

Balanced Budget Amendment & Constitutional Convention Are Dangerous Propositions

Written by League Women Voters WI, Andrea Kaminski

Thursday, 23 March 2017 16:00 - Last Updated Friday, 24 March 2017 09:53



Many are concerned about rising federal debt levels, but amending U.S. Constitution is the wrong way to deal with it say the non-partisan League of Women Voters of Wisconsin.

MADISON – The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin opposes any proposal seeking to convene a Constitutional Convention for the purpose of adding a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution. We respect people’s concerns about rising federal debt levels, but amending U.S. Constitution is the wrong way to deal with that problem. Moreover, a Constitutional amendments convention is a particularly dangerous path to take.



Yet a joint committee of the Wisconsin legislature next week will consider legislation calling for such a convention, and the proposal could be on the fast track.

A Constitutional amendments (Article V) convention could go in many different directions, regardless of the efforts of Wisconsin lawmakers to restrict the role of our own state’s delegates. It would put at risk every citizen right that is currently protected in the Constitution.

Furthermore, inserting a balanced budget requirement into the Constitution could have drastic economic consequences. It would put the federal government in a position where it could not respond to an economic recession or a national disaster or emergency without increasing tax revenue. In an emergency, our nation would have to raise taxes just to meet the needs of its citizens.

“Congress would have to agree on a tax increase, just at a time when fewer people might be working because of a disaster or recession. That’s when a tax increase would hurt the most! This is no way for the United States of America to be prepared for emergencies,” said Andrea Kaminski, executive director of the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin.

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Calling for a Constitutional Convention to pass a balanced federal budget is a reckless proposal, and it should be rejected.

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The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin is a nonpartisan organization that advocates for informed and active participation in government. The League welcomes women and men across the state as members. The League never endorses any political party or candidate, but it does take positions on key policy issues. There are 18 local Leagues in Wisconsin. Follow @LWV_WI on Twitter.