



## **Article V**

**The Founders Gave us a Solution: A Convention of States**

# Washington Won't Tie its Own Hands



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**GOLDWATER**  
I N S T I T U T E



# Bankruptcy is Here.

## What If a Typical Family Spent Money Like the Federal Government?

IN 2013 DOLLARS

The median family income in the U.S. is **\$52,000.**



If they spent money like the federal government, they'd spend **\$64,000** a year ...




... which would mean they'd put **\$12,000** on the credit card every year ...



... despite already being **\$312,000** in debt.



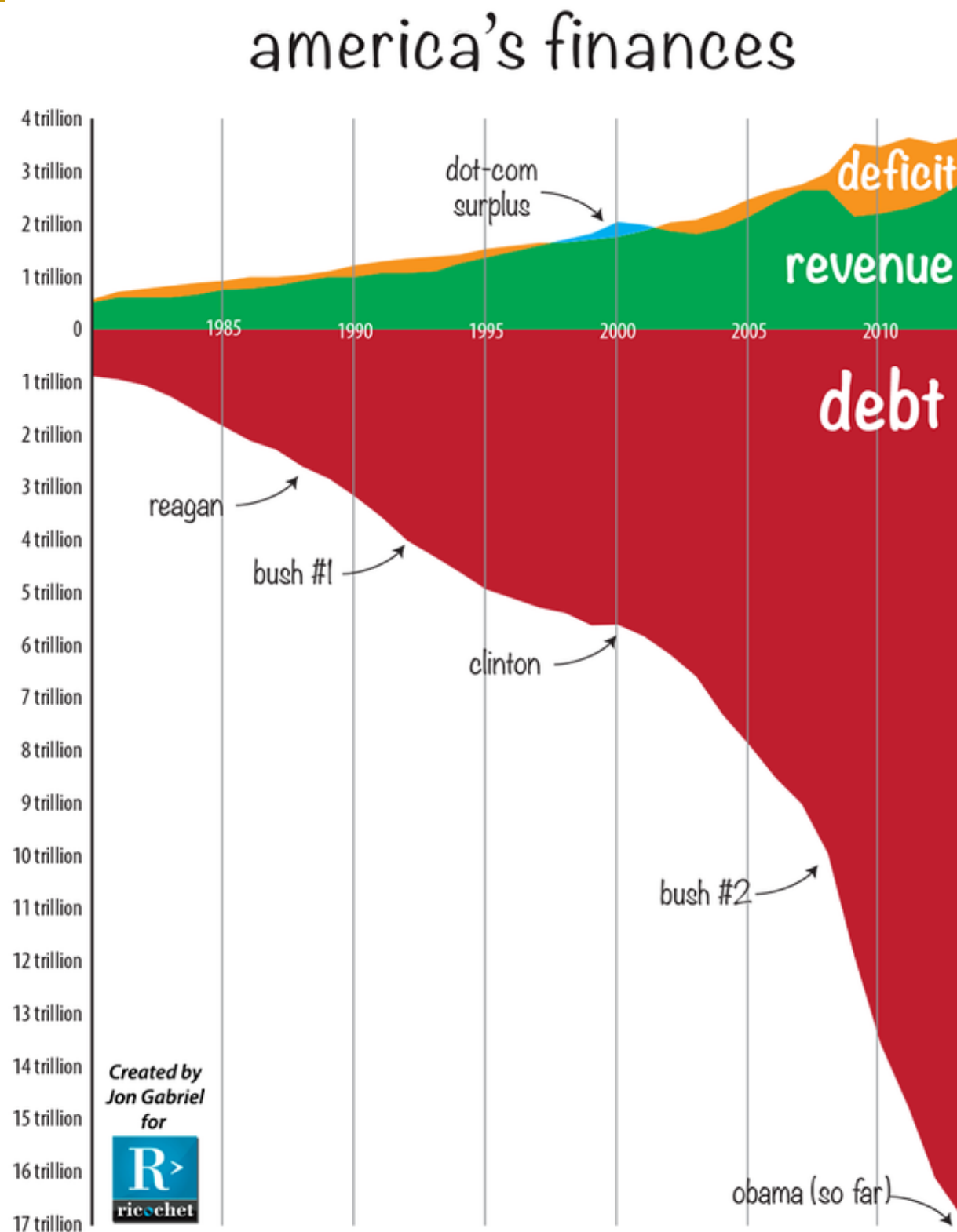
**Source:** Heritage Foundation calculations based on data from the Congressional Budget Office, *Updated Budget Projections: Fiscal Years 2013 to 2023*, May 2013, <http://www.cbo.gov/publication/44172> (accessed May 15, 2013).

