

# The Duplicity of the Convention of States Movement

Edward Hendrie

August 27, 2022

The stated objective of the convention is to “impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit its power and jurisdiction, and impose term limits on its officials and members of Congress.” That nebulous statement is simply a list of platitudes designed to persuade people to support a convention of the states where the proposed amendments (or even an entirely new Constitution) will emerge that go far beyond (and even contrary) to those objectives.

The Jefferson Statement is the seminal document for the Convention of States movement. It encapsulates in two pages the philosophy and leadership behind the movement. There are eleven (11) luminaries from academia, media, and politics who put their names to the document.

## Robert George

According to the Convention of States Action organization, “[Robert] George is a signer of the Jefferson Statement, which became the Legal Board of Reference for the Convention of States Project.”<sup>1</sup>

That list of luminaries seems to be the guiding intellects behind the Convention of States movement. Indeed, they are described as the **“Legal Board of Reference for the Convention of States Project.”**

Below is page 2 of the Jefferson Statement, on which is found the **“Legal Board of Reference”** for the Convention of States organization. I annotated the list by putting a red box around Robert George’s name.

**"The Convention of States mechanism is safe, and it is the only constitutionally effective means available to do what is so essential for our nation."**



**Randy E. Barnett** is a graduate of Harvard Law School and a professor at the Georgetown University Law Center. He represented the National Federation of Independent Business in its constitutional challenge to the Affordable Care Act.



**Charles J. Cooper** is a founding member and chairman of Cooper & Kirk, PLLC. A member of the Reagan Administration, Mr. Cooper has argued before the Supreme Court, and he spent much of his career defending constitutional rights as a top lawyer for the National Rifle Association.



**John C. Eastman** is the Founding Director of the Center for Constitutional Jurisprudence, a public interest law firm affiliated with the Claremont Institute. Prior to joining the Fowler School of Law faculty, he served as a law clerk with Justice Clarence Thomas at the Supreme Court of the United States and served in the Reagan administration.



**Michael P. Farris** is the co-founder of the Convention of States Project, the Chancellor of Patrick Henry College, and Chairman of the Home School Legal Defense Association. During his career as a constitutional appellate litigator, he has served as lead counsel in the United States Supreme Court, eight federal

circuit courts, and the appellate courts of thirteen states. Mr. Farris is widely respected for his leadership in the defense of homeschooling, religious freedom, and the preservation of American sovereignty.



**Robert P. George** is one of the nation's leading conservative legal scholars and is the founding director of the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions. He is chairman of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) and has served as a presidential appointee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights.



**C. Boyden Gray** is the founding partner of Boyden Gray & Associates, in Washington, D.C. Prior to founding his law firm, Ambassador Gray served as Legal Counsel to Vice President Bush (1981–1989), as White House Counsel in the administration of President George H.W. Bush (1989–1993), and as counsel to the Presidential Task Force on Regulatory Relief during the Reagan Administration.



**Mark Levin** is one of America's preeminent constitutional lawyers and the author of several New York Times bestselling books including *Men in Black* (2007), *Liberty and Tyranny* (2010), *Ameritopia* (2012) and *The Liberty Amendments* (2013). Mr. Levin has served as a top advisor to several members of President Ronald Reagan's Cabinet—including as Chief of Staff

to the Attorney General of the United States, Edwin Meese.



**Nelson Lund** is University Professor at George Mason University School of Law. After clerking for Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, he served in the White House as Associate Counsel to President George H.W. Bush.



**Andrew McCarthy** is a bestselling author, a Senior Fellow at National Review Institute, and a contributing editor at *National Review*. Mr. McCarthy is a former Chief Assistant U.S. Attorney in New York.



**Mark Meckler** is President of Convention of States Foundation, the parent organization of the Convention of States Project. Mr. Meckler is one of the nation's most effective grassroots activists. After he co-founded and served as the National Coordinator of the Tea Party Patriots, he founded Citizens for Self-Governance in 2012 to bring the concept of "self-governance" back to American government.



**Mat Staver** is the Founder and Chairman of Liberty Counsel and also serves as Vice President of Liberty University, Professor of Law at Liberty University School of Law, and Chairman of Liberty Counsel Action.

