

Allegheny County Sportsmen's League Organized in 1921 Incorporated in 1933

10/17/22

Honorable Senators,

I am writing you regarding SR152.

I respectfully urge you to **oppose** this resolution that calls for an Article V Constitutional Convention. The Allegheny County Sportsmen's League is emphatically against this resolution and a potential Article V Constitutional Convention.

Article V of the Constitution of The U.S.

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.

Article V provides for 2 ways to change the Constitution. The first option has been used on multiple occasions. There is precedent and process in place to guide us on how to do it. The second option, the Convention, has never been done. Well, at least it hasn't been done under the current Constitution. The last Convention that took place was to amend the Articles of Confederation in 1787 when *some* of the leaders ultimately threw out the Articles of Confederation and replaced it with the current US Constitution. The founding fathers KNEW this firsthand when they included option #2 in Article V.

There is no precedent and process to restrict an Article V Convention. We won't know where it can go until it goes there. As I study the history of the 1787 Convention, knowing what I know of the politics of the day and the cautious resistance that some States had to a stronger Federal government, I believe the 2nd option of Article V was meant to be a means by which States could facilitate a reset of the federal government. I believe the founders meant the 2nd option to be a "burn it down to build a new one" option. This is a dangerous proposition. Do you trust all of your colleagues in the State and Federal legislature to have the keys to the hen house and the ability to deconstruct or reconstruct our Constitution? Frankly I do not. If ever there are enough petitions to call a Convention, who chooses the delegates? Will you be a delegate? Who will preside over the Convention? What will the political make-up of the legislature be if this finally happens?

No matter what you are told by paid pundits, nobody can guarantee a "restricted" Convention. Do you think Nancy Pelosi or AOC would like to see modifications to our Constitution? Maybe get rid of that pesky 2nd Amendment once and for all or remove any of the other restrictions that the Constitution puts on government?

You, better than most, know how politics works, to say that a convention could not run out of control is short sighted and naive.

Currently, there is a movement in the Federal Legislature to consolidate all Convention petitions (<u>H.R.8419</u>). If this were to pass and become part of the U.S. Code, it would GUARANTEE a runaway convention. NOTHING would be off the table.

The Constitution largely provides "negative governance". The fact that Article V does not give ANY direction on how a Convention is conducted, it would likely result in a "runaway" because nowhere do we have guidance on the process for choosing delegates, the process for choosing a chair, the procedure by which topics are chosen and God only know what other processes will need to be improvised if a Convention took place.

Do you want to risk being one of the folks who lost the US Constitution on your watch?

Not all your colleagues in the legislature are the "faithful servants of the people" that you are. Some are fueled by political motives and seek power. The Constitution limits that power. Why would we risk giving those folks the ability to change the very thing that stands between them and total control over The People?

If you require more details about the dangers of an Article V Constitutional Convention, I can happily supply you with more information.

As a citizen, I too have sworn an oath to uphold and protect the Constitution of the US and the PA Constitution. The risk of an Article V Constitutional Convention is not a risk that I am willing to take. I pray that you will not gamble on our freedom, and the freedom of our children and our children's children by supporting SR152. I respectfully ask you to oppose SR152 and any resolution that calls for an Article V Constitutional Convention.

Yours Most Respectfully,

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President of The Allegheny County Sportsmen's League

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