

# Wisconsin Becomes the 28th State to Call for an Article V Balanced Budget Amendment Convention

**Madison, Wisconsin** – By a vote of 19 to 14, the Wisconsin Senate adopted AJR-21 on November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017, following action by the Wisconsin Assembly which approved the resolution 53 – 41 on June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017. With its passage, Wisconsin joins with 27 other states that have called for a convention of states strictly limited to the proposal of a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

In its Fifth Article, the U.S. Constitution contains two methods for proposing necessary amendments. A two-thirds vote in both houses of Congress may advance an amendment, or, on the application of two-thirds of the states (34), a convention for proposing amendments may be convened. Whether proposed by Congress or by a state-led convention, any proposed amendment must be ratified by three-fourths of the states.

The Congressional path to amending the Constitution has been successfully followed twenty-seven times throughout American history, but the high threshold of consensus required has kept the state-initiated proposal process in mothballs. However, with the national debt now exceeding \$20 trillion and no restraint in sight, state leaders across the nation are uniting to use their constitutional authority to propose an amendment to rein-in federal debt.

In a polarized debate on the Senate floor, Tuesday, Wisconsin Senators David Craig and Chris Kapenga spoke for the majority about the devastating consequences of continued unsustainable patterns of deficit spending and national debt. Kapenga also referenced the broad public support for a balanced budget amendment. "People understand you can't run your household at a deficit forever," he said.



Author and national lobbyist for the BBA Task Force, Loren J. Enns, commented on the victory by observing, "The passage of AJR-21 in the Wisconsin Senate constitutes a banner day for the balanced budget amendment campaign. Not only did we attain the 28th state to call for a balanced budget amendment convention, we did so in the backyard of our greatest opponent, the John Birch Society. If they cannot stop us on their own turf, that bodes well for our chances in the remaining states." The John Birch Society is located in Appleton, Wisconsin.

Tim Dake, of the Wisconsin Grandsons of Liberty, stated, "This particular Article V convention resolution is more than four years in the making. It is the first Article V resolution to be passed by the Wisconsin Legislature since 1963. It is extremely gratifying that our Wisconsin state legislature has recognized the fiscal irresponsibility of the federal government and has done their part to save our nation from imminent economic ruin. I strongly commend those state legislators who voted in favor of the resolution for their leadership and their fortitude."

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