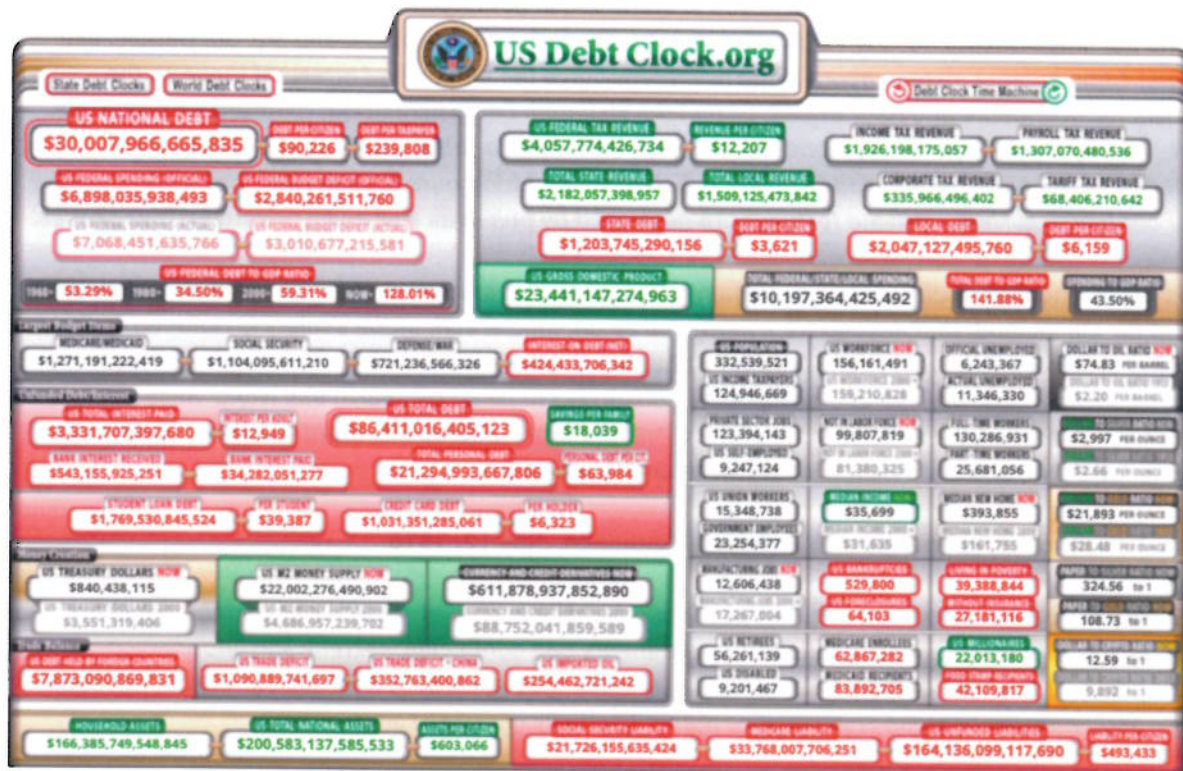


What If States Do Not Exercise Their Sovereign Power?




A recent review of all state applications under Article V of the U.S. Constitution conducted by David Walker, the Comptroller General of the United States under Presidents Clinton and Bush, revealed that in 1979, Nevada was the 34th State (2/3rds) to apply for a convention of states to propose a fiscal responsibility amendment. Over the next few decades, as many as 42 states applied for a fiscal responsibility convention of states.

At that time, the national debt was \$830 Billion. Since then, the national debt has blown through \$30 Trillion, with more than \$100 trillion in unfunded promises to America's sick, poor and elderly. By 2029, interest on this debt will exceed \$1 Trillion a year.

Article V of the U.S. Constitution provides "on the application of the legislatures of two thirds of the several states," Congress "**shall call** a convention for proposing amendments" to the Constitution. The duty of Congress to issue the call is ministerial and mandatory.

Congress has failed to both count state applications and to call a fiscal responsibility amendment convention as mandated. HJR9 demands that Congress honor the Constitution so States can convene and discuss fiscal responsibility proposals toward balancing the federal budget before Washington destroys our currency, our economy and our future!



*"I am not among those who fear the people. They, and not the rich, are our dependence for continued freedom. And **to preserve their independence, we must not let our rulers load us with perpetual debt. We must make our election between economy and liberty, or profusion and servitude. If we run into such debts, as that we must be taxed in our meat and in our drink, in our necessities and our comforts, in our labors and our amusements,** for our calling and our creeds, as the people of England are, our people, like them, must come to labor sixteen hours in the twenty-four, give the earnings of fifteen of these to the government for their debts and daily expenses; and the sixteenth being insufficient to afford us bread, we must live, as they now do, on oatmeal and potatoes; **have no time to think, no means of calling the mismanagers to account; but be glad to obtain subsistence by hiring ourselves to rivet their chains on the necks of our fellow sufferers... private fortunes are destroyed by public as well as by private extravagances.**"*

*"And this is the tendency of all human governments. **A departure from principle in one instance becomes a precedent for the second; that second for a third; and so on, till the bulk of the society is reduced to mere automatons of misery, to have no sensibilities left but for sinning and suffering.** Then begins, indeed, the bellum omnium in omnia, which some philosophers observing to be so general in this world, have mistaken for the natural, instead of the abusive state of man. And the fore horse on this frightful team is public debt. Taxation follows that, and in its train wretchedness and oppression."*

-Thomas Jefferson, Letter to Samuel Kercheval, Monticello, July 12, 1816

*"**Lenin is said to have declared that the best way to destroy the capitalist system was to debauch the currency.** By a continuing process of inflation, governments can confiscate, secretly and unobserved, an important part of the wealth of their citizens. By this method they not only confiscate, but they confiscate arbitrarily; and, while the process impoverishes many, it actually enriches some.*

*"**Lenin was certainly right. There is no subtler, no surer means of overturning the existing basis of society than to debauch the currency. The process engages all the hidden forces of economic law on the side of destruction, and does it in a manner which not one man in a million is able to diagnose.**"*

-John Maynard Keynes, The Economic Consequences of the Peace (1919), Chapter VI, pp. 235-236

*"**The sovereign power** of altering and amending the constitution . . . does not lie with this federal legislature . . . —That power, **which is truly and evidently the real point of sovereignty, is vested in the several legislatures.** The federal government cannot alter the constitution, but the representative bodies of the states, that is, their legislatures and conventions, only can execute these acts of sovereign power."*

"If two thirds of those legislatures require it, Congress must call a general convention, even though they dislike the proposed amendments, and if three fourths of the state legislatures or conventions approve such amendments, they become an actual and binding part of the constitution, without any possible interference of Congress."

-Tench Coxe, New York Ratifying Convention, 1788

"The States are separate and independent sovereigns. Sometimes they have to act like it."

-Chief Justice John Roberts, NFIB v. Sebelius, 567 U.S. 519 (2012)

