

Testimony from Kenn Quinn with U.S. Term Limits in Support of SJR11

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Dear Chairman Guth and committee members,

My name is Kenn Quinn and I am a Regional Director with US Term Limits and I am testifying today in support of SJR11 for a Congressional Term Limits Amendment. I would like to begin by reading a quote by George Washington as he described the tactics of the Anti-Federalists to stop the ratification of the Constitution;

“for their objections are better calculated to alarm the fears, than to convince the judgment of their readers. They build them upon principles which do not exist in the Constitution—which the known & literal sense of it, does not support them in; and this too, after being flatly told that they are treading on untenable ground and after an appeal has been made to the letter, & spirit thereof, for proof: and then, as if the doctrine was incontrovertible, draw such consequences as are necessary to rouse the apprehensions of the ignorant, & unthinking.” ~ George Washington to Bushrod Washington, Nov 9th, 1787.

I shared that quote because the same tactics are being used today against the Constitution’s amending provision. On a personal note, I used to believe in the false narrative of the “runaway” convention because I was only reading false information from an organization that opposes the States from using their constitutional authority under Article V in order to silence the voice of the American people. I would hand out their information to legislators in my own state, warning them to never support an Article V convention because it would rewrite the Constitution. Sadly, I believed this false propaganda because I never bothered to take the time to read the writings of the Framers nor researched the history of Article V for myself. Once I did, I soon realized I was being misled and immediately embraced the Article V convention as the tool we need to use to check our runaway Congress.

Article V Myth Busting: The Historical Evidence and Truth About the Article V Convention

1. The 1787 Federal Convention was not called by Congress to solely revise the Articles of Confederation.
2. The 1st day of the Federal Convention demonstrated the fact that the delegates had full authority.
3. The Framers intent was a limited convention to only the amendment applied for by 2/3s of the legislatures.
4. The Framers voted against giving Article V the power of a Constitutional Convention (Con Con).
5. Madison explained the two types of conventions; a Con-Con (first principles) and Article V (forms).
6. Federalist 85: The Article V convention allows state legislatures to propose a single amendment.
7. Federalist 85: The difference between a Con-Con and an Article V convention are described.
8. Federalist 40: Madison refutes the charge that the Convention exceeded its authority (runaway convention).
9. The state legislatures unanimously approved the new ratification requirement by calling state conventions.
10. Madison’s quote (tremble) proves he opposed a 2nd Constitutional Convention Not an Article V Convention.
11. The Debate in Congress in regard to the 1st Article V application proves the convention is limited.
12. The Article V convention simply gives the States same opportunity Congress has used over 12,000 times.
13. The 400 + Article V applications submitted by the state legislatures to Congress prove a limited convention.
14. The legislatures passing Article V applications were the impetus to seventeen of our amendments.
15. The States have a long rich history of meeting in conventions to propose solutions to problems.
16. The Washington Peace Conference of 1861 proposed an amendment to the Constitution (prevent Civil War).
17. The States have held 233 conventions, adopting 143 constitutions and ratifying 6,000 amendments.
18. The ULC is a convention of the states is held annually (since 1892) and functions as an Article V convention.
19. The North Dakota Legislature currently has five Model Acts from the ULC under consideration.
20. The 2017 Phoenix Convention adopted rules for an Article V convention. We Know How the Rules Work.

In closing, I encourage you to please research this issue yourself by reading the writings of the Framers and the historical documents to know the truth and to see the wisdom they had in giving you, our state legislators, the authority to use Article V as a check against our runaway federal government. I hope that you will vote to pass SJR11 which is for a non-partisan, single-amendment, which has the support of over 82% of the American people, crossing party lines; Congressional Term Limits.

Sincerely,
Kenn Quinn

1. Flashcard 1 and 2
2. Flashcard 5 and Article V Convention: THE FRAMERS INTENT
3. *ibid.*
4. Flashcard 3
5. Flashcard 7 and
6. Flashcard 6
7. *ibid.*
8. Flashcard 2
- 9.
10. James Madison Letter to George Turberville
11. Flashcard 10
12. Flashcard 11
13. Flashcard 12
14. Flashcard 9
15. Flashcard 13
16. "It's Been Done Before: A Convention of the States to Propose Constitutional Amendments" by Professor Rob Natelson <https://i2i.org/its-been-done-before-a-convention-of-the-states-to-propose-constitutional-amendments/>
17. Flashcard 16
18. Flashcard 14
19. HB 36/ SB 1039, HF233, SF26, and HF456.
<https://www.uniformlaws.org/HigherLogic/System/DownloadDocumentFile.ashx?DocumentFileKey=ed63a6ba-12fe-4ded-aa22-25e5a4183232&forceDialog=0>
20. Arizona is honored to host an official national convention to authorize rules to be proposed to the first Article V-approved Convention of States! <https://www.azleg.gov/bbapc/>

