



CAMPAIGN CONSTITUTION

PATH TO REFORM

May 15, 2022

"The future is widely misunderstood. Our forebears expected it to be pretty much like their present, which has been pretty much like their past . . . I emphasize the exponential - versus - linear perspective because it's the most important failure that prognosticators make in considering future trends . . . The only viable and responsible path is to set a careful course that can realize the benefits while managing the dangers "

Ray Kurzweil, *The Singularity is Near* (2005)

"Bad things happen when the pace of change exceeds our ability to change, and events move faster than our understanding. It is then that we feel the loss of control over our lives."

Jonathan Sacks, *The Dignity of Difference* (2003)

"While I have proposed many worthy and acceptable amendments, see www.campaignconstitution.com, the two most effective methods (process amendments) to bring our leaders together to find a common goal and eliminate polarization are, subject to constitutionally approved limitations, (1) to require a 65% vote to approve certain subjects, e.g., debt, deficits, taxes, spending and budgets, and (2) to disqualify all senators and congressmen from running for the next election if they cannot timely approve an annual budget. If disqualified for reelection, they will be deprived of their employment benefits, including pension funds, medical insurance and all others."

John Cogswell, 2022

Save Our Country

We are about saving our country and preserving its values. We believe in the Constitution, limited government, federalism, strong communities, our institutions, due process (ordered liberty), and individual initiative.

CampaignConstitution.com
PathToReform.org

206 Arapahoe Drive
P.O. Box 705
Saratoga, WY 82331

John Cogswell, Chm. - 303.887.3923
Neal Schuerer, Pres. - 319.551.3231

Campaign Constitution is a 501c(3) organization and all donations are 100% tax deductible.

We believe in courage, character and all the factors measuring the health of a democracy as set forth in footnote below.⁶⁵ We believe in constitutional reform to protect our country as provided for in Article V of the Constitution by the Founding Fathers.

Our Country Today

If you believe we have good leadership in the federal government, then throw this letter away.

If you believe any factor of a healthy democracy has been compromised, then please read on. What follows could be the most important choice you can make to save our freedoms. The polarization we see today is a symptom of the unwillingness of our leaders to seek a common goal and work together. We must fix our system by restoring harmony and reverence. If our freedoms collapse, tyranny will set in, and revolution will take to the streets.

How do we fix our system?

Money is Needed

First, it takes money to make things happen. I would like for you to make a substantial donation of \$100,000 (fully deductible) by signing and returning the "Help Our Country Pledge" enclosed with this letter in duplicate. If we receive pledges of at least \$1 million by July 1, 2022, you agree to satisfy your pledge upon receipt of notice and proof of compliance. If we don't reach the \$1 million goal, you have no obligation. **If you choose not to sign the pledge, we are happy to receive any donation you may be willing to make.**

Why do we need these donations? Our goal is to obtain a convention of states under Article V of the Constitution. But, first **we need to formulate a common strategy for obtaining a convention of states** by bringing together all active Article V organizations, state legislators across the nation, their legislative organizations interested in Article V, and constitutional law professors. For example, we first need 34 states to apply for a convention. Second, if Congress won't order a convention as required by the Constitution, we need to agree on our legal remedy. Third, we need to resolve the refusal of some Article V organizations to work together which will hinder approval of proposed amendments by 38 states.

Lastly, if we get a convention, the states will send delegates to propose changes that will not change the Constitution unless ratified by 38 states.

This gathering is scheduled for August 1, 2022 in Denver, Colorado. The more funds we have, the larger this gathering. We have already planned and hosted two such gatherings, one on July 30, 2021 in Salt Lake City, Utah, and one on December 1, 2021 in San Diego, California. We can do this on a grander scale with financial strength. **We ask you to trust our integrity, our experience, and our use of your donations.**

⁶⁵ Classical professor Paul Woodruff in his *First Democracy* has listed the following as factors of a healthy democracy. Opposition to tyranny, rule of law, harmony, natural equality, citizen wisdom, reasoning without facts and general education. I would add leadership and subsidiarity.

