

In-person Testimony  
Kansas House Committee on Federal and State Affairs  
SCR-1604  
March 17, 2025

One day about 12 years ago, a few of us guys happened to get together, and the conversation got around to complaining about the way things were being handled in Washington DC. After a while, Eric (later to become Representative Eric Smith) told us we needed to have an Article V convention of the States. I didn't know what he was talking about at the time, but didn't say anything. I filed it away in my head, as something I should probably look into.

At that time, I was still trying to drive a truck. While at a fuel stop, I went to get some coffee. There were some men hanging around complaining about the government, and one of them said something like, "how much longer do you think people will put up with this before we have another civil war?" This bothered me a lot.

The only time in recorded history that a war of this type ever reduced the size of government was our American revolution, and I am pretty sure that was only because George Washington didn't want to be a king. War is not the answer.

A short time later, I came home to find Kim (my wife) upset about things she had heard on the news. Without going into details, it was more of the same kind of government overreach that started the conversations mentioned earlier. After we discussed it a while, she said, "all I ever hear is a lot talk, nobody ever does anything." I realized it was time for me to get more involved.

Remembering what my friend Eric had said that day, I googled Article V convention and found the Convention of States Project. Started by Citizens for Self Governance, by people like Michael Farris and Mark Meckler, and endorsed by Mark Levin. I saw what they were trying to do, and read Article V a couple times. I wondered why we haven't already done this, and became a volunteer for the Convention of States.

I have been coming up here regularly now since 2015, doing my part to get the Kansas Legislature to do theirs.

The U. S. Constitution, and especially Article V, make it clear that the States are to be in charge.

I ask you to pass SCR-1604, and help to make Kansas an applicant for an Article V convention of the States.

In Liberty,  
Bob Strawder  
Grassroots Coordinator  
Convention of States Kansas

**Bob Strawder**  
Lebo, Kansas  
**In Favor of SCR 1604**  
March 17, 2025

To the Honorable Chairman and Members of the Kansas House Committee on Federal and State Affairs:

I'm sure we can all agree that the federal government is in our business in ways they were never supposed to be:

- They are spending our kid's money as fast as they can print it – maybe even faster.
- We have career politicians who are more concerned about the next election and themselves than the people they were sent to represent.
- We have unelected bureaucrats writing regulations with the force of law, and a lot of the time, they have their own police force to back these regulations up.
- As if all of that isn't enough, our Constitution is slowly being rewritten by Supreme Court decisions and definitions that allow laws to be overbearing and abusive.

Our Constitution was formed to restrict the federal government – not the people. However, the founders knew that it was only natural for a government to grow and become more powerful, so they worked hard to make sure the States and the People were in control. They tried to make sure they covered all the bases, and put it in a document that is actually easy to read. They knew it was impossible to create the perfect government, and they put the amendment process in Article V. I really believe Article V is the most powerful sentence in our Constitution, as it is the only way to make any changes to the Law of the Land. It takes  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the States have to ratify any proposed change.

**The States are in charge.**

There are those who will tell you that we shouldn't use this tool the founders provided. They will tell you that it can't be controlled, and we will lose everything we have. History shows us, and common sense tells us, the whole runaway convention idea is based on a lie. This lie is based on the Constitutional Convention being an illegal act. We are to believe that all of these brilliant and honorable men, with the future President George Washington presiding, threw their honor away to create a new government; I don't think so. Besides, when the convention was over on September 17, 1787, and they left to go home, after working all summer, all they had was a proposal for a new government. It had to be ratified by the States.

Article V is part of our Constitution. It is very clear about how amendments to our Constitution can be made, and states clearly that the proposed amendment, if ratified by  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the States, becomes part of **this** Constitution. No law can come from an amendments convention; only proposals. Any possible proposal requires ratification by the States to become part of the Law of the Land.

There are those on the extremes of both sides of the political spectrum that will tell you it is going to take bloodshed to correct the wrongs in our Republic. The founders wrote our Constitution in a way to prevent that from happening. We only have to use what they gave us.

George Washington had this to say in his farewell address: **"If, in the opinion of the people, the distribution or modification of the constitutional powers be in any particular wrong, let it be corrected by an amendment in the way which the Constitution designates. But let there be no change by usurpation; for though this, in one instance, may be the instrument of good, it is the customary weapon by which free governments are destroyed."**

I ask you to vote in favor of SCR 1604

In Liberty,  
Bob Strawder  
Grassroots Coordinator  
Convention of States Kansas



# Coffey County GOP

Whereas, the federal government has exceeded the enumerated powers delegated to it in the United States Constitution by judicial redefinition and abuse of all branches.

