

Behind the Hype & Hot Air—Phony Polls

Phony Polls. *Mark Meckler, President of Convention of States (COS), has testified before numerous legislative committees and said that roughly 2/3 of their states' voters across party lines, as polled, support the COS application asking Congress to call an Article V convention (A5C). He added that this is consistent with COS polling nationwide.*



U.S. Term Limits and Balanced Budget Amendment groups regularly claim 75% or more of those registered to vote support their applications. But wait!

How can a short robocall made up of a few superficial questions measure real opinion on a complicated, unknown issue like an Article V convention (A5C)?

Polls paid for by clients with agendas and published as [news](#) yield the results the client wants. Outcomes can be manipulated by the questions asked.

[Here](#) is the script for a Robopoll conducted in Iowa (see # 8-11). And here is the same Q&A from [Michigan](#) a month later (emphasis added):

- ✓ What best describes your opinion of whether Michigan should join other states in calling for a convention to propose constitutional amendments that **limit federal power**? [45% favor/24% oppose]
- ✓ What best describes your opinion of a constitutional amendment to **limit federal spending**? [54% favor/23% oppose]
- ✓ What best describes your opinion of **placing term limits on members of Congress and/or federal judges**? [71% favor/19% oppose]
- ✓ What best describes your opinion of Michigan calling for a convention of states to propose constitutional amendments **that limit federal spending, limit federal power, and establish term limits for members of Congress and/or federal judges**? [64% favor/22% oppose]

*But these are trick questions! Respondents' attention is focused on the **subject** of the proposed amendments, while ignoring the real danger—triggering an Article V convention where Delegates can't be controlled, and our Constitution is up for grabs. Obviously, what was measured by this survey was the popularity of various constitutional **amendments**—**not** support for a **convention**!*

Clearly the poll, as is, is a thinly veiled attempt to influence public policy and sway legislators' votes, rather than an honest attempt to measure where voters stand on this complex and controversial issue.