Federal Spending by the Numbers 2013  [heritage.org](http://heritage.org)

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# This is Not Sustainable.



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The Congress, whenever two thirds of both houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to this Constitution, or, on the application of the legislatures of two thirds of the several states, shall call a convention for proposing amendments, which, in either case, shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of this Constitution, when ratified by the legislatures of three fourths of the several states, or by conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by the Congress; provided that no amendment which may be made prior to the year one thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any manner affect the first and fourth clauses in the ninth section of the first article; and that no state, without its consent, shall be deprived of its equal suffrage in the Senate.

**2/3 Trigger**

**3/4 Trigger**


**Applications**

Amendment  
Convention

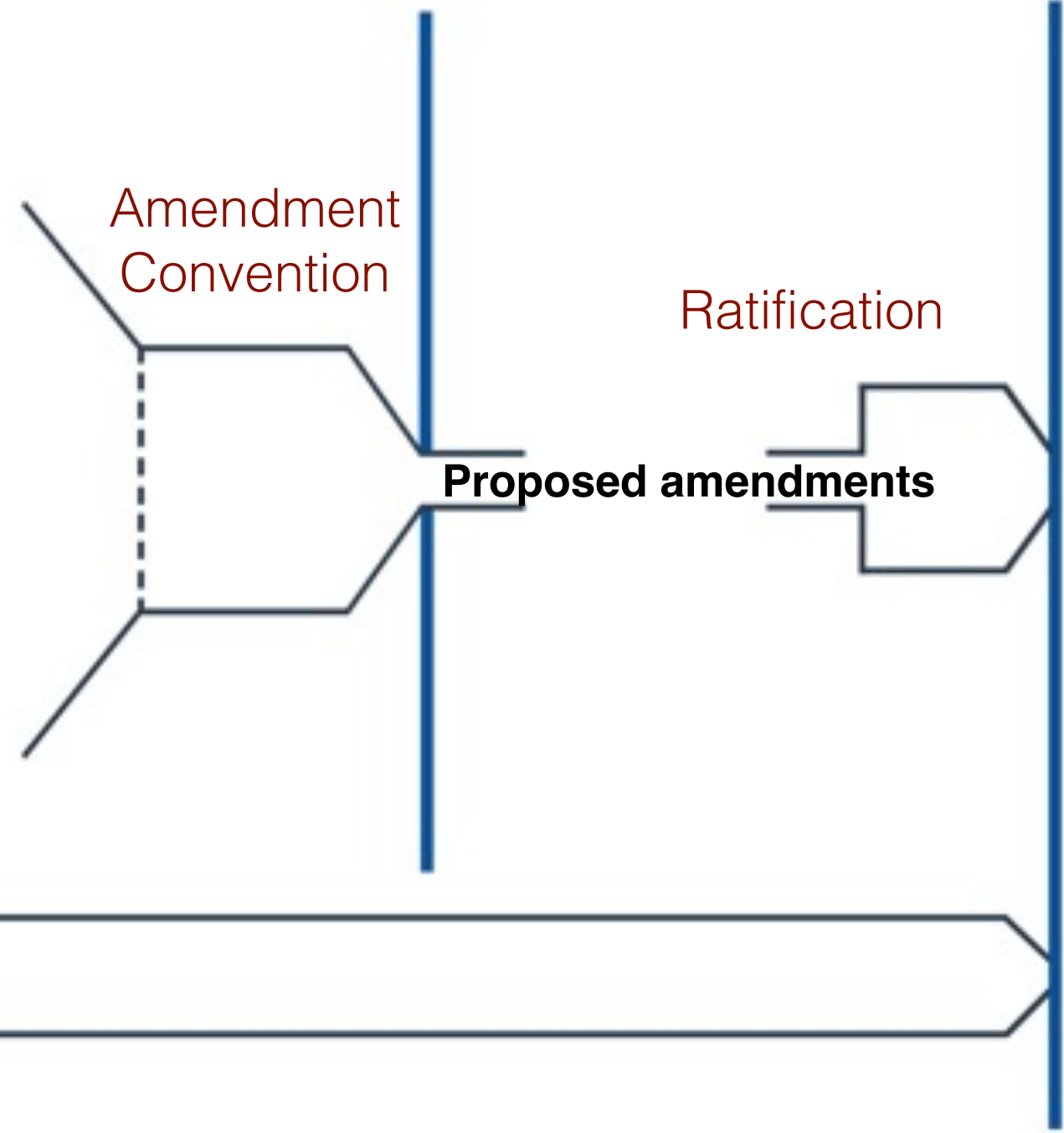
Ratification

Proposed amendments

**Interstate Compact**

Time: 

**2016?**



# 2/3 Trigger

# 3/4 Trigger

[ConventionofStates.com](#)

Mt. Vernon Assembly

[citizensinitiative.com](#)

[reaganproject.com](#)

[bba4usa.org](#)

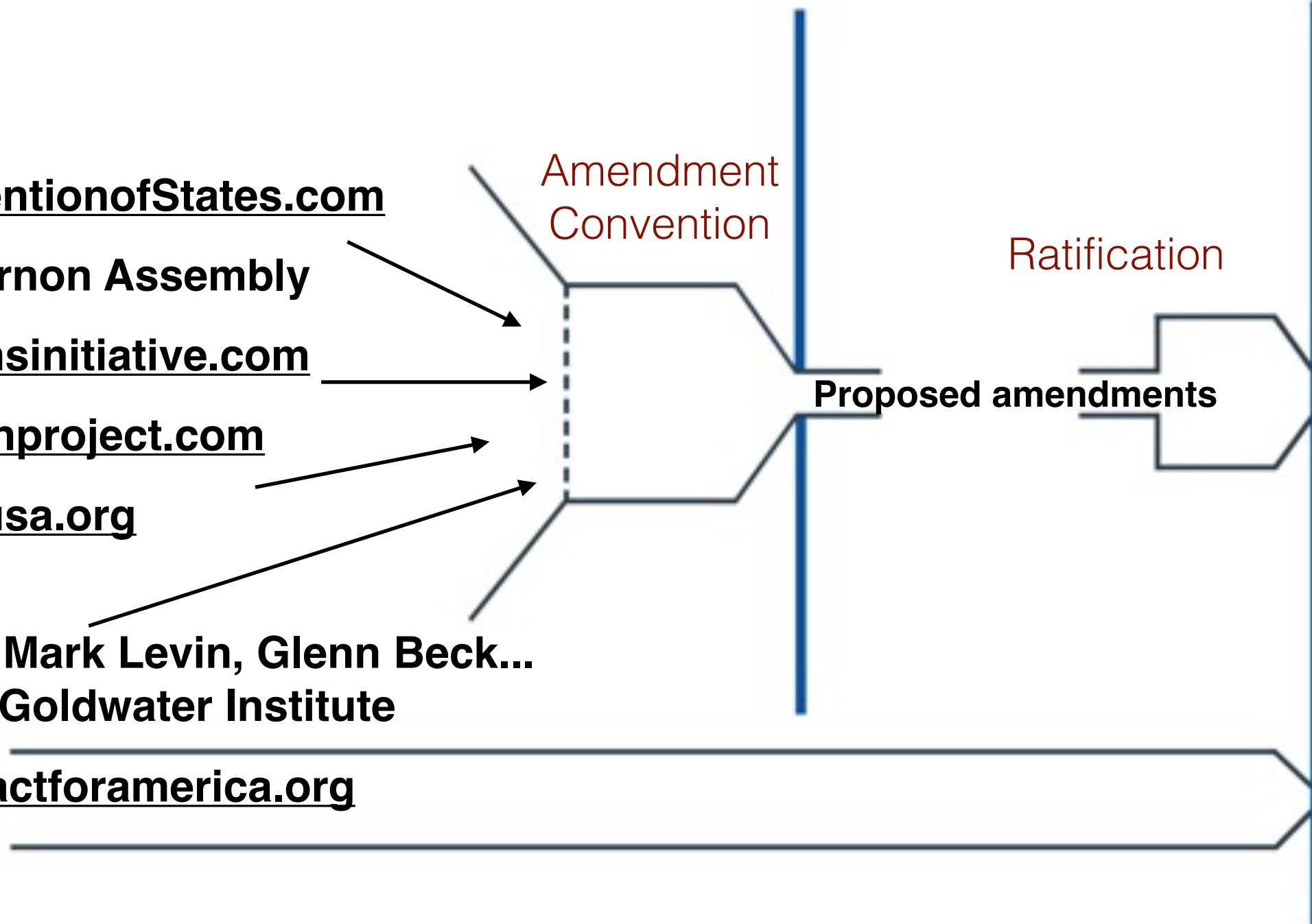
ALEC, Mark Levin, Glenn Beck...  
Goldwater Institute

