

Attachment 1 - 2/24/17

SCR 108 - The call for a convention to propose a **Balanced Budget Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.**

Today, America is \$20 trillion in debt because the U.S. Federal Budget has only been balanced two times since 1957. That has saddled every Idaho tax-payer with \$166,500, every Idaho resident with \$61,500, and the state of Idaho, with 1,650,000 residents, with \$101.4 billion! The good tax-payers of Idaho should not have to shoulder such a massive burden which is why the states must take action

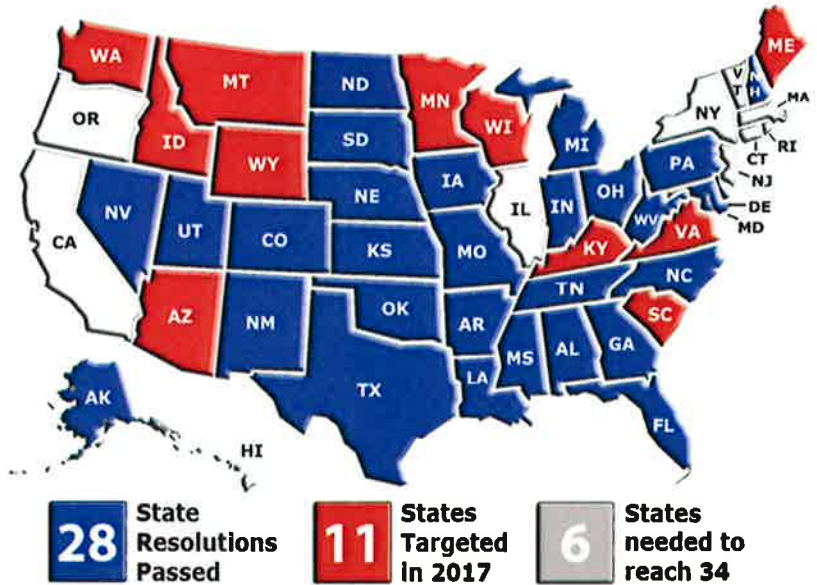
Top 5 Reasons to Support SCR 108:

1. To reach \$20 trillion we've borrowed \$10.8 trillion from traditional lenders, looted \$5.5 trillion from gov't trust funds (Soc.-Sec., etc.) and printed \$3.7 trillion in currency.
2. When the debt reached \$10 trillion in 2008 and we had to pay \$450 billion in interest, the FED cut rates from 4.7% to 2.2% ('08 - '13) to keep interest from soaring to \$1 trillion/yr.
3. Since then, we've borrowed \$1.2 trillion a year, paid no principal, doubled the national debt and we're back to nearly \$450 billion in interest (at half the interest rate).
4. The CBO has projected that we will continue to borrow a trillion/yr. until interest chokes the budget. **News flash:** Congress just approved \$9.7 trillion in deficits over the next decade.
5. We've nearly maxed out our credit with traditional lenders, wiped out the trust funds, printed trillions in currency, manipulated interest rates, and still Congress won't stop.

The time has come for the States to step in.

Ronald Reagan helped launch the state campaign for a balanced budget amendment (BBA) in 1975. The number of states soared to 32, then dropped to 16 once he left office. We now have 28 of the 34 state resolutions required to call a convention limited to the proposal of a BBA. And with resolutions pending in 11 states, only 6 more are needed to reach 34.

Republicans control 33 state legislatures, the presidency, Congress & the Supreme Court. That's every level of government and hence every step in the amendment process. As such, we have nothing to fear in an Article V convention.



Therefore, if there were ever a time in American history to call a convention, that time is now! In 1994, Ronald Reagan called on America to support the BBA campaign when he wrote, "If not now, when? If not us, who?" That was when the debt was only \$2 trillion, one tenth the size it is today.

Accordingly, we respectfully ask for your support on SCR 108.

