

## **WEST VIRGINIA CITIZEN'S PETITION FOR 'REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES' & OFFICIAL CALL UNDER THE AUTHORITY RESERVED TO THE STATES IN ARTICLE V & IV, OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION**

The states alone determine the purpose, agenda and terms of a Federal Convention, not Congress. Even the Convention itself does not have final authority to control the deliberations at the Convention. When the Calling States enter into a binding contract through their Legislative Calls on Congress, the parameters of the deliberations at the Convention are predetermined. This Constitutional authority, which rests in State Legislatures and given to the States by our Founders, is the States most powerful vehicle for *RECLAIMING AMERICA through "SINGLE ISSUE" Federal Conventions*. The States are, in fact, the final arbitrator of selected Constitutional issues.

AS of August 2010 the national debt is \$14.3 trillion, with unfunded liabilities exceeding \$60 trillion. **THIS IS MORALLY UNCONSCIONABLE AND FISCALLY INSANE**. There can be only one end to this train wreck and that is the destruction of our American freedoms because we have become a debtor nation. For the sake of our Constitution, States Rights, national security, personal liberties and posterity, we must reverse these spending practices that may satisfy our immediate appetites, but leave future generations with an indebtedness they will find impossible to pay. This Redress Petition is to both Houses of the West Virginia State Legislature, directing the West Virginia State Legislature to make a Call on both houses of the United States Congress directing Congress to convene "Single Issue" Balanced Federal Budget Convention. The purpose of this Legislative Call is for the Delegates at the Convention to decide if the Balanced Federal Budget Amendment should be sent back to the Several States for ratification. The official 13 page *Legislative Call* that defines the terms, conditions and agenda at the "Single Issue" Convention for the State of West Virginia can be downloaded on the internet from the following address:

[http://CitizenInitiatives.org/Balanced\\_Budget\\_Calls/West\\_Virginia\\_Call\\_Balanced\\_Budget.doc](http://CitizenInitiatives.org/Balanced_Budget_Calls/West_Virginia_Call_Balanced_Budget.doc)

The full text of the proposed Amendment that is written in West Virginia's Legislative Call reads as follows:

**BALANCED FEDERAL BUDGET AMENDMENT - ARTICLE 28** (or alternate number to be assigned by Congress)

**Section 1.** It is the right of citizens to enjoy a fiscally sound and debt free federal government which is foundational to a free people and must not be violated by the State.

**Section 2.** It is hereby mandated that the United States Congress will conduct the fiscal affairs of the United States Government according to the requirements of this Article.

**Section 3.** A Balanced Federal Budget consists of accurately assigning the sum of all federal receipts (which includes all tax revenues and all other sources of government income) to pay for all Federal expenditures within a given year and with the mandate not to allow expenditures to exceed revenue and income. The following exceptions apply:

1. In time of war or national emergency the United States Congress can authorize expenditures to exceed income and revenue as is required to protect the interests and security of the United States and its citizens. However, the United States Congress is required to amortize the repayment of any debt incurred over a maximum of ten years from the end of the war or national emergency. The United States Congress is prohibited from excluding the repayment of the debt beyond ten years which includes the repayment of monies borrowed and any interest that may have accrued in order to service said debt. Congress can repay the debt, in full, in less than ten years, but must pay no less than 1/10th of the original amount owed by the Government, including interest, in each remaining year of the ten year term, unless the balance is less than 1/10th of the original amount.

2. The United States Congress is authorized to allow expenditures to exceed revenues and income when in the collective wisdom of two thirds of the members of both Houses of the United States Congress it is necessary to do so. However, the United States Congress is required to amortize the repayment of any debt incurred over a maximum of five years from the date said debt was authorized by Congress. The United States Congress is prohibited from extending the repayment of said debt beyond five years which includes the repayment of monies borrowed and any interest that may have accrued in order to service said debt. Congress can repay the debt, in full, in less than five years, but must pay no less than 1/5th of the original amount owed by the Government, including interest, in each remaining year of the five year term, unless the balance is less than 1/5th of the original amount.

**Section 4.** The United States Congress is prohibited from taking any debt that may remain from previous year deficits and include it/them as part of a new deficit expenditure in current or future years.

**Section 5.** It is further prohibited for the United States Congress to extend the repayment of any and all debt incurred beyond the time lines required in this Article.

**Section 6.** All current debt owed by the United State Government at the time this Article is ratified, including accrued interest to service said debt, must be repaid by the United States Congress within 20 years from the date this Article is ratified by the several States. Congress can repay the current debt, in full in less than twenty years, but must pay no less than 1/20th of the original amount owed by the Government, including interest, in each remaining year of the 20 year term, unless the balance is less than 1/20th of the original amount.

**Section 7.** To secure the rights of citizens to enjoy a fiscally sound and debt free federal government, which is foundational to a free people, it is hereby prohibited for the United States Congress to allow federal expenditures to exceed federal revenue and income, in any given year, as mandated by the requirements and allowances of this Article.

**Section 8.** This Article shall be immediately enforceable upon both Houses of the United States Congress when ratified by three quarters of the several States.

The West Virginia State Constitution and AMENDMENT I of the U.S. Constitution guarantee the right of citizens to petition their government when an egregious wrong suffered by the people is ignored by the U.S. Courts and the U.S. Congress. Article V of the U.S. Constitution empowers the people to amend the Constitution through State Legislatures and the Convention process. The West Virginia State Legislature is hereby instructed to complete the Balanced Federal Budget Convention *Legislative Call* and to send it to both Houses of the U.S. Congress directing Congress to convene a "Single Issue" Balanced Federal Budget Convention as defined in the *Legislative Call*. If the U.S. Congress voluntarily sends the Balanced Federal Budget Amendment to the Several States for ratification (without changes to the Amendment as written in the *Legislative Call*), then the State of West Virginia will rescind its Call for the Balanced Federal Budget Convention. I hereby place my signature to this "Redress Petition" directing the Legislators of the State of West Virginia to complete and to send the "Single Issue" Balanced Federal Budget Convention *Legislative Call* to both Houses of the United States Congress: