

In Their Own Words: The Article V Convention Lobby

Claim: States can Limit Article V Convention through Application Language, Same-subject Aggregation

“In order to convene a convention for proposing a balanced budget amendment, thirty-four states (2/3rds) need to pass a resolution for this subject. The resolutions do not have to be the same in their wording, but only need to state the convention is limited to considering a balanced budget amendment.”--“Debt, Deficits, and The Balanced Budget Amendment,” p. 11, by Bill Fruth, Co-Founder, Balanced Budget Amendment Task Force, 2017

<https://web.archive.org/web/20190120214330/http://bba4usa.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/DDBBA-2018.pdf>

BBA Task Force Founder Abandons above Claim, Pushes for Unlimited Convention

“one state should pass one resolution that says ‘here are 34 Article V applications’ (28 on a single subject, and 6 on any subject) and we’re going to...demand Congress call the Convention”--David Biddulph, Co-Founder of Balance Budget Amendment Task Force and Let US Vote for a BBA, Workshop - Four Paths to a State Drafted Voter Ratified U S Balance Budget Amendment, July 21, 2020 <https://youtu.be/33WxxZ6gdDQ?t=1067>

“This application is to be considered as covering the same subject matter as the presently-outstanding balanced budget *and unlimited-subject applications* from other states...” [emphasis added]--“Let US Vote for a BBA” Model Resolution <https://web.archive.org/web/20201022225344/https://letusvoteforbba.org/app/uploads/2020/05/Model-Policies-for-Article-V-BBA-Application-and-Article-V-Commissioner-Oath-Instructions-and-Recall.pdf>

Conscious Effort to rebrand “Constitutional Convention”

“I’m going to put our concepts on ‘reset.’...One thing that I hope you will never hear from my lips...in discussing this particular type of convention is the words...‘constitutional convention.’ The Constitution gives the convention a specific name --- a convention for proposing amendments --- and I think we should call it that or perhaps an Article V convention, an amendments convention, or a *convention of the states*.”—Professor Robert Natelson, Sept. 16, 2010; *Article V Symposium, Part 1, Cooley Law School* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ioD0IYkVrMM&t=95s>

...while admitting they’re pushing the same thing with a different name...

If you stand up and put your career on the line to support a call for a *constitutional convention*, you need to know that there’s an army behind you. [emphasis added]—Mark Meckler, President and Co-Founder, Convention of States Project, Sept. 23rd, 2013, Speech at ALEC Conference <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y2--Cq-bAA4&t=601s>

“One more state. One more state, and then you take this grenade, and you pull the pin. Got a live piece of ammo in your hands. Thirty-four states. If every Republican Legislator votes for this, we have a *Constitutional Convention!*” [emphasis added]-- Former US Senator Rick Santorum, Senior Advisor for Convention of States Project, ALEC States and National Policy Summit, 2021 https://youtu.be/sw3QL_l8aCM?t=262

...And Letting it slip that the goal is really just to Change the Constitution

“...we need to have a...convocation...to vet out any idea that anyone has...what I really think we need to do is sit down and see, what are the viable amendments that can pass at a convention?” -- OH Senate Majority Leader, Matt Huffman, Workshop - Four Paths to a State Drafted Voter Ratified U S Balance Budget Amendment, July 21, 2020 <https://youtu.be/33WxxZ6gdDQ?t=1774>

“I think it’s really important on this issue for lawmakers to remember, it’s not just the possibility to change the Constitution, it’s the responsibility.”—Former Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker, Honorary Chair, Center for State-led National Debt Solutions; *Ibid.* <https://youtu.be/33WxxZ6gdDQ?t=3187>

Michael Farris: “The greatest thing we can achieve out of a convention is if they mess it up, again, we call another convention.”—Farris, Natelson, and Meckler Speak at ALEC Conference, Posted Aug. 23, 2013 (Mr. Farris is Co-Founder of the Convention of States Project) <https://youtu.be/UCA2pyLHtiY?t=4146>