Support the only solution that is as big as the problem.  
**Sign the petition at [ConventionofStates.com](http://ConventionofStates.com).**  
[www.conventionofstates.com](http://www.conventionofstates.com) [info@conventionofstates.com](mailto:info@conventionofstates.com)



Let us explore what kind of changes board member Robert P. George would advocate. He took part in the National Constitution Center's Constitution Drafting project. He was the principal co-author of a model constitution titled **"The Conservative Constitution."**<sup>2</sup>

The **Second Amendment** to the U.S. Constitution presently provides:

**"A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."**

Robert George does not much like that language, so he changed it. George's "Conservative Constitution" states:

**"Neither the States nor the United State shall make or enforce any law infringing the right to keep and bear arms of the sort ordinarily used for self-defense or recreational purposes, provided that States, and the United States in places subject to its general regulatory authority, may enact and enforce reasonable regulations on the bearing of arms, and the keeping of arms by persons determined, with due process, to be dangerous to themselves or others."**

Notice that the only right protected is the right to keep and bear arms for self-defense or recreational purposes. And it is only those arms ordinarily used for those purposes that are protected. Any arms deemed not in ordinary use for self-defense or recreation are not protected. But protection of the right to bear self-defense and recreational arms was not the primary reason for the Second Amendment. The Second Amendment is for the purpose of giving the people the ability to resist a tyrannical government that would seek to infringe on their God-given rights to life, liberty, and property. The Second Amendment is the enforcement provision in the Constitution. The people must have the right to resist tyranny. That is why it says that "[a] well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State. The militia is not necessary for the security of a tyrannical state; it is necessary to ensure the security of a "free" state.

George was not finished stripping the people of their right to resist tyranny. He then adds a limitation on the right to self-defense by saying that the right to bear arms for that purpose is subject to the general regulatory authority of the state and federal governments. He enumerates that the state and federal governments "may enact and enforce reasonable regulations on the bearing of arms, and the keeping of arms by persons determined, with due process, to be dangerous to themselves or others." That language is sufficient to seize virtually all weapons from the people. The vaccine mandates should wake people up to what the federal and state governments think of due process protections.

The **Tenth Amendment** currently provides:

**"The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."**

What that means is that the federal government is a government of specifically enumerated powers. All powers not specifically granted in the Constitution are reserved to the states and to the people. **George eviscerates that limitation by deleting the Tenth Amendment from his “Conservative Constitution.”** That opens up the Constitution to be interpreted to allow for certain implied powers of the federal government.

Once the troubling “Conservative Constitution” coauthored by Robert George came to light, the Convention of States (COS) movement knew it had a problem and tried to distance itself from George’s oppressive political ideas. The COS said that “[t]he project [out of which sprung George’s Conservative Constitution] had nothing to do with Article V or Convention of States. The proposed [Conservative Constitution and other] documents were simply an exercise in theory, and certainly not anyone’s proposal to substitute our Constitution for any of their drafts.”<sup>3</sup>

If you believe that, I have some land in Florida in which you might be interested. The COS failed to address the specifics of George’s “Conservative Constitution” and how someone who thinks like George could be trusted spearheading a movement to amend the Constitution. Knowing how a COS founding member of the “Legal Board of Reference” feels about our God-given rights provides insight into the COS movement’s true motives. After all, the “Legal Board of Reference” is a select group of 11 people who will guide the COS procedures and recommended changes.

## **Socialists Support Convention of States**

A far left-wing organization called “Move to Amend”<sup>4</sup> has the objective of creating a “real democracy ... through amending the United States Constitution”

Check out the radical left-wing organizations in “Move to Amend” that are working alongside “conservatives” in the convention of states movement to amend the U.S. Constitution.

You will see such left-wing liberal organizations in “Move to Amend” working toward amending the Constitution as Move On, National Lawyers Guild, New Progressive Alliance, Americans for Democratic Action, Wolf Pac, and the American Humanist Association.

Indeed, **Wolf Pac**<sup>5</sup> was founded by left-wing radical **Cenk Uygur**, who is the leader of the **Young Turks**.<sup>6</sup> Wolf Pac is pushing hard for an Article 5 convention of the states toward the end of radically changing the U.S. Constitution.<sup>7</sup>

How can conservative and socialist groups find common ground in amending the U.S. Constitution? The conservative groups are simply useful idiots being used by clever sociopaths.

“Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” Amos 3:3.

## Endnotes

1. David P Schneider, Robert George Facts, February 12, 2022, <https://conventionofstates.com/news/robert-george-facts>.
2. Robert P. George, et al., The Conservative Constitution, <https://constitutioncenter.org/news-debate/special-projects/constitution-drafting-project/the-conservative-constitution> (last visited on August 27, 2022).
3. David P Schneider, Robert George Facts, February 12, 2022, <https://conventionofstates.com/news/robert-george-facts>.
4. Move to Amend, <https://www.movetoamend.org/organizations?page=1> (last visited on August 27, 2022).
5. Wolf Pac, <https://wolf-pac.com/> (last visited on August 27, 2022).
6. The Young Turks, <https://tyt.com/> (last visited on August 27, 2022).
7. 505 Level Training, Wolf Pac, <https://wolf-pac.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Wolf-PAC-505.pdf> (last visited on August 27, 2022).