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And parts of: Marion, Seneca



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Committees  
Infrastructure and Rural Development  
Transportation and Public Safety (Vice-Chair)  
Ways and Means

From the desk of:

**Riordan McClain**  
State Representative

Thank you, Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the State and Local Government Committee. Thank you for your time today to introduce House Joint Resolution 1.

HJR 1 joins an ongoing call for a Convention of the States to be called under Article V of the Constitution of the United States. Article V is an important constitutional tool that our founders created for states to hold our federal government accountable. The size and scope of the federal government has grown consistently throughout our history with more and more responsibility being abdicated by Congress to unelected bureaucrats. It has long been unsustainable, and we have waited long enough for Congress to fix itself. It's time to call a convention.

For this process to be initiated, 34 states (2/3 of the total) must pass a resolution such as this one within the same subject matter. Once 34 states have done so, a Convention will be called by Congress in which each state sends its own delegates to attend. Each state delegation receives one vote on any proposed amendment at the Convention. Proposed amendments within the outlined subject matter require a simple majority vote (26) of states to pass. The process is not over then, but the passed amendments must then be ratified by 38 of the states (3/4 of the total).

HJR 1 limits the proposed amendments to the following topics:

- Fiscal restraints for the federal government (balanced budget)
- Term limits for Congress and other government officials
- Limiting the power and jurisdiction of the federal government

HJR 1 is incredibly important to Ohio and to the future of the United States of America. We have watched as the Federal Government and Washington D.C. has steadily grown in size, control, and wealth. This is not a political partisan debate, but rather one of the only mechanisms to restore balance of state rights.

For example, just on the balanced budget issue (which as you know we in Ohio rightly have to comply with):

In 1965, the US government spent 761 billion (adjusted for inflation that's \$1.2 trillion today)  
2016 3.5 trillion

In 2020 alone the government spent \$6.6 trillion while its revenue was only \$3.4 trillion.

In 2021 the projected spend is \$6.8 trillion with revenues of \$3.8 trillion.

All these numbers are difficult to imagine, think about how big one trillion truly is. It's larger than we can physically imagine. Here's an analogy for perspective:

If one dollar is equal to one second:

A million seconds is 11.5 days.

A billion second is 32 years.

A trillion seconds is 32,000 years.

We cannot continue at this pace. We are currently at \$28.8 trillion US National Debt. That's \$86,720 of debt per citizen.<sup>1</sup> How long any of us stay afloat if we spent double our yearly wages? To think that the US dollar is invincible is a fool's errand and if we do not change course the consequences will be severe.

We believe it is imperative to the ongoing success of this great nation for Ohio join the list of 15 other states (listed below) that have already passed this resolution to hold the federal government accountable, and I hope you will be supportive of this resolution as well.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I will now pass to Rep. Riedel.

List of 15 states:

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, North Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.usdebtclock.org/> (October 11, 2021)