Better Leaders

Second, we need better leaders. "Freedom is the key to leadership". Leadership is as valuable as freedom. Leadership cannot exist without freedom. The soul of leadership is to unite behind a common goal. The value of leadership is measured by "freedom gained, maintained, or restored". "A free society needs leaders, and leaders need freedom." Paul Woodruff, *The Garden of Leaders* (2019).

Today our leaders have allowed their ambition to override the public trust. In Federalist No. 57, Madison said,

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 whilst they continue to hold their public trust.

Our elected leaders may be virtuous when first elected but they soon succumb to the weaknesses of human nature. Why? In Federalist No. 15, Hamilton said,

A spirit of faction, which is apt to mingle its poison in the deliberations of all bodies of men, will often hurry the persons of whom they are composed into improprieties and excesses for which they would blush in a private capacity. Virtuous leaders resist this spirit of faction by working together.

The consequences of faction and polarization are best said by Protagoras:

Whenever they gathered into groups [early human beings] would do wrong to each other because they did not yet have the knowledge of how to form a society. As a result, they would scatter and perish. And so, Zeus, fearing that our whole species would be wiped out, sent Hermes to bring reverence and justice to human beings, in order that these two would adorn society and bind people together in friendship. Plato's *Protagoras*, 322c.

Our "leaders" are polarized and have abandoned freedom as their core value. Unless we have more harmony and reverence among them, our republic will surely fail for lack of leadership. How do we increase more harmony and reverence among our leaders?

More Harmony and Reverence

Third, the solution is to require more consensus to get things done. Voting results across the nation are mostly 50-50 up or down 5%. In these circumstances, majority rule results in polarization. Former U.S. Senator Alan Simpson (WY-R) once told me that "Democrats hate Republicans". And the same likely goes the other way. Bad decisions are made, not in the public interest, but to preserve power.

In my opinion, the "most effectual precautions" to bring leaders together are process changes to the Constitution that change the standard of approval on taxes, spending, deficits, debt, and budgets from a majority rule to a 65% rule. This will require our leaders to work together which will defuse polarization.

You have read this far because you believe our country is in bad shape and are wondering what you can do about it – except by your donations and by casting a vote equivalent in influence to that of anyone else?

As you know, these “anyone’s” are growing rapidly day by day. In most cases they are less educated than elected leaders and know little about our history or how and why our Founding Fathers fought for our freedoms and gave us a constitutional republic to preserve them. While our citizens collectively give us some wisdom, they too will harmonize better if they receive the truth relevant to government issues from virtuous leaders committed to the common good and from an honorable media. I believe a few changes pursuant to Article V of the Constitution will restore leadership, dissolve polarization, and require political parties to work together despite their differences.

Process Changes Are Essential Now

Fourth, it is clear to me that decisions are grounded in predictions and that government is managed by prophecy derived from our leaders' experience, vision, and knowledge of relevant history. It is also clear that ambitious power hungry politicians, caring more about themselves than the commonweal, cannot genuinely make reliable predictions or change them promptly when incorrect. The reason is that the exponential growth of technology implicates the economy faster than linear thinking politicians can absorb. Their job is to keep the boat of civilization on a "careful course" when daily challenged by forces of unexpected waves ... after waves ... after waves ... caused by shifting winds of exponential change. This is a job today's leaders cannot do.

If our purpose is to survive and carry our freedom and creativity with it, we need leaders who are able, day by day, to gather relevant information from the pool of exponentially created information. This information will allow them to speedily react to change, to speedily remedy incorrect decisions and to honor decentralized decision-making which occurs faster than any cumbersome body like Congress despite restored leadership.

The only remedy for exponential change is to change our methods of decision-making while we argue over our goals. This requires changes to the methods in the Constitution we use today to make decisions. The Constitution is a great document to be sure but has been corrupted by greed and abusive self-interest of every kind as our leaders succumb to the weaknesses of human nature. In this world of exponential change, if our republic cannot without delay "realize the benefits while managing the dangers", tyranny will take over.

I call these changes process amendments (e.g., the majority rule or the filibuster rule) because they will reflect how decisions are made and not what the decisions should or should not be.⁶⁶ These changes can only occur by a convention of states as described above. They are intended to restore trust in our system and balance the division of powers. According to Madison, "the accumulation of too much power in the same hands is the very definition of tyranny".