Whereas, the federal government is spending money at an unsustainable rate.

Be it resolved, by the Coffey County Republican Central Committee of Kansas, to endorse the state legislatures in applying to congress for an Article V convention for addressing federal government overreach.

Signed on 9/29/2023 by:

James R. Strawder, Jr.  
Chairman  
Coffey County Republican Central Committee

Greg Kropf  
Secretary  
Coffey County Republican Central Committee

## RESOLUTION NO. 868-A

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A CONVENTION OF STATES FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES THAT IMPOSE LIMITS ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

Whereas, it is a fundamental precept of American government that the best governance is that which is closest, most accessible, and most accountable to the people; and

Whereas, it is for this reason that our Constitution strictly limits and defines the powers of the federal government, and explicitly reserves all remaining government functions to the States and the people; and

Whereas, in recent decades, the jurisdiction, authority, and resources of the state and local governments have been radically diminished by an ever-growing usurpation of jurisdiction and power by all three branches of the federal government, which has corresponded with an increasing confiscation of tax dollars that could otherwise remain in the States and localities; and

Whereas, the realities of human nature and institutional momentum make it a virtual certainty that federal officials will not individually, nor as institutions, ever undertake reforms that would halt or reverse the exponential growth of their own power; and

Whereas, unsurprisingly, the decisions, policies, laws, regulations, and actions of our federal officials and institutions in Washington, DC, are unresponsive to the unique needs and situations of individual States and localities; and

Whereas, neither State and local leaders nor individual citizens have any meaningful way to impact or influence the decision-making of the federal officials and institutions which are now dictating many of the policies that govern them; and

Whereas, it is the duty of State and local leaders to uphold and defend the Constitution, and to use their positions of public trust in the best interest of the people; and

Whereas, the needs and interests of the people of our State and local communities can only be adequately served through a restoration of the authority and resources originally reserved to the State and local levels of government; and

Whereas, because systematic overreaching by all three branches of the federal government has gone unchecked at the federal level and resulted in *de facto* revisions of our Constitution to expand federal power and jurisdiction, the only proper, effective recourse is through the proposal and ratification of constitutional amendments that reject the perversions of constitutional language, reinstate the needed limitations on federal power and jurisdiction, and restore the authority of the state and local governments which are most responsive to the people; and

Whereas, Article V of the Constitution provides for the proposal of constitutional amendments on specific topics through a meeting (convention) of the States, upon application of two-thirds (34) of the States, and for the subsequent ratification of such amendments by three-fourths (38) of the States; and

Whereas, the Kansas Constitution requires a two-thirds majority of the Senate and House of Representatives to pass an Article V resolution, creating an unusually high legislative hurdle not required by any other of the States.

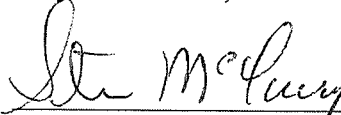
Now therefore, Be it resolved, that the Board of Commissioners of Coffey County, Kansas, fulfilling its duty to serve the best interests of its constituents, hereby calls upon the Senate and House of Representatives of the Kansas State Legislature, especially Senator Caryn Tyson and Representative Brad Barrett, the elected representatives of those constituents, to advance and adopt with all possible speed, concurrent legislative resolutions adding Kansas to the roll of the many other States which have adopted resolutions to trigger an Article V convention of the States to draft, consider, debate and propose constitutional amendments that would impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit its power and jurisdiction and impose term limits for its officials and members of Congress, restoring the proper measure of authority and resources to the levels of government closest and most responsive to the people.

Adopted this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2025 by the Board of Coffey County Commissioners,  
Coffey County, Kansas.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,  
COFFEY COUNTY, KANSAS

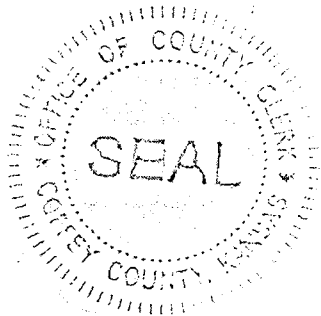


Wayde Thomsen, Chairman



Steve McCurry, Vice-Chairman

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Tom Hugunin, Member



Mark A. Petterson  
Mark Petterson, Member

Todd Barker  
Todd Barker, Member

ATTEST:

Angie Kirchner  
Angie Kirchner, County Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Wade H. Bowie, II  
Wade H. Bowie, II, County Attorney