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# STEVE STIVERS

Representing the 15th District of Ohio



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### Stivers' Article V Rule Change Passes on House Floor

Washington, Jan 8 | 0 comments

WASHINGTON – Rep. Steve Stivers' (R-OH) amendment to the House Rules passed by a vote on the House Floor this week. Stivers' rule change will help support the nation-wide push for a federal Balanced Budget Amendment (BBA), by creating a system for the U.S. House of Representatives to track, document and count the number of incoming Article V Constitutional Convention petitions from state legislatures.

"I am pleased my colleagues supported my addition to the House Rules this week," Stivers said. "I believe a Balanced Budget Amendment is the only way to stop out-of-control government spending. I hope the passage of this rule will put us one step closer to fiscal responsibility and the inclusion of the BBA in the United States Constitution."

Amendments to the United States Constitution can be made by a vote of Congress. However, the Constitution can also be amended if two-thirds, or 34, of the state legislatures call for a limited convention to discuss an amendment on a specific topic, such as the BBA. Once a Convention is convened 38 states, or three-fourths, must ratify any constitutional amendment. However, without the rule change that Stivers authored, there is no way to know how many states have petitioned on any specific subject, which would result in the process being stalled.

Specifically, the rule creates a process for the intake of the petitions through the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee and gives the Clerk's Office the responsibility of making the petitions electronically available and organized by the subject, state of origin and year of receipt. This will allow Congress, as well as the American people, to better track the progress of specific Article V efforts. Prior to Stivers' rule update, no formal process for cataloging the petitions existed.

Ohio is one of 24 states that have already sent Congress their petition requesting a limited constitutional convention on the BBA. Stivers is a strong supporter of Governor John Kasich's (R-OH) efforts to encourage additional states to call for a limited constitutional convention on the Balanced Budget Amendment.

-30-

Tags: [Balanced Budget Amendment](#)

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Steve Stivers

9 Jan

@RepSteveStivers

Also thanks to Officer Rob, one of the @CapitolPolice's finest!

#NationalLawEnforcementA [pic.twitter.com/Yp8jYXoZdd](http://pic.twitter.com/Yp8jYXoZdd)



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**Robert Brown** · Top Commenter · Works at The John Birch Society

Point of clarification: the article states, "the Constitution can also be amended if two-thirds, or 34, of the state legislatures call for a limited convention".

That is not what the Constitution says. It says, upon the application of the legislatures of 2/3 of the states (34), CONGRESS shall call a convention for proposing amendments.

Congress calls the convention, not the states.

It says nothing about it being a "limited convention".

While the states may suggest amendments, only the convention has the authority to propose amendments.

Reply · Like · 2 · January 9 at 8:17am



**Lynette Indiana** · Top Commenter

Congressman Stivers is a hypocrite. He's a \$pender. Recently voted in favor of the 2014 omnibus spending bill. He has an overall constitutional voting record under 50%.

Reply · Like · 2 · January 9 at 10:35am



**Robert Brown** · Top Commenter · Works at The John Birch Society

So, is Stivers essentially saying that he can't control his excessive spending unless we pass a balanced budget amendment? Something smells fishy here.

Reply · Like · 2 · January 9 at 10:40am



**Cindy Lyons** · Top Commenter

The enumerated powers that his oath of office commands what he (Congress) is to obey and it is very clear and needs no further amendment.

Strict adherence to the enumerated powers of the Congress and the Presidency would balance the budget in a heart beat. We have such high over spending because Congress allows this over spending by: pork barrel spending, spending outside it's enumerated powers for other matters, and allowing the presidency to spend on the unconstitutional agencies such as: the NEA, EPA, IRS, etc. Only the Treasury is currently constitutional (and perhaps one other). The danger is that the left is attempting to co-op the Convention process and create it's utopian dream of a greater society (a fallacy).

Reply · Like · 16 hours ago



**Olive Koenig** · Franklin University

Way to go Steve Stivers.

Reply · Like · 2 · January 8 at 1:32pm



**Jeff Lewis** · Top Commenter

Whoever wrote this press release doesn't know what they are talking about, or is intentionally putting forth a false narrative using the vernacular of the billionaire boy's club-funded groups trying to trigger a convention.

"Amendments to the United States Constitution can be made by a vote of Congress. However, the Constitution can also be amended if two-thirds, or 34, of the state legislatures call for a limited convention to discuss an amendment on a specific topic, such as the BBA."

1. Amendments cannot be "made" by Congress. Congress can merely propose them if 2/3's of both Houses agree.

2. State legislatures do not "call" an Article V "Convention for proposing Amendments." State legislatures can merely "apply" to Congress for a "Convention for proposing Amendments" (plural).

