

In 1787 the Continental Congress of the 13 colonies in America Called for a convention to "revise" the Articles of Confederation to be held in Philadelphia in May of that year. The following is the last paragraph of that report.

"RESOLVED: that in the opinion of Congress it is expedient that on the second Monday in May next a Convention of delegates who shall have been appointed by the several states be held at Philadelphia FOR THE SOLE AND EXPRESS PURPOSE OF REVISING THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION and reporting to Congress and the several legislatures such alterations and provisions therein as shall when agreed to in Congress and confirmed by the states render the federal constitution adequate to the exigencies of Government & the preservation of the Union."

When the Constitutional Convention met in Philadelphia in May 1787, that directive "FOR THE SOLE AND EXPRESS PURPOSE OF REVISING THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION" was ignored. From the moment Edmund Randolph stood and proposed what was known as "The Virginia Plan", the Constitutional Convention of 1787 became a "runaway convention" and the Articles of Confederation were consigned to the scrap-heap of history.

This brief history ESTABLISHES THE HISTORIC PRECEDENT that even if a 2017 "call" for a Constitutional Convention declares its "SOLE AND EXPRESS PURPOSE" is to propose a "Balanced Budget Amendment", delegates may IGNORE that limitation and do as they please, including changing or discarding the current ratification procedures, just as they did in 1787. The ratification procedure of the Articles of Confederation called for unanimous consent to amendments; the new Constitution that replaced the Articles of Confederation, contained its own, different ratification method, and used its own, new ratification procedure to ratify ITSELF!