

HJR 2 PROPONENT TESTIMONY OF JOHN R. LIEDERBACH
GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COLUMBUS, OHIO
MAY 20, 2025

Chair Hall, Vice Chair Ferguson, Ranking member Humphrey, and members of the committee: my name is John R. Liederbach, and I am from Ashland, Ohio, House District 67.

I am asking you to support HJR 2 for the passage of the Article V Convention of States Resolution. As a near 40-year veteran of the military, I understood the importance of the Constitution and the oath I took to defend it. As a servant of the people of Ohio, I would hope that you all do as well. The framers saw fit to include Article V Convention of States in the Constitution as a means to reign in an out of control Federal Government. If any of you can tell me with a straight face that we are not in that situation now, I would love to hear in what way.

Our country is currently at about \$37 trillion in debt, with no foreseeable end in sight. There is no motivation for those holding elected office to change this as I believe many are personally benefitting from all of the spending, either from lobbying donors to their campaigns or increasing their personal coffers. This is because they build networks over years of staying in office. It becomes very difficult for them to be removed in elections by challengers after they have built such a strong network. The founders had never envisioned such a system where politicians and non-elected bureaucrats can spend a lifetime in office, where it seems to serve no one but the office holder and the donor. Term limits would drastically limit the amount of incidents of this perpetual behavior. I support term limits for all politicians and for appointed bureaucrats and even judges.

It appears to be impossible also to be able to reign in the ridiculous out-of-control spending without having a balanced budget. Apparently, unlike the states, and all of the American citizens, there is no requirement for our federal government to live within a budget or even have one. Only a balanced budget amendment where fiscal responsibility is directed by law seems to be the only hope. It is required by most if not all of the states, and I ask you to support any measure that would bring this about for our federal government.

As I always believed, a government of the people and for the people meant that our elected representatives would make laws which benefit those who they are elected to serve. I no longer believe that our federal government believes this as it seems much of our lives are governed by judicial decrees, agency regulations and executive orders. None of these seem to be as a result of any direct representation. Power not given to the federal government by the Constitution must be given back to the states as was intended by the Tenth Amendment. I support any initiative that would put power back into the hands of the people and out of the non-elected bureaucracy and judiciary and hope that you would too. This is what I served my country for and put my life on the line for. I fear that if this is not reigned in, the America I chose to serve and that you now serve will no longer exist.

I ask again that you act as true servants of the people who have elected you, patriotically, and support HJR 2.

Respectfully,

John R. Liederbach
House District 67, Ashland Ohio