

Texas Governor Abbott Supports Convention of States

In one bold declaration, Texas Governor Greg Abbott both shocked the political world and energized a growing movement to restore the rule of law in America.

“I want legislation authorizing Texas to join other states in calling for a Convention of States to fix the cracks in our broken Constitution,” Abbott said, bringing a room of Texas policymakers to their feet in support of the Convention of States resolution.

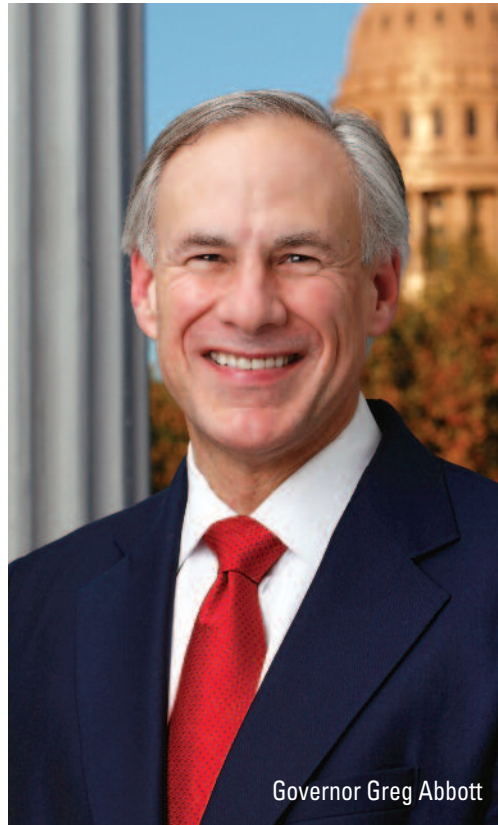
Governor Abbott has demonstrated tremendous courage and leadership in placing his support firmly behind Convention of States, which gives state lawmakers a powerful tool to fight back against an overbearing federal government.

Under the Convention of States resolution, commissioners to the convention can discuss proposals for constitutional reforms on three topics: fiscal restraints on the federal government, term limits on federal officials, and limits on the power and jurisdiction of the federal government.

Abbott’s Texas Plan fits nicely within this framework. Nearly 100 pages long with more than 350 footnotes, the Texas Plan is a comprehensive look at the need for an Article V Convention of States.

“The President changes laws with a pen. Congress sees no need to root their laws in constitutional principles. The judiciary rewrites laws and freely amends the Constitution,” said Abbott, emphasizing that Article V is the constitutional mechanism the states can utilize to fix the cracks in the system.

Moreover, Governor Abbott’s support is unique in that he had made Convention



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of States the primary agenda item of his administration. In fact, the Texas Plan was specifically designed to fit within—and only within—the Convention of States resolution!

“The Texas Plan does what so desperately needs to be done—it puts teeth into the Tenth Amendment,” Abbott said. “That is the best way to restore the states and the people as guardians of our Constitution.”

The Texas Plan harkens back to James Madison’s Virginia Plan, which largely defined the agenda of the Philadelphia Convention in 1787.

Likewise, Abbott’s plan puts forward nine bold solutions for the Convention of States commissioners to consider—solutions that would systematically restore power to the people and to the states.

“The Founders gave us the tool to chart our own destiny,” said Abbott. “That tool is Article V of the United States Constitution. The Framers included it, because they knew that citizens are the ultimate defense against an overreaching federal government.”

Continued on back page

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Continued from front page

By taking this historic step, Governor Abbott has demonstrated that he is committed to helping the states call an Article V Convention of States to propose meaningful constitutional reforms that would dramatically expand liberty and prosperity for all Americans.

The Texas Plan includes proposals that would:

- Permit two-thirds of the states to collectively overturn a federal law, regulation, or Supreme Court ruling
- Restore the Commerce Clause to its original intent
- Require Congress to balance the federal budget
- Require a supermajority of the Supreme Court to override any democratically enacted law
- Permit state officials to sue in federal court when federal officials overstep their bounds
- Prohibit administrative agencies from preempting state and federal law.

In his speech, Governor Abbott recalled the time when Franklin was asked what

kind of government the Framers had proposed at the Philadelphia Convention. “A republic, if you can keep it,” Franklin famously declared.

“Let us heed the advice of our Founders,” Abbott said. “If we are going to keep the republic that Franklin said we got — if we are going to fight for, protect, and hand onto the next generation the freedom that Reagan spoke of—then we the people have to take the lead to restore the rule of law in the United States.”

Convention of States is developing the largest grassroots army in the nation. We recently surpassed 1.3 million supporters, with volunteer leadership in all 50 states. Convention of States allows citizens to engage in the only constitutional solution to restore the balance of power and return America to its founding principles.

“Franklin knew that if the three branches of government strayed, there was a fourth group to rein them in,” Abbott said. “They identified that fourth group in the first three words of the United States Constitution—We the People.”

With Governor Abbott’s steadfast support, we are confident that Convention of States will be a success.

“Every generation of Americans must face Franklin’s challenge,” Abbott said. “Do we have the will to keep our republic?”

Before he became the 48th Governor of Texas, Greg Abbott distinguished himself as the longest-serving Attorney General in Texas history and was also a Justice on the Texas Supreme Court. His sharp legal mind and experience in litigating states’ rights makes his support for Convention of States all the more powerful.



CONVENTION of STATES

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