⁶⁶ F.A. Hayek said: " ... While agreement is not possible on most of the particular ends which will not be known except to those who pursue them ... Agreement on means can to a great extent be achieved precisely because it is not known which particular ends they will serve."

Majority rule is an excellent method for making decisions in many circumstances, particularly where the voting is discretionary and not required. However, where our leaders are obligated by oath to govern our country, they can no longer hide behind the group, pretend their courage, and finagle the appearance of a favorable political result. So far as Congress is concerned, the evidence shows that majority rule has polarized our leaders resulting in unhealthy political deceits and a partisan media. The effect is to diminish (1) leadership and (2) confidence in the willingness of the media to objectively report information permitting us to make the best possible decisions.

Machiavelli Wisdom

Lastly, we must also reflect on the comments of Machiavelli, the great discerner of human nature, who said, "But we must assume, as a general rule, that it never or rarely happens that a republic or monarchy is well constituted, or its own institutions entirely reformed, unless it is done by only one individual; it is even necessary." I may not be that individual, but I can certainly lead the effort until that single actor emerges upon the scene.

Your support will be appreciated. Please call me at 303-887-3923 if you have any questions. I will visit you at my own expense at a convenient time if you pledge \$100,000.

Sincerely Yours,

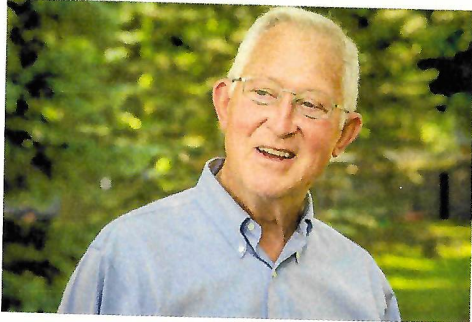


John M. Cogswell, Chairman

P.S. My CV is attached.



CAMPAIGN CONSTITUTION



At 82, John has bridged the cultures of our great country. He was raised on ranches in Colorado and western Kansas. He went to a one-room schoolhouse five miles from his family's small ranch house without utilities. From his ranch life, he learned the virtues of hard work building fences, driving cattle, and putting up hay. These virtues foretold his leadership accomplishments from grade school to maturity.

He was president of his high school graduating class and student body, winner of two American Legion awards for leadership, and captain of the wrestler team. He wrestled and rowed at Yale where he became captain of the Varsity heavyweight crew his senior year and received other honors. He attended Georgetown Law School in Washington DC from which he graduated 6th in his class while he also worked full time for Congressman Bob Dole. After law school he joined the Marine Corps for 3 years graduating third in the basic school class and second in his class at the Naval Justice School. He was discharged as a captain in 1967.

After his military service, he began his legal practice in Denver and was ultimately senior partner at his 44-man law firm. He has practiced for over 50 years. In the 1980s he successfully represented 15,000 sugar beet growers in five states for damages against The Great Western Sugar Company then managed by the Hunt brothers. In the 1990s he successfully represented several thousand farmers and other investors having interests in a CO₂ unit in southwest Colorado in collecting damages from Shell Oil Company and ExxonMobil.

He was twice a candidate in Colorado for the US Senate, Chairman of the Arapahoe County Republican party and Co-Chairman of Senator Dole's campaign in Colorado for President in 1980. He has been the secretary and a director of the Colorado Wildlife Heritage Foundation for over 30 years. In 1989, after his father's death, he managed the family cattle ranch until it was sold in 1998.

In 1982 the seeds of Article V of the Constitution dominated his political life to improve our great nation as illustrated by his website, www.campaignconstitution.com and his book, *Fix the System: Reform the Constitution (2012)*. Today, he is confident that, if he received recognition for this effort at the national level, he could bring the estimated 15 Article V organizations together in a manner to obtain an Article V convention to implement process amendments to improve leadership in Washington and diffuse the prevailing polarization which is fracturing the cohesion that has historically resulted in admiration and universal respect for our republic.