



Runaway Fear



Resources

**DEFYING CONVENTIONAL WISDOM: THE CONSTITUTION WAS NOT
THE PRODUCT OF A RUNAWAY CONVENTION**

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Episode 18: Runaway Fear - The Free to be Free Podcast

Rules for an Article V Convention of the States

1. 34 states must agree that an Article V convention is necessary.
2. The states must agree on the subject matter - the call
3. The call must be followed
4. Individual state commissions control the commissioners
5. One state/one vote is the initial voting rule.
6. It takes 38 states to ratify.

The False Call

2/21/1787

Resolved that in the opinion of Congress it is expedient that on the second Monday in May next a convention of delegates who shall have been appointed by the several states be held at Philadelphia for the sole and express purpose of revising the Articles of Confederation and reporting to Congress and the several legislatures such alterations and provisions therein as shall when agreed to in Congress and confirmed by the states render the federal constitution adequate to the exigencies of government and the preservation of the Union.

Chronology

- Virginia calls the Annapolis Convention (1/21/1786)
- Annapolis convention - only 5 states attended
- Recommended: Another convention to “devise such further provisions as shall appear to them necessary to render the constitution of the federal government adequate to the exigencies of the Union”
- Virginia Calls the convention and commissions delegates (11/23/1786)
- New Jersey
- Pennsylvania
- Delaware
- North Carolina
- Georgia
- **Confederation Congress Resolution (02/21/1787)**
- Massachusetts (limited to modifying the Articles of Confederation)
- New York (limited to modifying the Articles of Confederation)
- South Carolina
- Connecticut
- Maryland
- New Hampshire

Chronology

- May 8, 1787 delegates assemble
- May 25, 1787 quorum is reached
- President and Secretary chosen
- Commissions presented and read
- Restrictions noted
- When a new delegate arrives, commission is presented and read

Fidelity to the Call and Commissions

- Is it federal enough?
- Delaware's one state, one vote
- New York doesn't vote

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