



Written by [William S. Hahn](#) on June 17, 2022

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If Not a Convention, What?

The battle to save the American Republic, and consequently the God-given rights of its citizens, has always included well-meaning patriots who introduce “new” ideas. Unfortunately, these are usually found to be new variations of old ideas that will never be effective and end up sowing frustration and disappointment among patriots, who then bow out of the fight. At The John Birch Society, we classify these ideas as “tangents.”



These ideas tend to be ineffective for a number of reasons. Mostly, they are short-term band-aids that don't take into consideration the entire scope of the battle. Think of it this way: While we're battling the enemy on one front, he can win the war on other fronts that were never considered. Plus, some of these ideas carry a certain amount of risk and could make things much worse. Enter the idea of a Constitutional Convention.

In 1967, staff from our West Coast Regional Office addressed the issue of holding a Constitutional Convention to correct the 16th and 17th Amendments. In a letter to a member, staff wrote, “But with conditions as they are today, do you believe that a Constitutional Convention — even if it could be organized — would produce the desired corrections? Frankly, we don't.... What good will a Constitutional Convention do if this conspiracy is not stopped?”

An excellent question. Unfortunately, it's not one that gets answered by proponents. Their leaders deny any conspiracy exists, labeling their opposition as kooks, crazy, and fringe, but they have no qualms about mentioning a Deep State that needs to be overcome.

The enemy has proven that it wants to make changes to the Constitution — drafts have circulated for years. Once it's changed, possibly even including the ratification procedure or altering the Bill of Rights, what recourse do citizens have? A gentleman sitting on an advisory board for Convention of States has already prepared drafts for a new Second Amendment. Yet, COS claims the Second Amendment is in no danger at a convention.

Anyone being honest will have to admit the conditions of the country have certainly not improved since 1967 to make it safer to hold a convention. If we're not able to hold secure elections, then how can we hold a secure convention, free from the techniques and wiles of radical leftists and scheming globalists?

So, proponents will ask, “If not a convention, what?”

Those leading the charge for a convention will tell you that doing nothing is not an option, and we wholeheartedly agree! Patriotism is not a spectator sport. The Founding Fathers devised the American system of government with your participation in mind. Without your participation, government at all levels will eventually work outside of its limitations, leading to more unconstitutional control over the population. For example, does the federal government exert more control over the people now than it did a mere 10 years, five years, or even two years ago?



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An active electorate acts as a check on the balance of powers, including, but definitely not limited to, voting. The elected bodies of government are a direct reflection of the electorate. A vigilant electorate should be countering any overreaches of government by interposing with nullification. For example, state legislatures should nullify any unconstitutional act from the federal government, as suggested by Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison.

Another check is We the People. Recall it's We the People who hold the governing powers and who have delegated some of these powers through the states to the federal government.

To do all of this, Americans need to be informed of their responsibilities of where and when they need to act. Unfortunately, this isn't taught in most schools. Learning the basics of how our Republic functions has now given way to hearing lectures on how to preserve our "democracy." (In case you're not aware, there is a huge difference between the two systems; see our *Overview of America* video to learn more.) The success of the Republic hinges on an informed electorate willing to act.

Thomas Jefferson suggested, "I know no safe depository of the ultimate powers of the society but the people themselves; and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is ... to inform their discretion by education. This is the true corrective of abuses of constitutional power."

Members of The John Birch Society work toward building educated electorates in their local communities, and have been doing so since 1958. We do this through coordinated planning and local action. Care to learn more and get involved? Visit [JBS.org](#).



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