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**HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4005**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2025 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Fitzgibbon, Mena, Parshley, Chase, Duerr, and Ramel

Read first time 02/07/25. Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Relations.

1 TO THE HONORABLE DONALD J. TRUMP, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,  
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
4 THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE  
5 OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL REGISTRAR:

6 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of  
7 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled,  
8 respectfully represent and petition as follows:

9 WHEREAS, The Washington State Legislature has made applications  
10 to the United States Congress to call one or more conventions to  
11 propose amendments to the United States Constitution, pursuant to  
12 Article V thereof; and

13 WHEREAS, The legislature finds that:

14 (1) Since ratification, the United States Constitution has been  
15 amended only 27 times;

16 (2) Despite civil war, robust debate, political turmoil, shifting  
17 views, and uncountable political, economic, and societal problems and  
18 events, our nation has not had another constitutional convention  
19 since 1787;

20 (3) Article V of the United States Constitution provides a  
21 vehicle for amending the Constitution upon application by two thirds  
22 of the several states;

1 (4) Throughout its history, Washington has made several such  
2 applications;

3 (5) Scholars differ as to whether such applications ever expire,  
4 and whether, regardless of the scope set forth in the applications,  
5 any convention would be required to abide by such scope; and

6 (6) Wealthy interest groups could exploit decisions made by our  
7 ancestors to amend the Constitution and remove or alter our rights;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, The legislature declares that:

10 (1) Although historical records maintained by the State of  
11 Washington and the Library of Congress are incomplete and, in some  
12 instances, unclear as to the final disposition of legislation passed  
13 by the Washington State Legislature to initiate a call to Congress  
14 for a constitutional convention, it is reported that the Washington  
15 State Legislature has passed several such calls for a constitutional  
16 convention, including House Bill No. 90 (chapter 164, Laws of 1901),  
17 calling for a plenary convention application with no limitation on  
18 subject; House Bill No. 207 (chapter 61, Laws of 1903), calling for a  
19 plenary convention that specifically highlights the direct election  
20 of United States senators; Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 17  
21 (1909), calling for a limited convention to ban polygamy in the  
22 United States Constitution; Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 17  
23 (1911), calling for a limited convention to ban polygamy in the  
24 United States Constitution; and House Joint Memorial No. 1 (1963),  
25 calling for a limited convention to prohibit federal restraint of the  
26 state initiative power to redistrict and remove federal judicial  
27 oversight of redistricting; and

28 (2) It is unclear as a matter of constitutional law whether these  
29 calls ever expire, and current generations may now be bound by  
30 decisions made in a different time and culture; and

31 (3) The need to advance policy reforms through a constitutional  
32 convention should be debated anew, if necessary, and not bind future  
33 generations without any consideration;

34 NOW, THEREFORE, The Legislature of the State of Washington does  
35 hereby officially rescind, repeal, cancel, nullify, and supersede any  
36 and all prior applications by the legislature to the Congress of the  
37 United States to call a constitutional convention to propose  
38 amendments to the Constitution of the United States pursuant to the  
39 terms of Article V of the Constitution of the United States,  
40 regardless of when and regardless of whether such applications were

1 for a more limited convention to propose one or more amendments  
2 regarding one or more specific subjects and purposes or for a general  
3 convention to propose an unlimited number of amendments upon an  
4 unlimited number of subjects, whether or not the calls are confirmed  
5 by historical records maintained by the state or the Library of  
6 Congress.

7 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
8 transmitted to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United  
9 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the  
10 House of Representatives, each member of Congress from the State of  
11 Washington, and the Director of the Office of the Federal Registrar;  
12 and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That your Memorialists respectfully pray  
14 that this Joint Memorial be published in the Congressional Records  
15 and listed in the official tally of state legislative applications  
16 relating to calling for the United States Congress to call a  
17 convention to propose amendments to the United States Constitution,  
18 stating definitively that the state of Washington should not be  
19 included in that number until such time as a future legislature duly  
20 passes a new application.

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