



**CONVENTION OF STATES ARTICLE V APPLICATION  
VS. BBA APPLICATION**

The Tennessee General Assembly passed SJR0067 on February 4, 2016, calling for an Article V Convention of States to impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for its officials and Congressional members, an application crafted by the Convention of States Project. The General Assembly previously passed a 2014 resolution calling for an Article V Convention limited to a balanced budget amendment (BBA). In 2017, resolutions have been introduced for a “planning convention” to prepare for a BBA convention because some believe more states have passed BBA resolutions and such a convention is closer to occurring. The COS and BBA resolutions are very different. The BBA is flawed.

1. Over a 40-year period, more than 20 states adopted (and some rescinded) BBA applications containing considerable language variations, thus requiring Congress to make a political interpretation as to whether the applications should be aggregated to achieve the 34 states required to call a convention. Regardless of the vote, litigation will result, adding years to the process of calling a BBA convention. Our country cannot wait to see what happens with the BBA as critical issues cannot be delayed until 2021 or later.

COS applications are identical. Since 2014, eight states have passed and applications are pending in 36 state legislatures in 2017. A convention is likely by 2018 or 2019.

2. The issues our country faces are too pressing to not consider other proposed amendments. Term limits for Congress and the courts, over-regulation, globalism, and expansion of Commerce and General Welfare clauses all can be addressed with the COS application. None can be addressed by the BBA application.
3. The BBA addresses federal debt. The COS application addresses debt and the root problem of excessive federal spending. States are coerced by Congress to accept federal mandates to obtain federal funding, precluding states from representing their voters. A limited federal government must be restored with states deciding their own futures.

I urge you as my legislator to understand the difference between the COS and BBA applications, and to plan for an Article V Convention based upon the COS application embodied in SJR0067. Do not limit what the states can do together as this may be the only chance in our lifetimes to successfully call for an Article V Convention based on identical applications across the U.S.