3. There is ZERO requirement in the Constitu... [See More](#)

Reply · Like · 1 · Edited · 10 hours ago



**Jamie McGee** · Central Michigan University

Florida, Georgia and Alaska have already submitted essentially identical petitions to Congress to call a Convention of States, and while limited to Amendments, it's not necessary to limit it to a balanced Budget Amendment. There is a lot of excellent information at:

<http://www.conventionofstates.com>

And if you like what you see, you can sign the petition for you state at

<http://www.cosaction.com>

Please be sure to fill in your complete address so it can get sent to your state representatives and senators. Thanks.

Reply · Like · 7 hours ago



**Rhonda Getaway** · Smithville, Tennessee

An Article V Convention of The States to Propose Amendments to the [US] Constitution is NOT in any way a "constitutional convention", limited or otherwise. I would think that the State Legislatures who are organizing an effort to do this will make sure that they ALL send in the SAME applications to Congress once they have solidified the 2/3 of the States necessary.

I don't see the point of the Rule, but thank you, anyway.

Reply · Like · 1 · January 9 at 1:34pm

**Rhonda Getaway** · Smithville, Tennessee

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[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 1 · January 9 at 1:33pm**Cindy Lyons** · Top Commenter

The Articles of Confederation 2.0 had not planned on it turning into a Constitutional Convention but that is exactly what ended up happening. They scrapped the entire Articles of Confederation and created a whole new federal government/Constitution. You can parse words and say that COS is not supporting ConCon. But it is a big mistake to deny that it cannot turn into one. There is NO wording in the Article V language that allows for the States to hold conventions nor is there any restrictions on the Convention once it begins.

All it says the States can do is apply and once the Convention is over to ratify what it wants. However, another flaw in COS thinking is that the rules of ratification cannot be changed. It could very well be changed as the Article V Convention is a sovereign body and can draft and create anything it wants. It is NOT behold to any prior laws restricting it. Once the Convention begins... no one can stop it except the Convention itself. This silly notion that the States can punish the delegates who deviate from what they want them to vote on. The Convention itself can create a new law that abolishes those penalties. It is far safer to create amendments the way it has been done so far i.e. thru the Congressional origination.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 16 hours ago**Cindy Lyons** · Top Commenter

Show me where the idea comes from that says what you said, "Article V Convention of The States to Propose Amendments to the [US] Constitution"? That is a false premise created by COS and not from historical documents. Certainly not in the Article V language at all. It does not say that the States can propose amendments. All it says is that the States can ONLY APPLY for Congress to hold a (federal/constitutional) Convention and once Congress is done then the States reenter the picture and vote on Congresses finished amendments.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 16 hours ago**Jamie McGee** · Central Michigan University

Florida, Georgia and Alaska have already submitted essentially identical petitions to Congress to call a Convention of States, and while limited to Amendments, it's not necessary to limit it to a balanced Budget Amendment. There is a lot of excellent information at:

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Please be sure to fill in your complete address so it can get sent to your state representatives and senators. Thanks.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 7 hours ago**Bill Walker**

With the passage of this simple House rule Congress has begun the process of calling a convention. The Constitution mandates a convention call if 34 states submit 34 applications. You can read the 763 applications from 49 states at [www.foavc.org](http://www.foavc.org).

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 17 hours ago**Debbie Thomas** · Top Commenter

It's way past time, our president continues to spend money like there is no tomorrow! All these pork barrel bills also need stopped! Thank you Sir!

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · January 8 at 2:37pm**Dick Buhite** · Top Commenter · The University of Akron

pork barrel bills like the wars Republicans start without wars our budget would be balanced

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · January 9 at 3:48am**Robert Brown** · Top Commenter · Works at The John Birch Society

Dick Buhite , although I agree that these wars are unnecessary, and should only be entered upon a constitutional declaration of war, even without them, our national spending would exceed our revenue.

Incidentally, Republicans aren't the only ones who have started them. Despite campaign promises to the contrary, Obama has expanded our

war front.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 1 · January 9 at 8:46am

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**Pav Sterry** · Top Commenter · Mishawaka High School

Rep. Aderholt's bill needs to be attached to a critical DHS funding bill. Let's see #ToothAndNail .

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · January 8 at 8:10pm

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**Dick Buhite** · Top Commenter · The University of Akron

another Repuke that can not see that the wars we get into policing the world are what is breaking us

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · January 9 at 3:50am

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**Kayla Thibault** · Top Commenter · Centerline High School, Centerline, MI

BBA sounds like the way to go. If more and more states get onboard, it CANbe done.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · January 9 at 10:00am

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**Steve Farrell** · The Ohio State University

Great going Steve! Congrats! You have my support, friend!

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · January 8 at 3:38pm

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**Linda L Lee**

Thank you!

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · January 8 at 3:19pm

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