[compactforamerica.org](#)

Amendment  
Convention

Ratification

Proposed amendments



# Authority granted in Article V:

## 2/3 Trigger

## 3/4 Trigger

A1-- 2/3 of each house of congress to "propose" amendments

A2: 2/3 of state legislatures power to make "application" for a convention for purpose of proposing amendments.

A3: of congress to "call" that convention

A4: of convention authority for "proposing amendments".

A5: of congress to decide whether ratification shall be by state legislators or state conventions.

Amendment Convention

Ratification

A6, A7, or A8

A2:

Proposed amendments

A4:

A5:

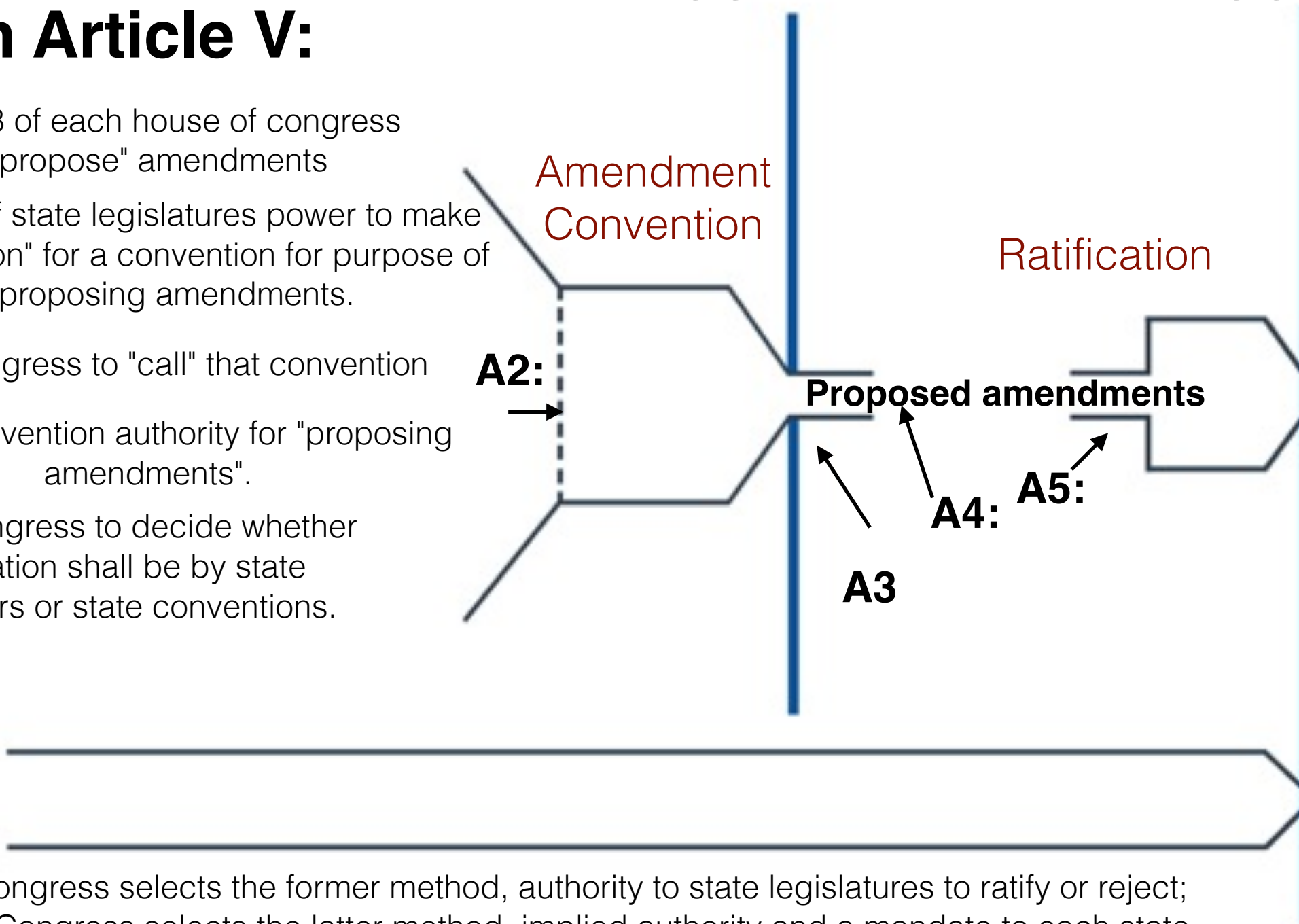
A3

A6: If Congress selects the former method, authority to state legislatures to ratify or reject;

A7: If Congress selects the latter method, implied authority and a mandate to each state legislature to call a ratifying convention;

A8: Authority to three fourths of those conventions to ratify; and

A9: Authority incidental to the foregoing, such as the authority of all Article V assemblies to establish their own rules, and the power of state





