

## The Breakfast Club

### Constitutional Minute for 12 September 2023

#### An Update

Sorry about the rather depressing, even morose conclusion in the last essay. If you've not caught on by now, I tend to be a "glass half empty" kind of person rather than the optimistic, "glass half full" sort. Maybe I should switch from Merlot to Champagne and ask my wife to redecorate the house in bright rainbow colors (now that I think of it, rainbows are out, even those have been ruined by the Left).

I've lately begun to realize that the journey I began after the 2008 election, one of immersing myself in a study of our founding history and particularly the path we took to the U.S. Constitution, had a downside. It showed me what the framers of the Constitution truly intended, and it gave me a idea of what America could be today if we had only adhered to the plan the they assembled in the summer of 1787. We have greatly strayed from that plan, not always purposefully and knowingly, but definitely.

Don't get me wrong, seventeenth and eighteenth century America was not "heaven on earth," but it was a far cry from the political turmoil and governmental overreach we find ourselves in today.

Our biggest challenge is spiritual, not governmental; but the two are so intertwined in many respects that it is hard sometimes to find the demarcation. In my lecture last night kicking off the Foundation for American Christian Education's (FACE's) Lessons in Liberty series, I showed a slide at the end depicting the precipitous decline in religious, primarily Christian faith in America. The chart only went back to 1994, but the history before then would show the same trend. I told my audience that we need to address this decline. Fixing our constitutional disorder will not bring lasting relief unless there is coincident spiritual renewal.

That said, I wanted to share some quick news for those supportive of an Article V Convention. There were three of us commissioners in the Virginia delegation at the recent simulated convention at Williamsburg. Delegate Karen Greenhalgh, an ardent COS supporter, was scheduled to join us, but last minute Virginia Assembly business got in the way. The other two delegates were employees of [Heritage Foundation](#) who live in northern Virginia: Mr. Steve Bradbury, Distinguished Fellow at the Heritage Foundation, a lawyer who served as acting Transportation Secretary at the tail end of the Trump administration was one. Steve is part of the [Heritage Project 2025](#) team which is developing a game plan to help a Republican President "hit the ground running" on 20 January 2025. Ms. Janae Stracke, Vice President of Field Operations at Heritage Action was our other commissioner. These two were part of a nine-person team from Heritage Foundation charged with helping Heritage decide whether the COS Project was something Heritage should support. They all brought back positive reports and Dr.

Ken Roberts, the President of Heritage Foundation, has just announced in this short five minute video, that Heritage will be lending its support to the project. Dr. Roberts is definitely a "glass half full" kind of guy and I expect we will look back on this as a turning point in COS Project history. To quote Wikipedia: "Heritage has had significant influence in U.S. public policy making, and has been ranked among the most influential public policy organizations in the United States."

As I've said before, there is abundant information on the web addressing the Article V question, pro and con. You really should perform due diligence on this issue. I did in 2014 and changed from thinking it was a bad idea, to believing with all my heart that it is our only hope of restoring constitutional order in the United States (and in doing so, keeping the United States from fracturing).

[Conventionofstates.com](http://Conventionofstates.com) is a good place to start for the pro side, [JBS.org](http://JBS.org) (notice their use of "con-con" in the link) will explain their concerns. The Independence Institute's [Article V Information Center](#) has a nice collection of information. The [American Legislative Exchange Council \(ALEC\)](#) supports it, [Common Cause](#) does not. You decide. It is critical we address the damage done to the Framers' constitutional order before it is too late to do so. I'll be more than happy to sit down with individuals one-on-one and address your concerns.

If you desire further clarification of the points made in this essay, contact Gary Porter at [constitutionlead@gmail.com](mailto:constitutionlead@gmail.com).