



Written by [Paul Dragu](#) on May 8, 2023

John Birch Society Leads Con-Con Victory in Iowa, Notching Number 13 This Year

The John Birch Society's success in guarding the U.S. Constitution from being opened and gutted through an Article V Convention is another reminder that truth is its own currency.

With the help of other constitutionally aligned ally groups and individuals, JBS members have quashed 13 well-funded constitutional convention (Con-Con) application attempts — just this year. Number 13 came about May 4 in anticlimactic fashion. Convention of States' (COS) bid to convince Iowa state legislators to apply for a Con-Con officially bit the dust after lawmakers simply decided not to bring the Con-Con resolution for a vote, just before wrapping up the 2023 legislative session.



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A lot of work went into the victory in Iowa. Radio host and local influencer [Tamara Scott](#) brought a number of JBS Con-Con experts on her daily show. JBS members — Birchers — shared with Iowa legislators interviews of lawmakers who've witnessed COS' fraudulent and dirty tactics. Birchers also showed up at the Capitol to pass out information about the dangers of a Con-Con. And, of course, constitutionalists called, emailed, and even talked to lawmakers in person about why it was important to vote "no" to a convention application.

The Con-Con battle had been raging in the Hawkeye State since the bell rang the latest session open. COS saturated the local airwaves with pro Con-Con propaganda; they hosted town hall meetings in which they took few, if any, questions; they trotted out former presidential candidate Rick Santorum in a lackluster attempt to create influence; and they stooped to lower lows as they ratcheted up their character assassination of JBS representatives and other Con-Con opponents.

The JBS has conducted multiple interviews with state legislators who attest to COS's dirty and seemingly fraudulent tactics. A number of legislators said they received phony petitions from constituents supposedly asking them to support a Con-Con. Others have said they were turned off by COS's character-assassination strategy, suspecting it the work of an outfit without solid arguments.

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In addition to Iowa, the other state legislatures that have rejected a Con-Con this year are those of



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Arizona, Georgia, Kansas, Maryland, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, South Dakota, Utah, Virginia, Washington, and Wyoming.

Montana, South Dakota, Wyoming, Georgia, Arizona, Virginia, New Mexico, Washington, and Utah. Despite COS president Mark Meckler's oft-repeated fairy tale, the obstacle to a convention is not so much leftist groups as it is Americans who know that opening up the Constitution in today's climate is a dangerous idea. This is why longtime public Con-Con supporter and popular talk show host Glenn Beck [withdrew his Con-Con support](#) back in September.

The JBS opposes a Con-Con because it would ultimately destroy the U.S. Constitution by providing a legitimate way for those looking to destroy this nation to completely re-write it. Furthermore, and probably most importantly, between nullification and elections, Americans *already have* the legal and civil measures needed to restore the nation. And legislators have agreed. They agree that there is nothing wrong with the Constitution — it just needs to be followed, and voters need to know it so we can hold legislators accountable.

The push to destroy the Constitution via a convention has been going on for decades. In 1983, we were just two states removed from the 34 needed to call a convention. But then Birchers and allies went to work, and from 1988 to 2010, 16 states rescinded their Con-Con applications, including those for a balanced budget amendment.

In 2013, Meckler co-founded COS with the sole mission of triggering an Article V Convention. And despite a very lopsided loss-win ratio over the last ten years, COS has had *some* success, including in Wisconsin and Nebraska more than a year ago.

Meckler claims COS is a grassroots movement, but the organization's finance filings tell a different story. [Public 990 forms show](#) that COS received \$26.7 million between 2018 and 2020 from undisclosed financiers. A majority of their money, more than 60 percent, came from 168 unique people with an average contribution of \$99,708.

Today there are 19 states that have applied for a Con-Con, and 27 for a balanced-budget amendment, also a Con-Con. The next step in the battle is to start mounting more rescissions.

If you'd like to learn more about the dangers of a Con-Con, check out JBS's Stop a Con-Con page [here](#). And if you'd like to join The John Birch Society in our mission to restore America, you can apply for membership [here](#).



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