

# Ten Reasons to Reject the Article V Convention

By R. Josiah Magnuson – [thevirtuesolution@gmail.com](mailto:thevirtuesolution@gmail.com) – [www.TheVirtueSolution.com](http://www.TheVirtueSolution.com)

Director, Americans for Constitutional Government

## **1. An Article V Convention cannot be limited in advance.**

Proponents of an Article V Convention believe that it is possible to call such a convention to pass only specific amendments that they determine in advance. They believe that it can be controlled, and would be limited to only one or more stated conservative topics. However, a simple reading of Article V shows that it contains only two methods for changing the Constitution. The first occurs after direct passage through Congress. The second is through “a convention for proposing amendments” called by Congress at the request of the states. This second provision has been understood since at least 1801 to refer to a constitutional convention. There is no third option. A “convention of states” (COS) is a pure assembly of the sovereign people, which would open the entire Constitution to revision. It’s true a Convention can’t become runaway – because it’s already unlimited, by nature, as to its own rules and products.

## **2. An Article V Convention is the final piece of the puzzle for the global interests.**

Once such a convention was called, there are titanic forces that would work behind the scenes to destroy the Constitution in favor of their agenda. These interests have no use for what is lawful but only for what will allow them to gain power. Their agenda is sinister. For example, there is a concerted effort to unite North America under socialistic regional governance, as has been done in the European Union. The global interests in media and banking aim to convert the U.S. into a parliamentary democracy which can be easily manipulated by a small group, where our God-given rights are converted to positive-law government-granted privileges articulated for example in the United Nations “Declaration of Rights.” Even if an Article V Convention could be limited by law, the law would be ignored under the influence of these forces that would seize what they would see as the perfect opportunity to complete their plan.

## **3. Broad sections of the Constitution would be open for change.**

Assuming for the sake of argument that an Article V Convention could be limited as to its topics, and that no global interests exist that would influence its actions once it was called, we must realize that even so, broad swaths of constitutional language would be up for reconsideration. Even under the most “limited” topics some suggest, huge changes could be made. For instance, a proposal for a “fiscal restraint” amendment would likely open up the Commerce Clause, the Taxing Clause, and numerous other economic provisions in the Constitution. A proposal for “term limits” would almost certainly open up all the provisions governing types and functions of offices under the Constitution.

## **4. The Convention delegation will have a progressive majority.**

We have no guarantee as to who will elect delegates or how they will be chosen. But even assuming it would be state legislatures, we would be in danger. Even though “red” states currently are more in number than “blue” states, almost none so far have demonstrated a steadfast enough grounding in the principles of liberty to begin the process of weaning themselves off borrowed Federal money – let alone resist unlawful Federal incursion. States that have consistently failed to oppose lawlessness will not elect delegates who will properly change the law. Further, in liberal states, a convention is being promoted by George Soros for issues like campaign finance reform, under the name “Wolf-PAC.” States such as California, New York, and Illinois would elect delegates to steer the COS toward their own goals.

## **5. Constitutional compromises would occur during a Convention.**

Even if conservative delegates could miraculously achieve a majority in the Convention, liberal delegates would yet be present who would have an influence on the thinking and on the product that results. The big city liberals are not going to compromise – but current events tell us all too clearly that our “leaders” will (think John Boehner)! How can we believe that those elected to this Convention will have the backbone to do what they intended to do, when they are faced with more pressure than they have ever received, and the stakes are even higher? Which liberties will they choose to give up to save the rest?

## **6. Today’s America lacks the necessary wisdom to make changes to the Constitution.**

Even if conservative delegates could receive a majority, and even if they could remain focused and determined against all odds, how can we be sure that the amendments they produce will fundamentally be wise? There are no Washingtons, Madisons, or Franklins at large today. Further, how can we trust that even if the states agree at the time on the wisdom of the amendments produced, these amendments will not later release constitutional “time bombs” once they were ratified? For example, a balanced budget amendment would likely have a “national emergency” clause, which allows military rule!

## **7. The “three-fourths” safeguard against the results of the Convention could be changed.**

The proponents of an Article V Convention point to a supposed safeguard in the current constitutional requirement that a three-fourths majority of states ratify amendments which are produced before they take effect. But we have no assurance that this provision would not also be changed. When our current U.S. Constitution was ratified, the requirement was changed from “unanimous consent of states” to three-fourths of states. It is settled history that our current Constitution was put into force on March 4, 1789 – almost a year before Rhode Island even voted to call a ratifying convention on January 19, 1790. Why could not a new Convention change the requirement from three-fourths to a simple majority?

## **8. The “three-fourths” safeguard, even if it were left intact, is insufficient in today’s world.**

Even if we are to presume that the three-fourths threshold would not be tampered with, we must realize that at the current time in history our country is liable to the sway of demagoguery or an appearance of new leadership – or even something more sinister. What if a great calamity were to conveniently arise during the ratification process? Three-fourths of the states could ratify the Convention’s decisions quickly and without adequate review, permanently enshrining in the Constitution a series of unwise or destructive policies – especially likely if these policies are indeed backed by powerful global interests.

## **9. A Convention distracts from and undermines the responsibility of “We the People.”**

To join the raucous call for a Convention of States is to concede a key part of the liberty argument: that the states have an inherent power within our constitutional system to refuse to enforce laws that violate the Constitution. This call also rejects our responsibility as the American people to take action.

## **10. The problem in our country is not the Constitution, so changing it even in a 100% positive direction would be superficial.**

If we can enforce amendments and resist their violation, we could enforce the Constitution as it is currently written and resist its violation. But if it is not being followed today, the Constitution would not be followed after it is amended, even if the amendments are passed by an Article V Convention. Those who desire to find loopholes will find them. The problem is an educational one and a moral one. It is on the one hand a lack of understanding among the American people, and on the other, a failure to take appropriate action. We face not a constitutional crisis, but a character crisis. Now is not the time for an Article V Convention. Our Founders indeed gave us a solution for such a time but it’s not a quick fix - it will take much commitment and effort. Please learn more at [www.TheVirtueSolution.com](http://www.TheVirtueSolution.com)!