

## **Compact for a Balanced Budget’s “Article V 2.0” Turn-Key Approach**

Using an agreement among the states called an “interstate compact,” the Compact for a Balanced Budget invokes Article V of the United States Constitution to advance a powerful Balanced Budget Amendment. An interstate compact provides the vehicle to advance constitutional amendments because it **transforms the otherwise cumbersome state-initiated amendment process under Article V into a “turn-key” operation.** The Compact empowers the states to agree **in advance** to all elements of the amendment process that states control under Article V in a **single enactment** that can be passed in a **single session**. The Compact does not require congressional consent to work, but such consent is achieved by simple majority passage of a resolution, which consolidates everything Congress must do in the Article V process in a **single enactment** and in a **single session**. Specifically, the Compact and the congressional resolution include:

- The text of the proposed amendment (specified in the Compact);
- The Article V application to Congress (specified in the Compact);
- An interstate commission that organizes the convention (specified in the Compact);
- The convention call (specified in the congressional resolution);
- All delegate appointments and instructions (specified in the Compact);
- The convention location and rules (specified in the Compact);
- An agenda limited to the consideration of the proposed amendment (specified in the Compact);
- The ratification referral (specified in the congressional resolution);
- The ultimate ratification of the proposed amendment (specified in the Compact).

In short, the Compact for a Balanced Budget consolidates everything Congress and the States do in the Article V process into just two overarching pieces of legislation—one congressional resolution and one interstate compact joined by thirty-eight states. It thereby dramatically **cuts the time and resources needed to achieve a state-originated constitutional amendment.** The Compact transforms the state-originated amendment process, which otherwise requires 100+ state and congressional enactments across five or more legislative sessions, into something that can get done in a single legislative session for each member state and Congress. The Compact is **like a ballot measure directed to state legislators, governors and Congress.**

The Compact’s “Article V 2.0” turn-key approach also eliminates any possibility of a “runaway convention.” It compels all member state delegates to follow convention rules that limit the convention agenda to an up or down vote on the amendment it proposes and to return home if those rules fail to hold. It prohibits member states from expanding the scope of the convention, violating the convention rules, or ratifying anything other than the contemplated amendment.

That’s why George Will says the “Compact for America” approach to advancing a federal Balanced Budget Amendment under Article V is “innovative” and “written precisely enough to preclude evasion.” And right after reports that the Georgia Assembly passed the Compact for a Balanced Budget, Judge Andrew Napolitano said: “To stop the insanity of an out-of-control federal government fueled by limitless debt spending, States must unite behind the Compact for a Balanced Budget.” The American People agree—according to McLaughlin & Associates, informed popular support for a compact to advance constitutional amendments exceeds opposition **by more than two to one.**