**2/3 Trigger**

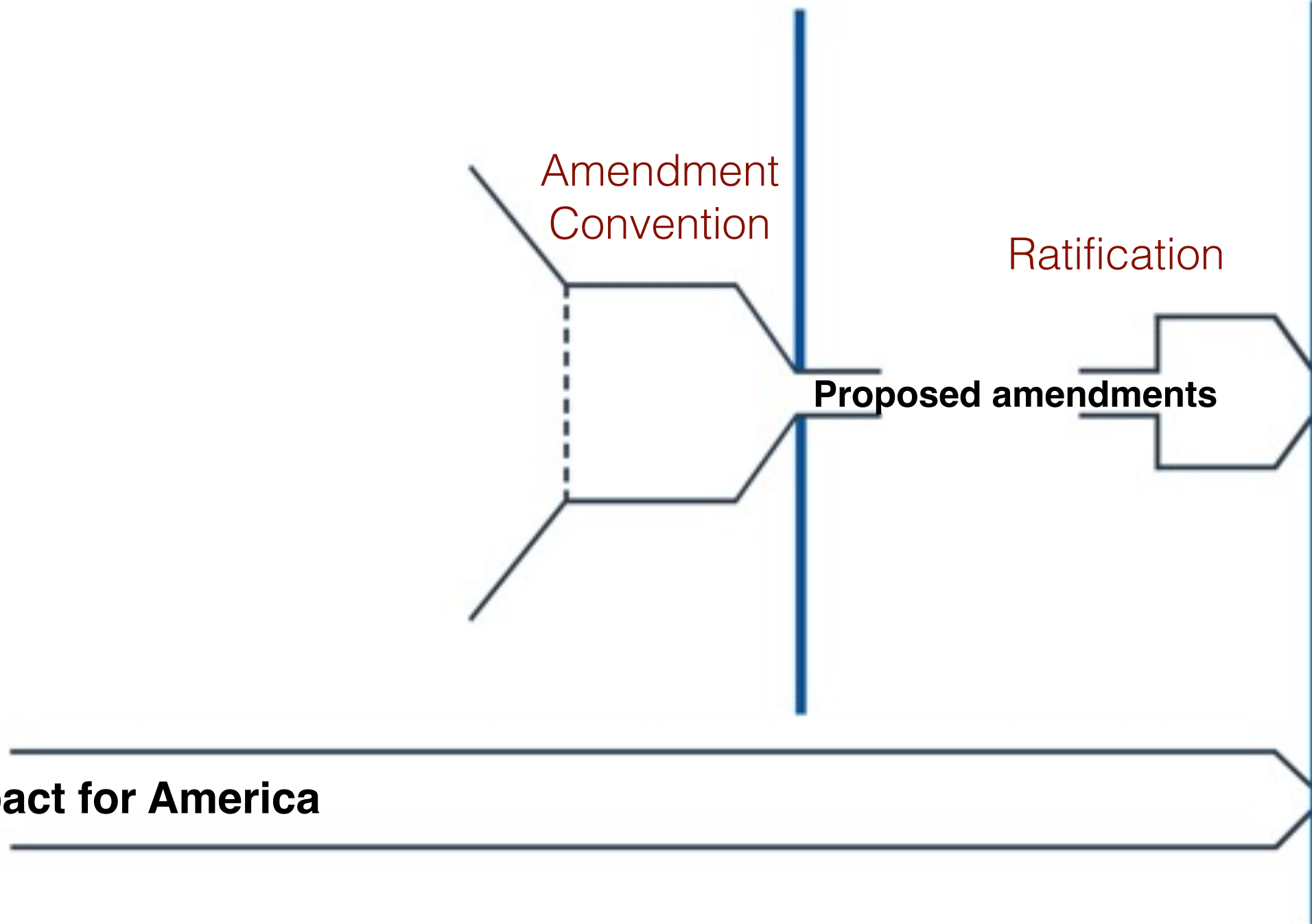
**3/4 Trigger**

Amendment  
Convention

Ratification

Proposed amendments

**Compact for America**



# Convention of States Timeline

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2013

August:  
COS Project  
Launches

September  
COS Begins  
Building  
Grassroots  
Network

December  
VA, SC, & FL  
Prefile COS  
Application

2013

2014

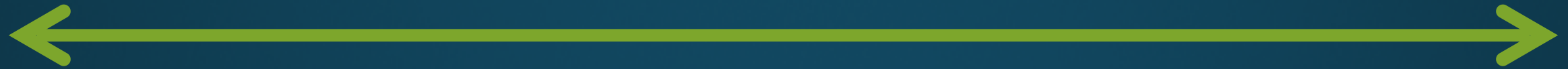
2015

2016

# Convention of States Timeline

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2014



## Today

20,000+ supporters  
5,500+ volunteers  
14 confirmed sponsors  
representing 11 states

## 2014 Goal

50,000+ supporters  
25,000+ volunteers  
10 states pass COS  
application



# Convention of States Timeline

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2015



2015 Goal

24 states pass COS  
application

End of Year

All Article V organizations  
get behind a single effort





# Convention of States Timeline

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2016 & Beyond



2016 Goal

Any remaining states pass COS Application

Convention is organized, held, and proposes amendments

& Beyond

Proposed amendments are ratified by 38 states and become part of the Constitution