FROM JAMES MADISON TO GEORGE LEE TURBERVILLE, 2 NOVEMBER 1788

To George Lee Turberville

DEAR SIR

N. YORK Novr. 2. 1788.

Your favor of the 20th. Ult: not having got into my hands in time to be acknowledged by the last mail, I have now the additional pleasure of acknowledging along with it your favor of the 24. which I recd. yesterday.

You wish to know my sentiments on the project of another general Convention as suggested by New York.¹ I shall give them to you with great frankness, though I am aware they may not coincide with those in fashion at Richmond or even with your own. I am not of the number if there be any such, who think the Constitution, lately adopted, a faultless work. On the Contrary there are amendments wch. I wished it to have received before it issued from the place in which it was formed. These amendments I still think ought to be made according to the apparent sense of America and some of them at least I presume will be made. There are others, concerning which doubts are entertained by many, and which have both advocates and opponents on each side of the main question. These I think ought to receive the light of actual experiment, before it would be prudent to admit them into the Constitution. With respect to the first class, the only question is which of the two modes provided be most eligible for the discussion and adoption of them. The objections agst. a Convention which give a preference to the other mode in my judgment are the following. 1. It will add to the difference among the States on the merits, another and an unnecessary difference concerning the mode. There are amendments which in themselves will probably be agreed to by all the States, and pretty certainly by the requisite proportion of them. If they be contended for in the mode of a Convention, there are unquestionably a number of States who will be so averse and apprehensive as to the mode, that they will reject the merits rather than agree to the mode. A convention therefore does not appear to be the most convenient or probable channel for getting to the object. 2. A convention cannot be called without the unanimous consent of the parties who are to be bound by it, if first principles are to be recurred to; or without the previous application of 3/4 of the State legislatures, if the forms of the Constitution are to be pursued. The difficulties in either of these cases must evidently be much greater than will attend the origination of amendments in Congress, which may be done at the instance of a single State Legislature, or even without a single instruction on the subject. 3. If a General Convention were to take place for the avowed and sole purpose of revising the Constitution, it would naturally consider itself as having a greater latitude than the Congress appointed to administer and support as well as to amend the system; it would consequently give greater agitation to the public mind; an election into it would be courted by the most violent partizans on both sides; it wd. probably consist of the most heterogeneous characters; would be the very focus of that flame which has already too much heated men of all parties; would no doubt contain individuals of insidious views, who under the mask of seeking alterations popular in some parts but inadmissible in other parts of the Union might have a dangerous opportunity of sapping the very foundations of the fabric. Under all these circumstances it seems scarcely to be presumeable that the deliberations of the body could be conducted in harmony, or terminate in the general good. Having witnessed the difficulties and dangers experienced by the first Convention which assembled under every propitious circumstance, I should tremble for the result of a Second, meeting in the present temper of America and under all the disadvantages I have mentioned. 4. It is not unworthy of consideration that the prospect of a second Convention would be viewed by all Europe as a dark and threatening Cloud hanging over the Constitution just established, and perhaps over the Union itself; and wd. therefore suspend at least the advantages this great event has promised us on that side. It is a well known fact that this event has filled that quarter of the Globe with equal wonder and veneration, that its influence is already secretly but powerfully working in favor of liberty in France, and it is fairly to be inferred that the final event there may be materially affected by the prospect of things here. We are not sufficiently sensible of the importance of the example which this Country may give to the world; nor sufficiently attentive to the advantages we may reap from the late reform, if we avoid bringg. it into danger. The last loan in Holland and that alone, saved the U. S. from Bankruptcy in Europe; and that loan was obtained from a belief that the Constitution then depending wd. be certainly speedily, quietly, and finally established, & by that means put America into a permanent capacity to discharge with honor & punctuality all her engagements. I am Dr. Sir, Yours

JS. MADISON JR