



These images are meant to reflect the diversity of invitees and are not to be construed as an endorsement or affiliation with the People's Convention LLC

Your Invitation to The Strengthening Your Democracy Workshop

(rev 8/31/13)

With trust and confidence in the American democratic process at an all time low, The People's Convention LLC, a non-partisan, non-profit conference organizer based in Sedona, is creating **the nation's first non-partisan citizen's convention** pursuant to Article V of the U.S. Constitution.

An Article V citizens convention has never been held and most Americans are unaware they have the right to upgrade, strengthen or re-direct their American democratic process themselves by

- **Holding their own convention**
- **Exploring proposals** to strengthen their democracy, and
- **Having widely popular proposals** implemented by the states as amendments to the constitution.



You're cordially invited to attend a local workshop in **Sedona on Saturday September 7** where you can:

- Find out how the process works.
- Create your own proposed amendments—and have them supported by 75% of the participants.
- Join others in having your favorite proposals implemented by the state legislatures.

Your attendance at this local, four hour, videotaped event will have a significant impact on OUR democratic process and we promise:

- You'll develop a new and profoundly powerful relationship with your democratic process.
- You'll develop an exciting and refreshing new view of the people in your community.
- You'll develop the ability to design—and implement—powerful new futures for everyone.

These workshops are specifically designed to remain impartial and non-partisan and **to bring Americans together** from across the political spectrum—left, right, middle and independent. We encourage everyone to attend regardless of age or political persuasion. Seating is limited, [reservations are recommended](#) and the cost is \$20.

Finally, for more information the Article V citizen's convention, please go to our website www.ThePeoplesConvention.org, call the Executive Director, Dr. Blair Henry at 928-554-4114, or review materials from the following experts from across the political spectrum:

Typically Associated as Leaning **Left** Politically:

Professor Lawrence Lessig JD, Harvard University¹

Typically Associated as Leaning **Right** Politically: (in alpha order)

Nick Dranius JD, Goldwater Institute²

Mark Levin JD, radio talk show host³

Mark McKinnon, principal media advisor to Hon. George W. Bush, Hon. John McCain⁴

Unknown Political Leanings: (in alpha order)

Professor Richard Labunski PhD, JD, University of Kentucky⁵

Professor Michael Paulson JD, University of St. Thomas⁶

Professor Glenn Reynolds, University of Tennessee⁷

Professor Larry J. Sabato PhD, University of Virginia⁸

[endnotes follow]

For more information or to reserve your seat, go to www.ThePeoplesConvention.org or [email](#) us.



¹ **Professor Lawrence Lessig**, Harvard University

How to Sober Up Washington by Mark McKinnon, principal media advisor to George W. Bush and John McCain, and Harvard Law Professor Lawrence Lessig JD, *The Daily Beast*, April 6, 2012. <http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2010/04/06/how-to-tell-dc-politicians-to-go-to-hell.html>

There is something we can do. We, the People, can take back the power we gave to Congress. We can take it back through the states. The framers left open a path to amendment that doesn't require the approval of Congress: a convention. Article V of the Constitution requires Congress to call a convention to propose amendments if 34 state legislatures demand it.

The beauty of a convention is that it would provide a forum of possibility for conservative Tea Party types who might want an amendment calling for a balanced budget, or a line-item veto for the president as well as progressives who would like to amend the constitution to make it possible to enact meaningful campaign finance reform.

Even if 34 states don't call for a convention, history teaches that a real threat is often enough to get Congress to act. The only amendment in our history that changed the structure of Congress (the 17th, making the Senate an elected body) was proposed by Congress because the states were close (just one state short) to calling for a convention. If nothing else, the possibility of a body they can't control is enough to get Congress to pay attention.

Some will resist the idea of a convention because they fear a "runaway" in which fringe elements would take over the agenda and propose radical amendments. But the framers anticipated such a danger and established a very high bar against it.

Congress has perfected the art of defending the status quo because it is dependent—for its campaign funds—upon the status quo. If we are to break this dependency which holds our nation hostage, we're not going to do it in Washington. We've got to start handing out pitchforks in the states and organize a national convention. From there we will scale the federal ramparts and regain some sense and accountability.