“it’s going to be much easier to get a conversation about *fundamental reform* going in the context of a call for a convention ... [this is] an *important strategic opportunity that a call for a convention would offer ... different souls with different objectives could agree on the need for a convention without agreeing on the particular proposals that a convention should recommend.*” -- Lawrence Lessig, *Republic Lost: How Money Corrupts Congress—and a Plan to Stop It*, 2011, p. 293 <https://archive.org/details/republiclost/page/n307/mode/2up?view=theater>

Meckler Hints at Using Deceptive Narrative/Framing to Sell Stealth Open-ended Convention to Legislators

Audience Member: “If there’s no risk, then why did you put limitations on the enabling...the three basic limitations in the laws that you’re...”

Mark Meckler: “So, as opposed...to doing a general convention?”

Audience Member: “Correct”

Mark Meckler: “The reason is for narrative...If I were to say...*we’re just going to have a Convention; we have no idea... what we’re gonna talk about at this Convention*, then, frankly, nobody would support it because there’d be so much fear out there...that we had to frame it in a way...and if you don’t frame a political discussion in the correct way, you lose.” [emphasis added]--Mark Meckler, President, Co-Founder, Convention of States Project, Q&A Session, FreedomFest, Rapid City, SD, July 2021 <https://www.facebook.com/conventionofstates/videos/244524804218626> (28:20 mark)

“If we want to inspire the grassroots to engagement, our primary purpose has to be to tell a story that will engage them. This is probably the only thing I’m an expert on—that and shoveling stalls, I’m pretty good at that—you know, that comes in handy, shoveling comes in handy in politics as well.” -- Mark Meckler, Speech at ALEC Conference, Sept. 23rd, 2013 <https://youtu.be/y2--Cq-bAA4?t=100>

To What Extent Would Convention of States Project Like to Change the US Constitution?

“...our application is fairly broad...[My opponent’s] argument against this is that *it opens up all the articles, and that’s true...*[except for Articles 6 and 7].” [emphasis added] Robert Kelly, Staff Counsel for Convention of States Project, public debate, March 15, 2014, Yorktown, VA <https://youtu.be/kCApyUYvuRE?t=70>

“One thing I would do, is I would make it...like the... European Court of Justice. We should have 50 Supreme Court Justices, and they should be appointed by the State Legislatures.” -- Michael Farris, Co-Founder, Convention of States Project, “Farris, Natelson, and Meckler Speak at Alec Conference,” posted Aug 23, 2013 <https://youtu.be/UCA2pyLHtiY?t=4082>

“If they abuse it, we just keep calling co--, so if the Supreme Court messes up, OK, let’s *abolish* it. If they’re going to ignore the Constitution, we abolish the Supreme Court and figure out some other way to settle the disputes.”--Michael Farris, Co-Founder, Convention of States Project, *Ibid.*, <https://youtu.be/UCA2pyLHtiY?t=4183>

“Neither the States nor the United States shall make or enforce any law infringing the right to keep and bear arms *of the sort ordinarily used for self-defense and recreational purposes*, provided that States and the United States in places subject to its general regulatory authority, *may enact and enforce reasonable regulations on the bearing of arms, and the keeping of arms by persons determined, with due process, to be dangerous to themselves or others.*” [Emphasis added.]—revision of 2nd Amendment from “The Conservative Constitution” (Section 12, Par. 7) co-authored by Robert P. George, Member of Legal Advisory Board of Convention of States Project <https://constitutioncenter.org/news-debate/special-projects/constitution-drafting-project/the-conservative-constitution/the-conservative-constitution-full-text>

Meckler Admits Constitutional Enforcement is Real Solution to Usurpations (not Changing Constitution)

“The Founders told us the Constitution itself was nothing more than a parchment barrier. It was gonna take the will of the people to support the ideas in the Constitution. That’s what it’s gonna take again.” -- Mark Meckler, President and Co-Founder of Convention of States Project, Red Eye Radio, July 6th, 2017 https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B24ek5nR_xgpZG41MmIFWlUtd2s/view?usp=sharing&resourcekey=0-dQabco7gJXMGfaZquhLXbw (go to 5:13 mark)