# 404 LEVEL TRAINING





### THE DANGER OF DELEGITIMIZING ARTICLE V

Our federalist form of government was brilliantly designed to operate with important checks and balances.

The Article V Convention process is our only constitutional check on an unresponsive Congress. In fact, our founders intended for the States to be co-equal with Congress in proposing amendments to our Constitution, and called them to do it. We cannot risk undermining this fundamental balance of power by handing over exclusive power to Congress when democracy is at stake.



## ATTACKING ARTICLE V IS AN ATTACK ON THE CONSTITUTION

To attack the process of an Article V convention is to attack the Constitution itself. It is a dangerous and foolhardy prospect that destabilizes the foundation of our democratic republic. This is why we encourage everyone to debate Article V Convention applications based on the merits of the subject matter of the application alone.

And let's remember: Democrats have held both chambers in Congress without fixing this issue; Republicans have held both chambers in Congress without fixing this issue. Let's work together to address the corrupting influence of money in politics by using the most potent tool we have to hold our federal government accountable to we the people once again.



### WHO WILL BE THE DELEGATES AT A CONVENTION?

Delegate selection is addressed in the Free & Fair Elections Resolution.

It specifically states that the delegates must either be elected citizens or appointed state and local elected officials. The most likely scenario is that it will be an election by Congressional district. Whenever Congress has considered the topic that's what they have proposed. It also states that no current or former members of Congress can be delegates because that would defeat the whole point of this convention.

Bottom line: Congress already has the power to propose an amendment on this issue and they're not doing it. Let's give the states a chance.



### HOW DO YOU KNOW THE DELEGATES WON'T PROPOSE SOMETHING OFF-TOPIC?

Delegates are different than Representatives (who are free to do what they want once elected). A delegates' authority comes from the state that sent them with certain guidelines. Delegates who act against their state's wishes, for example by proposing off-topic amendments, can be recalled and replaced, or in some cases even charged with criminal penalties.

The Free & Fair Elections Resolution has a mandate built into it that the delegates are restricted to the issue of campaign finance reform.



## DELEGATES HAVE ALWAYS DONE THEIR JOB

Remember, we have a national convention with state delegates every 4 years to elect our president. No matter how you feel about the electoral college, you have to admit that everyday Americans have proven capable of this task. Over the hundreds of years we've used this process, and of the thousands of delegates we've sent to that national convention, less than 1% have gone against the wishes of their state.

Bottom line: Whether it's to choose a party candidate, choose our president, or amend a state constitution, conventions work and delegates have always done their job faithfully.



#### THE DELEGATES WILL BE BOUGHT OFF BY SPECIAL INTERESTS!

A body of people with the authority to propose an amendment to the Constitution that is fully captured by special interests?

What you just described is Congress! They can propose an amendment any day of the week. Using that logic **the worst case scenario is the status quo!** 

Remember there are only two options for a constitutional amendment: Congress, which is already bought off, or a delegation of American citizens bound by the mandates from their states. I trust the citizen-delegates to do their job and protect our democracy.