How the States Amend the U.S. Constitution



In Article V of the U.S. Constitution, the states were ceded absolute power over Washington via the unilateral authority to propose and ratify constitutional amendment(s).

***Article V:** "The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or, **on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments**, which, in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as Part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States or by Conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be proposed by the Congress ..."*

Step 1. Thirty-four states apply for the convention. Two-thirds (34) of the state legislatures must pass resolutions that apply for a convention to propose a specific amendment.

Step 2. Congress calls for the convention. Congress must count the state applications, verify that there are 34 that call for a convention to propose the same amendment, then set the time/place for the convention and the amendment that can legally be discussed.

Step 3. The states commission their delegations. Each legislature must commission its state delegation by specifying the number of delegates, who they are, amendment they are authorized to discuss, a delegate oath, a means to monitor/recall delegates who violate their oath, alternates and legal penalties for delegates who are recalled.

Step 4. Twenty-six states propose the amendment. The convention delegations must first adopt procedural rules, then debate, draft and propose the amendment via a simple majority vote of 50 state delegations (26). Each state, regardless of its size, gets one vote.

Step 5. Congress chooses the mode of ratification. First, Congress decides whether a proposed amendment was authorized by the 34 state applications and its own convention call, and then it decides whether ratification will be carried out by the state legislatures or state ratification conventions. The amendment is then sent out to the states for ratification.

Step 6. Thirty-eight states must ratify the amendment. Three-quarters of the states must ratify the amendment before it becomes a part of the U.S. Constitution.

As evidenced in the amendment process above, when our founders crafted the Constitution they gave the states absolute power over Washington, not the other way around. If the states hope to cure Washington of its deficit spending addiction, they must use their power under Article V to propose and ratify a balanced budget amendment (BBA). That is the only way to prevent Washington from bankrupting America.

State Convention Safeguards



There are detractors who claim that calling an Article V convention is dangerous and that delegates would repeal the second amendment or shred the Constitution.

First of all, state convention delegates can only propose amendments, not ratify them. Second, the state convention method of proposing amendments is by far the hardest to utilize of any democratic process under the U.S. Constitution and hence by far the safest — so safe in fact, it has never been used. To employ it, the states must navigate six onerous democratic safeguards. After reviewing each one in the list below, you may actually conclude that our founders made the process too difficult.

Safeguard 1. Two-thirds of the states (34) must pass resolutions that call for a convention to propose the same amendment(s).

This safeguard is so powerful, that the states have never mustered the two-thirds necessary to call a convention to propose the same amendment(s).

Safeguard 2. First, Congress must verify 34 state resolutions that call for a convention to propose the same amendment(s), and second, it must pass a convention call that sets the date/location of the convention and the amendment(s) authorized for discussion.

This safeguard gives Congress a check on state power by requiring that it confirm 34 state applications and then limit what amendment(s) can legally be acted upon at the convention.

Safeguard 3. The states must commission their delegations by specifying the number of convention delegates, who they are, authorized amendment(s), a legal oath, a means for delegate recall, alternates and legal penalties for those removed.

This safeguard restricts delegates, via a legally binding oath, to the discussion of authorized amendment(s) only, and specifies a means to monitor/recall/punish any delegate who violates his/her oath.

Safeguard 4. Once the convention is convened, the state delegations may only discuss the amendment(s) authorized by the 34 state applications and the convention call by Congress. A simple majority of 50 state delegations (26) is needed to propose an amendment.

This safeguard makes it nearly impossible for the states to propose a rogue amendment. That would require a majority of the delegates from 26 states, under penalty of jail time, fines and public scorn, to violate their legally binding oaths. It would also require the convention leadership to allow a vote on an amendment sure to be rejected by Congress.

Safeguard 5. Congress must verify that each amendment proposed by the convention was authorized before selecting the mode of ratification to be used by the states.

This safeguard is very effective because it gives Congress another check on state power by allowing it to disqualify any amendment proposed by the convention, not authorized in the thirty-four state applications (step 1) or Congress' own convention call (step 2).

