn (Ret.)

“After many years in Washington, one of the reasons I left was because I no longer believe that Washington is capable of reining itself in ... the only avenue to change it is the one given to us by our Founders in the Constitution — an Article V Convention of States, where the people, not the politicians, are in charge.”

For ten years, Senator Tom Coburn served in the United States Senate as a voice for limited government and the values of Oklahomans. He has been described as one of the most sought after members on legislative strategy and thought. And now, he’s bringing those talents to the Convention of States Project.

Since joining Convention of States as Senior Advisor, Coburn has been traveling across the nation, sharing his vision with state legislators about why using Article V

calling for a convention of the states is crucial for our nation at this time.

In his recent testimony to the Texas House Federalism Committee, Coburn said, “[As a doctor], I know you don’t solve problems by treating the symptoms; you treat the disease. Our country has a disease.” Article V, he said, allows us to get past the symptoms and treat the structural problems that threaten our future.

Coburn brings his political savvy and gravitas

alongside the hundreds of thousands of volunteers working in all fifty states, and Convention of States citizen activists in 97% of all state legislative districts, not to mention the endorsements of notable public figures like Mark Levin, Sean Hannity, Glenn Beck, Governor Mike Huckabee, Governor Bobby Jindal, Colonel Allen West, Sarah Palin and many others.

It’s not just his general political knowledge that makes him an asset to this project.

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George Mason Memorial, National Mall, DC

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His experience as Chairman of the Federal Financial Management Subcommittee means that he knows exactly where our specific problems lie.

“What most people don’t realize is that every single piece of government waste has a constituency,” says Coburn, “And most politicians don’t want to do anything to jeopardize their future elections. So they remain unresolved election cycle after election cycle, and the American people are stuck with the consequences. A Convention of States, on the other hand, can impose those restraints from the outside and secure our financial future.”

Knowing that staying in power for many election cycles is a detriment to effective statesmanship, Senator Coburn has insisted on term-limiting himself in every office he has held. He says, “Our Founders never intended that there be a ruling class of career politicians. When members of Congress stay in Washington election after election, they become less concerned about working for their constituents and more concerned about keeping their power.”

Imposing fiscal restraints and term limits are two of the three topics proposed by a Convention of States. The third—and most important—is the call to limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government.

Coburn says, “The federal government now reaches into every aspect of our lives in ways the Founders never imagined nor intended. The people of this country are fully capable of governing themselves. They don’t need politicians, and unaccountable federal bureaucrats and administrators telling them how to live their lives and run their businesses.”

He continues, “This is the reason that the Convention of States was included in the Constitution in the first place. At the Constitutional Convention, George Mason, knowing that no amendments of the proper kind would ever be proposed from a tyrannical federal government, suggested that the states have a method by which they could propose those necessary amendments. His suggestion—the Convention of States—was met with no debate and unanimously agreed upon. Our Framers—including George Washington, James Madison, and Alexander Hamilton—all agreed

that the American people should be able to take control of their country and govern themselves.”

Without a doubt, Coburn believes the time for a Convention of States is now.

“This is a movement whose time has come. Although I am a proud conservative, this is not a partisan issue. Politicians and bureaucracies in Washington, D.C. will never voluntarily relinquish meaningful power — no matter who is elected. Only through a Convention of States may the clear, unfettered voice of the people be heard and overreaching government be reined in. It’s time to return government to the people and realize again our Founders’ vision for self-governance.”



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