

An Open Letter to Legislators Re: Art. V Convention Application for a Balanced Budget (BBA)

The Article V Convention Lobby Doesn't Believe Their Own Talking Points—Why Should You?

Dear Legislator,

If you think you're voting for an application asking Congress to call a "limited" convention under Article V of the US Constitution, you're mistaken.

According to Article V, Congress shall call a convention for proposing amendments upon the applications of 2/3 of the States (or 34). It is up to Congress to decide when they have 34 valid applications. Nothing in Article V says that applications need to be the same or similar; and nothing in Article V says the convention can be limited by subject. Therefore, if you vote for *any* application, including the BBA, Convention of States (COS), US Term Limits, or Wolf-PAC applications, you're risking our Constitution at a constitutional convention.

Today it's obvious that the convention lobby doesn't believe their own narrative—that 34 states must pass applications with *the same or similar language* to trigger a convention; and that the convention can't veer from the subject of the applications. Their [strategists](#) are well aware that there is no such thing as a "limited convention"; and they are expecting Congress to mix and match applications in order to come up with the 34 States needed to call a convention.

This Chart summarizes the States the convention lobby wants Congress to aggregate to trigger a convention. Notice the single-subject BBA is being aggregated with *SIX state applications that have nothing to do with the BBA*. After more than 45 years, only 26 States have active "BBA" applications for a convention on file with Congress. So convention lobby strategists, hoping you won't notice, have changed the way they count to 34.

| According to the Convention Lobby Strategists: There are 33 Un-rescinded Article V Applications: 27 Balanced Budget Amendments and Six on "Any/All Subjects" | | |
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| Article V Applications | States | Total Applications |
| Single-Subject Balanced Budget Amendment | AL, AK, AZ, AR, FL, (GA), IN, IA, KS, LA, MI, MO, MS, NE, NH, NC, ND, OH, OK, PA, SD, TN, TX, UT, WI, WV & WY | 27: Colorado's BBA (previously listed) was rescinded 4/23/21. Georgia's single-subject BBA application expired on 1/1/20. Pro-convention strategists slipped GA's COS application the place of GA's BBA. |
| Any/All Subjects* | IL , KY , NJ , NY , OR , WA | 6 |
| Total BBA single subject applications active (in 45 yrs.) | 26 | 33 - Ignoring the sunset of GA's BBA and the subject of the applications, pro-strategists say their next State will be #34! |
| Information based on this table (slide 3) minus Colorado: Let Us Vote for a Balanced Budget Amendment Citizen's Campaign, Inc. *Aggregation is based on the work of Robert G Natelson. | | |

(Over)

When pro-convention strategists count the BBA applications, they are including 5 States that have *never* passed BBA applications, along with Oregon, which specifically [rescinded](#) its BBA in 1999. All six unrelated applications passed between 1789 and 1901; the subject of the application is below. And if you click on the State, you can read the applications. Convention lobby strategists believe anyone can use these applications like “wild cards.”

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|----------------------------|------|-----------------------------|
| New York | 1789 | Bill of Rights |
| Kentucky | 1861 | To avert the Civil War |
| New Jersey | 1861 | To avert the Civil War |
| Illinois | 1861 | To avert the Civil War |
| Oregon | 1901 | Direct Election of Senators |
| Washington | 1901 | Unlimited convention |

Further evidence of convention lobby duplicity is seen in both Georgia and Mississippi’s recent applications asking Congress to call a convention under Article V for the ostensible purpose of proposing a BBA.

Check out Georgia’s [SR 29](#) which passed the Senate in 2021 (but not the House). Lines 21-32 purport to aggregate 33 states, including the six states with no BBA applications. Yet the sponsor stated publicly that the convention couldn’t run away because all the states listed had passed single-subject BBA applications!

Mississippi’s 2021 application, [HR 58](#), (which didn’t pass) listed almost the same 33 states in Section 3, and acknowledged they were listing both “presently-outstanding balanced budget *and unlimited-subject applications.*”

The same wild card applications can be picked up by all groups. In fact, [US Term Limits](#) already inflated the four states that passed single-subject term limits applications by 700%, counting 28 states! And COS, whose application is broad enough to “amend” almost the entire Constitution, holds the same wild cards in their back pocket, as do Wolf-PAC and everyone else.

Legislators need to understand that any application for an Article V convention, no matter how limited it may seem, means one convention for any and all amendments—a convention where our Constitution is up for grabs.

Please Vote “No!” on your State’s application(s) asking Congress to call an Article V convention, and consider rescinding all applications that your State passed, no matter how long ago.

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