

Committee Chair Kristina Roegner, Vice Chair Theresa Gavarone, Ranking Member Willis Blackshear, and committee members. My name is Dale Maris, from Senate District 8, represented by Senator Louis Blessing. I have been involved with the Convention of States (COS) for many years and have testified at past hearings.

There is considerable misleading information about the Convention of States. Many claim it lacks control and will rewrite our constitution like Runaway or Con-Con and more. However, there are safeguards in place that will prevent these claims for the following reasons:

First, Article V of the Constitution limits the States Convention to proposing amendments upon the approval of two-thirds of State Legislatures. This convention cannot enact anything, only **Propose**.

"on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for **Proposing Amendments**."¹

Secondly, each state must pass a resolution specifying the topics for the convention. The topics in SJR 3 will be the same for all other states. Off-topic subjects will be declared "non-germane" and dismissed.

Additionally, every state will pass laws to ensure delegates adhere to their legislature's directions to follow SJR 3. State legislatures will oversee their delegates to ensure delegates follow directions. A bill for this has already been proposed and will be passed before the convention

Finally, any proposals from this convention must be ratified by three-fourths of the states, this high threshold has only been achieved 27 times in over 240 years. This convention will also follow all legislative standards as you do in your Ohio legislative sessions.

Opposition to a state convention is often backed by powerful national and foreign interest groups with significant financial resources. Their objectives include weakening our government, expanding the administrative state, and undermining our Constitution to enhance their powers. Some claim COS is a Con-Con which is misleading as this is a "States Amending Convention" not a "Constitution-Con".

It is worth considering whether anyone genuinely opposes reducing federal spending, ensuring a balanced federal budget, limiting federal employee retirements to reasonable terms, and safeguarding legitimate state roles in governance. As a congressperson, you have vowed to uphold our Constitution. However, it appears that in practice, many interpret this pledge with exceptions of Article V being too dangerous. It is essential to support SJR 3 and implement Article V to restore federalism for the benefit of the states and its citizens.

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¹ Copied from National Center for Constitutional Studies, Pocket Constitution