² **Nick Dranius JD, Goldwater Institute**

"... (G)rowing discontent has also reignited interest in an even more direct route for the people and the states to regain control over the federal government - the Article V constitutional amendment process. Under Article V of the U.S. Constitution, the states have the power to apply to Congress to hold a convention for the purpose of proposing constitutional amendments. This power was meant to provide a fail-safe mechanism to control the federal government." Nick Dranius JD, Clarence J. and Katherine P. Duncan Chair for Constitutional Government, Director, Dorothy D. and Joseph A. Moller Center for Constitutional Government, Goldwater Institute. <http://goldwaterinstitute.org/article/amending-constitution-convention-complete-view-founders-plan-part-1-series>

³ **Mark R. Levin**

Author of *The Liberty Amendments* www.amazon.com

⁴ **Mark McKinnon**, principal media advisor to Hon. George W. Bush and Hon. John McCain

See endnote 1 above.

⁵ **Richard Labunski PhD, JD, University of Kentucky**

In his book *"The Second Constitutional Convention: How the American People Can Take Back Their Government."* Labunski constructs a scenario of how a second convention might come about, proposing that "the effort to amend the Constitution by an Article Convention will involve at least six stages" not including court challenges (p.186). <http://www.bsos.umd.edu/qvpt/lpbr/subpages/reviews/labunski.htm>

⁶ **Professor Michael Stokes Paulsen**

"(The Article V convention process) . . . was designed as an alternative permitting the people to circumvent possible congressional intransigence in proposing needed constitutional reforms.—perhaps including such things as reforms limiting national government power, something that Congress as an institution might not be inclined to propose." **How to Count to Thirty Four: The Constitutional Case for a Constitutional Convention**, by Professor Michael Paulson, University of St. Thomas School of Law, 36 pages <http://www.harvard-jlpp.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Paulsen-Combined.pdf> http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1856719 "A General Theory of Article V: The Constitutional Lessons of the Twenty-Seventh Amendment". *Yale Law Journal* 103: 677. 1993 <http://www.jstor.org/stable/797083>



⁷ **Professor Glenn Harlan Reynolds JD, University of Tennessee**

"The Framers inserted the Article V amendment process out of an expectation that their work would require adjustments over time. The adoption of the Constitution itself was accompanied by an enormous ten-amendment project known as the Bill of Rights. Amendments Eleven and Twelve followed quite soon after, as imperfections in the original scheme were discovered. The Reconstruction Amendments followed after considerable difficulty revealed other substantial flaws. Furthermore, of course, the Constitution has been effectively amended by judicial interpretations on numerous occasions as well. If the Republic can face the risks of amendment via judicial action with equanimity, it can surely face the risks inherent in amendment via the procedures of Article V." http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1862984

Article V Constitutional Conventions: A Symposium, Tennessee Law Review. Volume 78, Spring 2011, Number 3. approx 13 authors, 225 pages. Professor Glenn Harlan Reynolds, Beauchamp Brogan Distinguished Professor of Law, The University of Tennessee, plus Professor Robert Natelson, Professor Elizabeth Price Foley, Michael Stern JD, Professor Mary Margaret Penrose, Professor Randy Barnett, Timothy Lynch, Professor Brannon Denning, Brooks Smith JD, Professor Ann Bartow, Professor Richard Epstein, David Lat, Professor Zachary Shemtob, Professor Sanford Levinson. Order paper copy from Micki Cox, Tennessee Law Review. <http://law.utk.edu/publications/tennessee-law-review/symposium-issues/article-v-constitutional-convention/> http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1862984

⁸ **Professor Larry J. Sabato PhD**

Larry J. Sabato, the widely quoted University of Virginia political scientist, argued in his 2007 book "A More Perfect Constitution," that an Article V convention could be a valuable exercise for the country.

<http://www.post-gazette.com/stories/news/us/constitutional-convention-call-gains-traction-223813/#ixzz2VD4I5CrD>
<http://www.larrysabato.com/>

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