Safeguard 6. Three-quarters of the states (38) must ratify the amendment.

This safeguard provides the strongest democratic check under the U.S. Constitution by requiring 76 signatures (2 chambers x 38 states) to ratify any proposed amendment. By comparison, the legislation proposed by a state legislature only requires one signature.

Safeguard 7. The courts may intervene if a lawsuit is filed to challenge the action of any entity (state legislature, convention, Congress, etc.) at any step in the amendment process.

This safeguard provides a back stop for every other safeguard by allowing the courts to declare any illegal action or unauthorized amendment, unconstitutional.

With 7 separate safeguards in place, there is virtually no chance that a rogue amendment could be ratified. Not with Republicans in control of 33 state legislatures. The simplest way to illustrate this is to take a red marker and try to shade in the 38 states that would ratify a repeal of the 2nd amendment or some other rogue amendment. It can't be done.

With Republicans in control of nearly 2/3s of the state legislatures and Congress, the Republican party will control all 6 steps in the amendment process. Therefore, to fear a convention is to fear ourselves, which means we have nothing to fear but fear itself.



Balanced Budget Amendment Resolution Poll (SCR 108)

Idaho Registered Voters | November 21, 2016

Survey Question: "Should your Idaho state legislators vote YES or NO for the Balanced Budget Amendment to the United States Constitution?"

Total Idaho Registered Voters Polled = 4505 | YES = 82.2% | NO = 17.8%

Senate District	# Polled	Yes	% Yes	Senate District	# Polled	Yes	% Yes
1	192	161	83.8	19	78	50	64.1
2	152	120	78.9	20	77	65	84.4
3	134	120	89.5	21	78	67	85.9
4	119	87	73.1	22	91	81	89.1
5	170	130	76.4	23	116	100	86.2
6	169	135	79.8	24	135	118	87.4
7	241	210	87.1	25	126	109	86.5
8	114	95	83.3	26	120	88	73.3
9	126	106	84.1	27	136	124	91.1
10	96	82	85.4	28	116	88	75.8
11	98	83	84.6	29	141	99	70.2
12	99	89	89.9	30	147	118	80.2
13	89	75	84.2	31	130	111	85.3
14	80	63	78.7	32	97	88	90.7
15	72	49	68.1	33	354	277	78.2
16	103	82	79.6	34	194	177	91.2
17	93	69	74.1	35	137	122	89.1
18	85	68	80	TOTAL	4505	3706	82.2



Polls performed by Voice Broadcasting Corp.
For questions: Ben@voicebroadcasting.com



IDAHO FEDERATION OF COLLEGE REPUBLICANS

To the Honorable Members of the Idaho Legislature,

On 28 November, 2016, the Idaho Federation of College Republicans Executive Board voted to endorse the campaign for a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution to be proposed via state convention and ratified by the state legislatures.

As Millennials, paying off the national debt will fall most heavily on our shoulders long after Baby-Boomers and Gen-Xers are gone—despite the fact that we had no part in taking on the debt.

Our founders fought a revolution to protest taxation without representation, and that is exactly what we are fighting against. We will be taxed in the future to pay off a debt that we had no democratic power to resist because most of it was borrowed before we had the right to vote.

Twenty-eight of the thirty-four required states have already passed resolutions that call for a convention to propose a balanced budget amendment. As such, the Idaho Federation of College Republicans respectfully calls upon the Idaho legislature to pass this resolution during the 2017 legislative session to add one more on the way to thirty-four.

We thank you for your loyal service to the people of Idaho and your support for this vitally important issue to our future and hence America's future!

So that liberty might prevail,

The Idaho Federation of College Republicans Executive Board

DocuSigned by:

Ben Fulcher

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Ben Fulcher - Chairman

DocuSigned by:

Mitchell Jensen

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Mitchell Jensen - Treasurer

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Peter Huguenin

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Peter Huguenin - Vice Chairman