It’s A Convention of the People, Not the States

One urban myth spread primarily by the political group “Convention of the States” or COS is an Article V Convention is a “Convention of the States.” This means the convention is controlled by the state legislatures who determine convention agenda and choose who represents them at the convention.

According to COS the people have no place in the convention process. This means the people cannot vote to decide what changes are made to their Constitution or who represents them at a convention. COS lies.

As clearly shown by the public record, the 1787 Convention intended conventions represent the people not the state legislatures. The amendments convention was put in Article V because George Mason objected to the fact “the people cannot make alterations” to it—not the state legislatures. The motion of Elbridge Gerry and Gouverneur Morris which followed Mason’s comments clearly allowed for application by the states for a convention call—not for control of the convention. All conventions in the Constitution are elective, representative of the people not the state legislatures.

The Supreme Court has ruled conventions are “deliberative assemblages representative of the people, which it was assumed would voice the will of the people.” For further details click here, here and here. To read Mason’s comments and the Gerry/Morris motion click image below to enlarge.