

ARTICLE V CONVENTION POINTS

- **Many of the most renowned Constitutional and Government scholars** (including Harvard's Lawrence Lessig and UT Austin's Sanford Levinson) **agree that an Article V Convention is safe, necessary and long overdue.**
- **An Article V Convention is a convention to propose amendments that will be added to the Constitution when ratified by 75% of the states.**
- **A convention has no more authority to propose amendments than Congress** and Congress meets all the time.
- **Conventions have been used by the states more than 233 times to amend state constitutions.**
- **Article V is a core component of the Constitution** and it's clear the Framers intended it to be used by the states to rein in an unresponsive or out of control federal government. The Framers' writings would indicate they intended this process should be used regularly. (Madison, Hamilton, Jefferson)
- **Article V is given approximately the same emphasis in the Constitution as the Supreme Court.** It is a vital component in the system of checks and balances designed by the Framers.
- **The Framers placed this power with the states because state legislators are closer to The People. *It is our right and our responsibility to exercise this power.***
- **A Very High Bar whether amendment proposed by Congress or a Convention:**
 - ⅔ of the states (34) must approve the amendment at a convention (or ⅔ of Congress)
 - Amendment is submitted to the states for ratification
 - Both houses of 75% of the state legislatures (38) must ratify
 - Nothing extreme could ever get through this process - (There are far more than 13 states with at least one house that would not approve anything radical.)
- **Whom do you trust more** to write an amendment: A broad and diverse convention of Citizen-Delegates or a Congress with a 7% approval rating; an elite group of career-politicians who have reached the highest levels of political power by being better than anyone else at the very money-in-politics corrupt system we are trying to end?
- **An Article V Convention would be an unprecedented and historic event.**
 - The whole world will be watching
 - Weight of history in the making heavy on every delegate
 - Overwhelming media coverage
 - Every word in any amendment debated
 - Every action scrutinized

Specifically for the State Legislators:

- **The names at the first convention are some of the most famous in American history.** Our resolution specifies state and local officials as delegates. **Wouldn't you like to be a part of this historical event?**
- **Reaffirm states' rights to govern ourselves.** The federal government has severely encroached on states' rights by telling us we have to let big outside money control our political process.
- **Politically this wins across the board:**
 - **87% of Americans want us to do something** about the problem of corruption in the federal government - *this is how we do it: at the state level, as intended.*
 - **Opportunity to show cross-partisanship** on common ground
 - **Opportunity to show strong leadership on popular issue**
 - **Why would you give up your power to lead on this issue to Congress?**