

The ASSEMBLY of STATE LEGISLATURES

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The Assembly of State Legislatures Completes Work on Rules Package for Article V Constitutional Amendment Convention

*State Lawmakers from Across the Country Sign Historic
Resolution at Independence Hall in Philadelphia*

PHILADELPHIA (June 17, 2016) – The Assembly of State Legislatures (ASL) this week completed a multi-year effort to establish the procedural rules needed to hold a state-led convention for proposing amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

More than 60 state legislators representing 30 states attended this week's meeting, which culminated in the historic signing of a resolution in support of the rules package at Independence Hall in Philadelphia.

State Sen. Chris Kapenga (R-WI) and State Sen. Jason Holsman (D-MO), ASL Co-Presidents, made the following joint statement upon signing the resolution:

“When the authors of our Constitution met in this very same place nearly 230 years ago, they had the wise foresight to know that the states would need a constitutional tool to hold the federal government accountable. The important bipartisan work done by the Assembly of State Legislatures will help states use that tool by laying the groundwork for a state-led Constitutional amendment convention. This is an historic day in the life of our Constitutional Republic.”

Meeting at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia over two days, the participating state lawmakers debated, amended and voted to approve a draft that addresses all facets of the rules needed to hold a state-led convention for proposing amendments to the U.S. Constitution, should one be called by the states in the future.

Once available, the approved rules resulting from this week's ASL meeting, as well as the resolution signed by participating lawmakers in support of the rules package, will be posted at www.theasl.org.

Background

Article V of the U.S. Constitution authorizes states to call a convention for proposing amendments to the Constitution; however no such convention has ever been held in the history of the country. The Assembly of State Legislatures, comprised of currently serving state lawmakers of both political parties from across the country, has been working for more than two years to establish the rules of procedure needed to hold a state-led amendment convention should one be called by the states in the future.

The Assembly of State Legislatures is not considering or endorsing any specific constitutional amendments. Rather, it is solely focused on establishing the rules needed to hold a potential state-led amendment convention in the future.

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