

Statement from the NEA Tea Party on Arkansas Legislature voting for an Article V Convention of States:

I am shocked and dismayed that our legislators would vote for such a flawed and dangerous undertaking as an Article V convention. Material explaining the problems inherent in this unprecedented endeavor has been sent to many of these lawmakers. I believe that these well-meaning gentlemen and ladies wish and hope to make our system of government better, but have been deceived by glib promises that there are enough protections that they will not endanger our current Constitution. Not only are there NO protections, because there are essentially NO rules to the process, but at least two eminent Supreme Court justices, Scalia and Burger, have cautioned strongly against such an action. In this day of profoundly divided partisan political goals and loyalties, the idea that the various sides could function well enough to even agree on which amendments to pursue is simply fatuous. I also think that our legislators do not believe that there are many who would be a part of this convention who come from very liberal, leftist positions who would like nothing better than to “tweak” our Constitution into something unrecognizable. (After all, a current member of the Supreme Court is on record stating that, “I would not look to the U.S. Constitution, if I were drafting a constitution in the year 2012.”) Too many people at this time do not have the same reverence for our system of government that we would like, and the totally unstructured process of an Article V convention almost ensures a “runaway” convention, much worse than the Constitutional Convention of 1787.

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