

**TESTIMONY
OF
WILLIAM P. SCOTT**

**GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COLUMBUS, OHIO**

LEGISLATIVE HEARING ON HB 607

Chairman Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Humphrey, and members of the committee, I'm Bill Scott, and I live in Dayton, Montgomery County. I serve as State Director for the Convention of States Project in Ohio. I had the privilege to come before this Committee last February when you heard proponent testimony on HJR 3 for Convention of States. The Chair may recall that I, along with a number of my colleagues, also testified before you in the 134th last General Assembly when you chaired a similar committee in the Senate. Hello again!

I'm here today as a Proponent for the passage of HB 607 which outlines duties and procedures for appointing delegates to a Convention of the States under Article V of the U.S. Constitution.

However, before I speak on HB 607, I wanted to inform the Committee of a brand new poll this month about Ohioans' views on Convention of States, which is also a pending matter before you as HJR 3. The independent firm, Susquehanna Polling and Research of Harrisburg PA, conducted this poll of registered and likely Ohio voters who represent a cross-section of age groups, geographic, ethnicities and party affiliations. **By a supermajority of 76%, Ohioans overwhelmingly support calling for a Convention of States to meet and propose constitutional amendments to limit the federal government to its constitutionally mandated authority!**

By party, that support was 82% for Republicans, 69% for Democrats, and 77% for Independents or no party affiliation. You may recall that earlier this month in HB 607 Sponsor testimony by Representatives McClain and Willis, some of you had questions about potential partisan bias in both this bill and its related HJR 3 Resolution. This poll should confirm for you that this is NOT a partisan issue, but a WE THE PEOPLE issue that your constituents strongly want addressed by you, their elected representatives.

One very telling poll question asked was, “Would you be willing to vote for a candidate of a different party who supports holding a convention to propose amendments that would stop abuses of power by the federal government?”

Answer: 62% of Republicans and 61% of Democrats said YES, they would cross party lines. Attached to my testimony is a press release with more information on this poll that I hope you’ll take a moment to look at.

Back to HB 607, this bill aims to set a framework for Ohio's participation at an Article V Convention, ensuring that our state is prepared, our commissioners are properly guided, and accountability processes are in place.

I know you’ve heard one of the arguments that opponents of an Article V Convention often say, “*an Article V Convention has no known procedures, it would be uncontrolled, there are no guidelines.*”

This House Bill 607 is designed to address those uncertainties by establishing clear, stringent guidelines for Ohio’s commissioners, holding them to the highest standards, and providing clear instructions, including a removal process if they deviate from the rules that YOU set in this bill, including criminal penalties for oath violations.

Please consider your role as guardians of Ohio's future and support HB 607. Ohio will participate in a convention of the states -- even if an Article V joint resolution is never passed in this body, Ohio’s legislators will be tasked with sending Commissioners to represent Ohioans when such a convention happens.

An Article V Convention is coming ... it’s not a matter of "if", but when.

This bill isn’t just about preparing for an Article V Convention. It's about affirming a commitment to responsible governance, accountability, and the sound principles of foresight and preparation.

I ask you to support and pass HB 607 so Ohio is ready. Ready not just for an Article V Convention, but for a future where our states once again lead by restoring the balance of power between federal and state governments through the framework of checks and balances that our Founders gave us called Federalism.

Thank you

Ohioans Overwhelmingly Support Convention of States to Address National Concerns, According to Recent Poll



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: info@cosaction.com

Ohioans Overwhelmingly Support Convention of States to Address National Concerns, According to Recent Poll

[Ohio, June 13, 2024] – Recent polling from Susquehanna Polling and Research has revealed resounding support among Ohio voters for the Convention of States initiative to limit the federal government, with 76% of registered/likely voters expressing their endorsement. The survey further unveiled that majorities of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents favor this constitutional mechanism.

The Article V convention, a meeting of the states to discuss constitutional amendments focusing on term limits for federal officials (including members of Congress and bureaucrats), federal spending restraints, and limiting the federal government to its constitutionally mandated authority, has gained bipartisan traction among Ohioans across various demographics.

Key findings from the poll include:

- **Overall Support:** 76% of Ohioans across all parties support the Convention of States movement and its mission to “rein in” the federal government.
- **Bipartisan Consensus:** The poll demonstrates broad bipartisan support, with 82% of Republicans, 69% of Democrats, and 77% of Independents rallying behind the Convention of States initiative.
- **Willingness to Cross Party Lines:** 62% of Republicans and 61% of Democrats would consider crossing party lines to vote for a candidate who backed Convention of States.
- **Concern for National Debt:** An overwhelming 84% of respondents expressed concerns about the national debt, one of the major issues an Article V convention would aim to address.
- **Age Breakdown:** Across different age groups, support for the Convention of States remains strong, with 81% of 18-44 year-olds, 80% of 45-54, 73% of 55-64, 74% of 65-74, and 70% of 75 and older expressing their endorsement.
- **Diverse Support:** The project further enjoys robust support across various ethnic groups, with 71% of African Americans, 96% of Hispanics, 77% of Whites, and 69% of respondents from other ethnicities expressing their backing.

This overwhelming consensus reflects a united call for safeguarding the principles of limited government, fiscal responsibility, and accountability using the tools the Founders gave us. Faith in the federal government is at a record low; the people of Ohio now look to their state legislators to take historic action to enact meaningful change.

For further information, contact: info@cosaction.com

CONVENTION *of* STATES

celebrates overwhelming bipartisan support
for Article V in OHIO



76% of Ohioans Support Convention of States

(to meet and propose constitutional amendments focusing on term limits for Congress and bureaucrats, federal spending restraints, and limiting the federal government to its constitutionally mandated authority).

VOTER SUPPORT BY PARTY



ConventionofStates.com/press

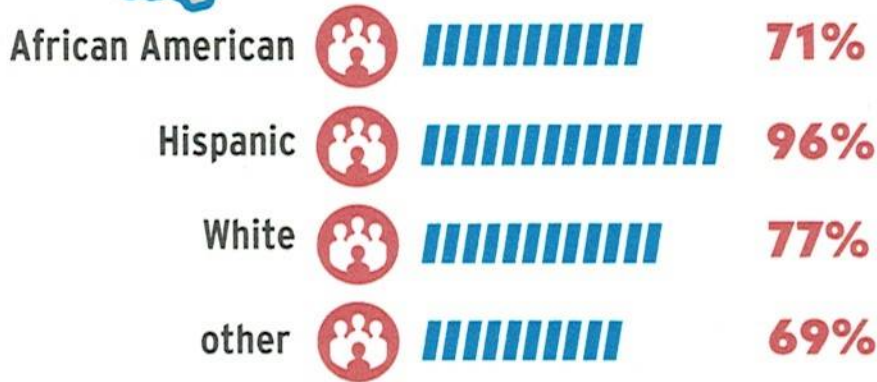
POLLING BY SP&R - JUNE 2024

CONVENTION *of* STATES

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VOTER SUPPORT BY ETHNICITY



SUPERMAJORITY SUPPORT BY ALL AGE GROUPS



VOTER SUPPORT BY PARTY



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