

To Arkansas legislators,

Questions relating to a COS/Art V convention

I know that Arkansas is in the middle of trying to establish a resolution for a Convention of States. Since I've heard arguments both for and against this resolution, I wanted to ask legislators several questions that have not been satisfactorily answered up until now for me. I'm sending this to all of you on the committee hoping that you will be able to answer my (and several of my friends') questions.

1. Apparently our Constitution doesn't provide ANY details on how a convention would work, how delegates would be chosen or apportioned among the states or what rules would be in place. Is this your understanding also?
2. How will Arkansas choose delegates for this Convention of States?
3. How will very liberal states choose their delegates? Will the larger states be allowed more delegates (proportional representation) than smaller states?
4. Will the items to be worked on be chosen by the delegates or will there be lobbyists working with the delegates?
5. What if the delegates from the larger, more liberal states bring up the topic of the Electoral College in an attempt to eliminate it? (I've read that's one of the things that the liberal states want to do away with and one of which I'm most concerned about. Without the EC, we would currently have Hillary Clinton as president. Need I say more?)
6. I have read that both Chief Justice Warren Burger and Justice Antonin Scalia were against the idea of a "con-con." Shortly before his death Justice Scalia stated, *"I certainly would not want a constitutional convention. Whoa! Who knows what would come out of it?"* Chief Justice Burger wrote to Phyllis Schlafly that *"...there is no effective way to limit or muzzle the actions of a Constitutional Convention. The convention could make its own rules and set its own agenda. Congress might try to limit the convention to one amendment or to one issue, but there is no way to assure that the convention would obey. After a convention is convened, it will be too late to stop the convention if we don't like its agenda. The meeting in 1787 ignored the limit placed by the confederated Congress..."*  
[The above quotes came from USA Today, not exactly a conservative publication, since I've heard that you have a problem with conservatives who are objecting to a COS.]

7. The constitution gives us a way to amend it. Can you tell me (and my friends) why we need to have a COS rather than work together as also mentioned in the Constitution to get balanced budget and term limits amendments?
8. What assurance can you give us that there won't be a runaway convention since from my research, there are NO rules limiting what and how many amendments are proposed, which or how many delegates are chosen, and other important considerations?
9. Right now many of us are frustrated that so many of our Constitution's principles are being ignored. What do you say would be the mechanism to force legislators to respect amendments coming from a COS anymore than our current Constitution?
10. Some very liberal groups have gotten behind this COS movement including Alliance for Democracy, Center for Media and Democracy, Code Pink, Independent Progressive Politics Network, Progressive Democrats of America, Sierra Club, Vermont for Single Payer, Democracy Unlimited, Friends of the Earth, Move-on (funded by George Soros) and dozens of other really left-wing organizations. Frankly, I'm amazed that our Arkansas legislators don't mind aligning themselves with groups like these. Will you guarantee that you aren't on the same page with and that you are aware of what these leftists want in a COS?
11. According to MRC.org, the leftist billionaire, George Soros, spends as much as \$300 million monthly to fund many of the above organizations that have, as part of their goals, to revamp our republic. That's why they support a COS. Are you and the other Arkansas legislators aware of this?? Do you support what Soros wants?
12. Why do you believe so many states, over 30, have rejected the call to a COS? Can you tell us why you think Arkansas legislators might be more educated on this issue than the legislators in those states? (I'm aware that our Senate has already passed this resolution.)
13. Where have you gotten your information that causes you to support, if you do, this call for a COS? Who have you listened to that has convinced you that this is an appropriate way to deal with our country's issues? What organizations? I know some nationally recognized conservatives support this, like Sean Hannity (whom, I believe is not qualified to lead on this issue). I also know that Mark Levin, who is a constitutional scholar,

supports a COS. But we find him too arrogantly certain on this issue and too apt to sweep away any legitimate concerns, especially those expressed by two eminent Supreme Court justices.

14. How many people who might be called in Arkansas as delegates to a COS do you believe have the depth of experience, and the wisdom of a Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, or a James Adams, original designers of our Constitution? If we're going to begin editing and rewriting one of the greatest documents written by man, then don't we want to be sure we have men who are as capable as the original framers? Who in our state do you have that kind of confidence in?

These questions are not "gotcha" questions. My friends and I really would appreciate answers. We are very concerned with this drive for an Article V convention that *could* create catastrophic consequences for our children and grandchildren for generations. (Remember the old Soviet Union?) If you choose to support a COS, will you guarantee that that won't happen?