

Dear Senator/Representative:

## The Country is Racing Toward a Constitutional Convention

The drive for a Constitutional Convention or Convention of States has typically been a cyclical phenomenon that has at times slowed to a crawl and at others, stalled. Currently, well organized advocacy groups are moving at warp speed. The Koch brothers are providing funding and the Koch affiliated American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) has been busy lobbying state lawmakers with model legislation.

There are two methods to amend the Constitution. The Congressional method has been used to amend the Constitution safely 27 times. The second method, a Convention of States has only been used once before, in 1787 to amend the Articles of Confederation. This method of amending the Constitution is reckless and dangerous. Advocates and their members grievously understate the risks to both legislators and voters by providing legal research and reports they say provides proof a Convention of States cannot turn into a runaway convention.

Article V does not lay out the rules of a Constitutional Convention other than the number of states required to ratify proposed amendments at 38. The 1787 convention however changed the number states that were required at that time from 13 to 9. Any notion that a Convention of States could be limited to a single issue is foolhardy as the 1787 convention proved.

Thirty-four states are needed to call a convention. Only 6 more states are needed to meet the threshold of 34 at which point the US Congress will be constitutionally obligated to call a convention. There are current efforts to sway states to join the call in nearly every state.

The Koch brother's goal is to rewrite the Constitution to benefit the wealthiest 1% of the citizenry at the cost of ALL of our rights and freedoms. It puts our Social Security, Medicare and public education and more at risk. It's impossible to predict what the Constitutional mayhem and political maelstrom a convention could lead to.

Placing fiscal restraints on Washington or overturning Citizens United might sound like a great idea but this is not the time. Furthermore, Congress introduced resolutions JR8 and HR31 to amend the Constitution to remedy Citizens United. A Balanced Budget Amendment would pose serious risks to the economy and would be devastating during economic downturns. It could tip the economy into a recession earlier, deepening and prolonging their duration. Economists have estimated if these restrictions were in place during the 2008 recession, unemployment could have doubled.

A Constitutional Convention is not a cure-all for what ails the country. It's the last thing this country needs at this politically chaotic and divisive time in our history.

Please vote NO on any resolutions to apply for an Article V Convention of States and PLEASE RESCIND any applications that have already been made to Congress.

Sincerely,