

Should You Support Having the Nation's First Article V Convention?

By JOEL S. HIRSCHHORN

Exremely few Americans are aware that the Founders placed a kind of escape clause in our Constitution because they anticipated that citizens might lose trust and confidence in the federal

government. In Article V they created the option for a convention of state delegates that could propose amendments to the Constitution. They clearly said

there was only one requirement to get a convention: two-thirds of states would have to ask for one, and when that happened Congress "shall" convene a convention. We have never had an Article V convention. Why? Because sufficient number of states never asked for one? No. Because Congress has refused to obey the Constitution even though there have been over 500 state applications from all 50 states over the years.

Over many decades there has been considerable propaganda to make Americans fear an Article V convention. Why? Because virtually all people and groups with money and political power fear an

Article V Convention, because amendments might be proposed that would remove the widespread corruption of Congress and the whole political system. They fear constitutional



amendments that just might stand a chance of earning widespread public support so that they might be ratified by three-quarters of the states.

☛ Should you support using this constitutional option? Answer the following questions:

☛ Should we replace the Electoral College with a simple direct vote for President and Vice President?

☛ Should we strengthen the constitutional requirement that only Congress can declare war and that it cannot in any way transfer that power to the president?

☛ Should we, like nearly all other democracies, make Election Day a national holiday to improve voter turnout?

☛ Should the Constitution make single payer universal health care, that most other advanced democracies have, a right as important as protected freedoms?

☛ To end corruption of our political system should we ban all private money from campaigns and require total public financing of all political campaigns for federal office?

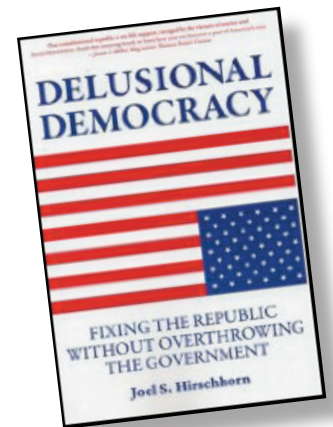
[Note this is generally referred to as the Clean Money/Clean Elections option that several states have used successfully.]

If you answered yes to all or most of these questions, then you should support an Article V convention, mainly because these six amendments illustrate what Congress has never proposed and likely will never propose.



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