

87th House District
Crawford, Morrow, Wyandot
And parts of: Marion



Columbus Office
Vern Riffe Center
77 S. High Street
14th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 644-6265
rep87@ohiohouse.gov
www.ohiohouse.gov

Committees
Transportation
General Government
Tech and Innovation
Small Business
Rules and Reference

From the desk of:
Riordan McClain
State Representative
House Majority Whip

Chair Hall, Vice Chair Ferguson, Ranking Member Humphrey, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony for House Joint Resolution (HJR) 2. This resolution issues a call for a Convention of the States under Article V of the US Constitution to propose amendments regarding limited subjects.

I have come to this position reluctantly, with much research, deliberation, and prayer.

Article V of the US Constitution lays out 2 paths for amendment. The first by Congress itself proposing amendments and the second by a convention at the call of the states. Both paths require ratification by the states. Per Article V, for the Convention process to be initiated, 34 states (2/3) must pass a resolution such as this one within the same subject matter. Once 34 states have done so, Congress must call a Convention in which each state sends its own delegates to attend. After deliberation and debate, each state delegation receives one vote on any proposed amendment at the Convention. Proposed amendments germane to the call require a simple majority vote (26) of states to pass. Then as I mentioned previously, the passed amendments must then be ratified by 38 of the states (3/4). This process is difficult and cannot be partisan. To amend the US Constitution, it requires broad support.

HJR 2 calls an amending convention limited to proposing amendments that:

- Impose fiscal restraints on the federal government
- Limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government
- Limit the terms of office for its officials and Members of Congress of the United States

Our founders, specifically George Mason, wanted this provision included in case of emergency, as the states position of last legal resort for federal abuse. It is there in the case that the Federal Government would become too expansive, too intrusive, and too unaccountable to the states.

In 2025, it is not hard to see that the Federal Government has become too expansive, too intrusive, and too unaccountable to the states.

Our current experience as Americans has become to live in presidential cycles, as much of federal policy is accomplished through executive action and the states have become diminished. Those policies, as we've seen, can be reversed just as easily as it was signed.

Congress has abdicated nearly all its authority to federal bureaucracies, allows our military to be used without declaring war, and recklessly prints and spends our citizens taxes to the point where we are 36 trillion in debt and interest payments are quickly becoming our largest line item.

The Supreme Court has changed interpretations of our Constitution in favor of an ever-expanding role of government through General Welfare Clause and Interstate Commerce Clause.

All of this unconstitutional abuse can be corrected by the states at a convention.

It is my hope that this committee will give this proposal the serious consideration that it deserves. It's time the states force Congress to act in this regard and if they won't, we must.

I want to thank my joint sponsor Rep Willis for standing with me on this mission and I now turn to him.

States that have passed the Convention of States application (19):

1. Georgia - March 6, 2014
2. Alaska - April 19, 2014
3. Florida - April 21, 2014
4. Alabama - May 22, 2015
5. Tennessee - February 4, 2016
6. Indiana - February 29, 2016
7. Oklahoma - April 26, 2016
8. Louisiana - May 25, 2016
9. Arizona - March 13, 2017
10. North Dakota - March 24, 2017
11. Texas - May 4, 2017
12. Missouri - May 12, 2017
13. Arkansas - February 14, 2019
14. Utah - March 5, 2019
15. Mississippi - March 27, 2019
16. Wisconsin - January 25, 2022
17. Nebraska - January 28, 2022
18. West Virginia - March 4, 2022
19. South Carolina - March 29, 2022