

## ARTICLE V DECLARATION OF THE STATES

**We, the undersigned legislative leaders of the States**, as shown below, do hereby declare our solemn commitment to seek a convention of states under Article V of the U.S. Constitution as a first step to preserve our unalienable rights including “Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.” Article V of the Constitution requires Congress “on the application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States to call a Convention for proposing Amendments,...” for later ratification by three fourths of the States.

The reasons for our solemn commitment are that forces not in effect in 1789 have come about that overly weaken the political bands that bind the People, their States, and the federal government to each other to protect our freedom, rights and common interests. Those forces include self-interested political parties, polarization, vested interests, lobbyists, excessive regulations, political careerism, ambitions of elected officials, and lack of appreciation for the role of freedom and its fragility in our society.

We as legislators are entrusted with more power than the federal government and acknowledge our duty to take the most effectual precautions to keep our leaders virtuous, to honor their public trust, and to bind the People together.

When we look back, we see that those who manage our federal government have violated their sacred trust to put the Nation’s interests above their own, mismanaged the finances of the Nation, misled people as to the truth of our national condition, imposed obligations on the states without their consent and created unaccountable agencies which undermine the rule of law.

When we look forward, we see a shift away from classic democratic decision-making, thereby effectuating the transfer of power from the many to the few and a disregard of our common interests and the benefits of the Constitution’s separation of powers and federalism. For too long, we have indulged Congress’ disregard of reading and debating proposed laws and our common interests under the delusion that our federal government is rational and sustainable. This indulgence has gone on too long. Our democracy is based on truth, justice, freedom, and reverence to protect our rights and common interests. But now, those values are missing. We are at a dead end. The People are watching, waiting, and hoping for the election of those who will take constructive steps to save the Nation and our traditional way of life.

When a long train of abuses and usurpations infects our political bands and displays a disregard for our unalienable rights and the health of our Nation, it is our duty to propose process amendments to the Constitution to assure principles of freedom, rule of law, reverence, natural equality, citizen wisdom, general education and leadership. These principles will give us wise and virtuous leaders to right the

wrongs imposed upon us and forever secure our liberties for the People and their posterity.

Our Constitution is not a policy but a method for making decisions. Proposed amendments to the Constitution should be of similar nature and should not include policies. Policy depends on prediction. Proposed amendments of policy should be precluded by the rules of the convention because no one can reliably foresee the future.

Any risk of a convention of the states pales in comparison with the national debt (\$93,000 for every person in the United States) and is diminished by the final approval of the proposed amendments by three fourths of the states whose legislators are as trustworthy as those who ratified the Constitution.

While a convention of states will decide what amendments to propose, we believe most People, for example, would support a proposed amendment that: Congress, by a concurrence of two thirds of the members of each house present, shall adopt a budget prior to October 1 for each year. And failing this, all representatives and senators shall be disqualified for re-election and be deprived of their employment benefits. Such disqualification can be reversed, in whole or in part, by a majority vote of the governors of states taken in session no later than December 1 following the said October 1 called with time and place by the chair of the National Governors Association. Reversed in part shall be by percentage of members in each house with numbers assigned to each member drawn by lottery and conducted by said Chair until the required members are reached for disqualification.

**In furtherance of our commitment**, we pledge our trust and sacred honor to submit to the States, with advice of the People, the right to approve or disapprove the amendments recommended by the convention of states to which we are now committed as of July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

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**By signing below, you approve this Declaration.**

**Please tear here and return to us at the Legislative Summit or by mail to Path To Reform or Campaign Constitution at 205 E. Cheyenne Mountain Blvd, Colorado Springs, CO 80906**

**Our State Is:** \_\_\_\_\_

**State Representative:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State Senator:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print & Initial) (Please Print & Initial)

**Please provide a good Phone Number and Email Address:**

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

## ARTICLE V OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or, on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments, which, in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as Part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States, or by Conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be proposed by the Congress; Provided that no Amendment which may be made prior to the Year One thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any Manner affect the first and fourth Clauses in the Ninth Section of the first Article; and that no State, without its Consent, shall be deprived of its equal Suffrage in the Senate.

## FEDERALIST PAPER NO. 57 JAMES MADISON

The aim of every political constitution is, or ought to be, first to obtain, for rulers, men who possess most wisdom to discern, and most virtue to pursue the common good of the society: and, in the next place, to take the most effectual precautions for keeping them virtuous while they continue to hold their public trust.