



Article V Convention

There are two ways to amend the United States Constitution. There's the congressional way and then there's the way that circumvents Congress to make fundamental changes to the Constitution by getting 34 states to ratify them at a convention. This second way is the Article V Convention, a method which has not been used in centuries. In fact it was only used one time, when we only had 13 states.

What you may not know is that an array of anti-government groups along with a few extremely conservative, ultra-rich individuals have been pushing this scheme all over the country. Supporters like the Koch Brothers and Donor Trust, a lesser known entity which was founded in 1999 with the goal of "safeguarding the intent of libertarian and conservative donors" (Donors being the operative word).

Now remember, extremist right-wing interests have been hard at work over the last few decades quietly plotting and taking over state governments. This takeover has put them in a position to push a lots of incredibly harmful legislation over the years, usually paying off large campaign donors while sacrificing the public good, but, make no mistake about it, this would be a game changer.

Wisconsin Repubs claim that they are calling for this convention in order to add a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. Don't let them fool you. We are looking at Repub takeover of our country and they are looking to do permanent damage. Once convened, nothing in the Constitution would prevent the convention from setting whatever agenda and rules that they want. They could even create a new ratification process. We could be facing a complete rewrite of the constitution, putting our fundamental rights at stake.

We are getting dangerously close to calling a convention. They only need 34 states to radically change our country, and so far they have 29. Now they are trying to add Wisconsin to their list.

In late March of this year, three pieces of legislation relating to the convention of states were introduced by Reps. Bernier and Knodl and received public hearings in the Committee on Federalism.

- [AB 165/SB 107](#)
- [AJR 21/SJR 18](#)
- [AJR 20/SJR 19](#)

These would call for a convention, determine who would attend, and establish the rules to be followed if the convention took place. This is a huge deal and we need to defeat it now, because if it goes through it will be too late.