

# Convention of States

## Article V

"State Legislatures cannot dictate Amendments to be considered at an Art. V Convention" shows that lobbyists' assurances that Congress can't call a Convention until they receive applications from 34 states asking for the same Amendment, are false. A proposed Congressional "call," H.CON.RES. 15 (2025), **proves** that Congress might count **all** applications together—including centuries-old, obsolete and rescinded applications—to reach the 34-State threshold! This contradicts what convention lobbyists have been telling State Legislators for years to falsely assure them that a convention can't run away.

"State Legislatures have no power to select & control Delegates" shows that Congress decides the number and selection process for Delegates. Furthermore, Delegates have the "self-evident" Right "to alter or to abolish" our existing "Form of Government," as recognized by the Declaration of Independence, 2nd para. So, *no one* has power over Delegates! But lobbyists push delegate control bills in order to falsely assure legislators that they can prevent a runaway convention—so legislators can feel good about passing Applications that risk our Constitution.

The “[Brilliant Men](#)” flyer shows that James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, four US Supreme Court Justices, and other jurists and scholars warned that Delegates to an Article V convention can't be controlled.

["What the Convention Lobby Isn't Telling You About the Declaration of Independence"](#) shows why Delegates to an Article V convention have the power to throw off the Constitution we have and set up a new one, with a new and easier mode of ratification. The only power State Legislatures are granted under Article V is to ask Congress to call a Convention.

["George Mason Never Said It!"](#) shows that no Framers, including George Mason, ever said that the convention method was added to Article V in order to rein in the federal government, should it become tyrannical. In fact, the Framers gave us Article V to fix **defects** in the Constitution. The feds usurping powers not granted them by the Constitution, isn't a defect in the Constitution!

["WHO has the POWER to do WHAT under Article V..."](#) shows that the only power State Legislatures have been granted by the Constitution respecting an Article V Convention, is to apply to Congress for **Congress** to call a convention. **Period.** The 2nd page exposes a number of myths fabricated by the convention lobby.

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Talking Points—Specific to COS

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The "[Phony Petitions & Polls](#)" flyer describes how the Convention of States Project (COS) showcases unverified data to deceive legislators into believing their constituents are demanding a “convention of states” in order to influence legislators' votes. This is an illusion! As the flyer shows, Meckler admits that he can't guarantee his signatures are valid.

["Dark Money—Not the Grassroots—Is Behind the Convention of States Organizations \(COS\)"](#) proves that almost 2/3 of the money driving COS's effort to apply to Congress for an Article V Convention, is coming from major donors giving COS \$5,000 to \$2,000,000 from 2018 thru 2020. Why are billionaires trying to get their hands on our Constitution?

["COS adopts Newspeak to sell the Con-Con"](#) debunks the Convention of States' (COS) narrative that a convention called under Article V is different than a “constitutional convention.” COS is waging a semantics war by using the term "convention of states" to imply that an Art. V Convention is controlled from start to finish by State Legislatures.

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## Convention of States

### Not Exactly How a Grassroots Organization Operates!

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**COS CONVENTION of STATES**  
Form 990 (2022) Convention of States Action

Date 2022

Pay To The Order Of **Rick Santorum** **\$333,405.00**

memo Politician Turned Lobbyist Mark Meckler  
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

⑆123456789⑆ 012345678910⑆ 0001

[\*\*The Convention of States Action \(COSA\) 990 for 2022\*\*](#) shows that former US Senator Rick Santorum (R-PA) changed his mind and decided he was **FOR** an Article V convention about the time he was added to COSA's payroll for \$333,405.00 annually! Coincidence?

[\*\*PROOF of \\$2.8 Million in Seed Money\*\*](#) in years 2010 & 2011 combined—years before Meckler won his first state, and while he was still working at the Tea Party. And proof of Meckler's \$180,000 salary ([\*\*2013\*\*](#)), which began in [\*\*2012\*\*](#), when COS was virtually unknown.

By 2023, the Mecklers' reported their annual family income from 3 combined entities at almost \$400,000, while their organizations generated over \$14.5 million in revenue—with 54% coming from just 55 to 63 individuals. This averages to at least \$125,000 from each major donor giving between \$5,000 and \$2,581,000 in 2023; see 990s for [\*\*COSA \(2023\)\*\*](#), [\*\*CSG \(2023\)\*\*](#), and [\*\*CSGA \(2023\)\*\*](#).

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## For DEMOCRATS Only:

Under Article V of the U.S. Constitution, Congress is required to hold a constitutional convention if two-thirds of state legislatures (34 states) call for one. But here's the catch: there are absolutely no rules for an Article V Convention outlined in the Constitution. That means the group of people convening to rewrite our Constitution could be totally unelected and unaccountable. There is nothing that could limit the convention to a single issue, so the delegates could write amendments that revoke any of our most cherished rights . . . **In short, an Article V Convention would be a disaster.**

Or

In "**The Risk of the Right-Wing Push to Rewrite the Constitution,**" celebrated historian James M. Banner, Jr. raises the alarm about the push, mainly by a few billionaires, to trigger a convention under Article V of the US Constitution:

"...the greatest danger is that there's nothing in Article V that prevents an amendatory convention from following the example of the 1787 convention in Philadelphia, which became a runaway convention by simply assuming its freedom to propose a substitute for the very frame of government, the Articles of Confederation, under which it convened...[If] the proponents of an Article V convention succeed in setting one in motion,..."the extraordinary American experiment in the self-government of an open society that has endured for over 230 years will be in never-before-experienced peril."

Or:

You might quote from Chief Justice Warren Burger's [LETTER](#) to Phyllis Schlafly dated June 22, 1988:

*“...[T]here is no effective way to limit or muzzle the actions of a Constitutional Convention. The Convention could make its own rules and set its own agenda...After a Convention is convened, it will be too late to stop the Convention if we don’t like its agenda...”*

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