

Recommendations for Protecting the Integrity of an Article V Convention

The purpose of an Article V Convention is for the States to propose amendments to the United States Constitution. Co-equal, sovereign Several States alone have the duty and the responsibility to conduct the Convention in an ethical and transparent manner and to protect the credibility and integrity of the Convention.

To fulfill this obligation, only duly authorized and credentialed individuals should be engaged in the Convention process. It is recognized that many individuals and organizations have championed or opposed this cause up to this point. However, once the Convention delegates have gathered, the duty lies exclusively with the States alone.

There will be a tendency for outside groups, special interests, and individuals to attempt to influence the process and participants of the Convention. To help prevent this from happening, we recommend the following:

1. Non-delegates should not be permitted on the Chamber Floor, Members' Lounge, etc., and should only be permitted in public areas.
2. Any interaction of Convention leadership and staff with non-delegate individuals or organizations that pertains to Convention business or process should be strictly prohibited, with the exception of the press.
3. Convention communications should only include official activities.
4. States should consider extending their ethics restrictions (i.e. lobbying, food, gifts, etc.) to delegates serving within a convention, in addition to any ethics standards imposed by Convention rules.

These recommendations are humbly and respectfully submitted for the consideration of future conventions.