



MONTANA STATE SENATE

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Dear Citizen,

Thank you for your interest in your government, and specifically the idea put forth by the Convention Of States marketing organization concerning an Article V Convention to amend the U.S. Constitution.

Reasonable people, equally informed, seldom disagree. Making sure everyone is equally informed is the hard part.

As the elected Senator for District 44, it's my job to be informed on issues affecting our society. While I won't pretend to be an expert, I've invested considerable time and energy into developing a broad base of understanding on this subject. I've read *The Liberty Amendments*, by Mark Levin, twice, and I attended the mock Article V Convention, hosted by Convention Of States, held in Williamsburg, VA in 2016. I'll admit, I was fairly excited about the possibilities, until I listened to all the arguments from the multiple opponents and actually experienced "the runaway" the Framers warned us about at the mock Article V Convention.

At this time, based on my study, our political environment and the actual results of the mock convention, it is my opinion that the risks associated with an Article V Convention far outweigh the potential benefits.

I disagree with the COS promoters in at least 3 areas:

- I think the evidence clearly shows that the Constitutional Convention of 1787 was a "runaway," and therefore, legal precedence has been set and stands today.
- I think the evidence clearly shows that Congress (that currently has a 11% approval rating) will play a much larger role in an Article V Convention than the COS would like to admit; including establishing rules for the convention, as well as how the Delegates will be chosen.
- And finally, again, it was my personal experience in attending the mock Article V Convention hosted by the COS that the process did, in fact "runaway" and usurped the U.S. Constitution in a significant way.

With that, I'm opposed to an Article V Convention. I will, however, continue to study the subject, and in the near future I'll develop a section for Article V related material on my personal web site for review and consideration.

I will also be issuing Mark Meckler, who is the primary proponent of an Article V Convention an invitation to debate Robert Brown on the issue, in a public forum here at the Montana Capitol so that both sides of the arguments and all the evidence can be considered. If Mr. Meckler can allay my concerns based on hard evidence, I'll be happy to change my vote in the future.

Sincerely,

Senator Theresa Manzella