

Two Methods for Amending the Constitution

Constitutional Convention

A Constitutional Convention must be called by two-thirds of the legislatures of the states to propose one or more amendments (Article 5). These amendments are then sent to the states to be approved by three-fourths of the legislatures or conventions. This method of amending the Constitution has never been used because, among other reasons, no one knows how delegates would be chosen. Every kook and nut in the country would be trying to get in. Real damage could be done to our present Constitution.

Ratification Convention

Citizens for Term Limits proposes ratification conventions, state-by-state. This is to fulfill the required three-fourths of the states needed to ratify the amendment after it gets through Congress. The Constitution allows for ratification by state legislatures or state ratification conventions. We believe the latter is preferable.

One benefit of this method for amending is that we can concentrate on the smallest 38 states (e.g., Montana, Maine, and Rhode Island), who will count just as much as the largest states, but take far less time to deal with. Remember: popular support for a term-limited Congress is already extremely high.

Citizens for Term Limits has a growing database across the country, which will enable us to organize the ratification conventions with our own supporters organizing them.

Step 1

Popular opinion rises for an amendment, so Congress proposes an amendment to the states (two-thirds majority).

Step 2

State conventions are held according to the constitution of each state. Citizens for Term Limits would help organize delegates for these conventions.

Step 3

In the end, the yay or nay votes of 38 of the states are what allow an amendment to pass or be rejected.