



# PHOENIX CORRESPONDENCE COMMISSION

FEDERALISM AT WORK

*"The States are separate and independent sovereigns. Sometimes they have to act like it."*  
Chief Justice John Roberts

## Executive Committee

September 21, 2023

Ken Ivory  
President  
(State Representative, UT)

To the Legislative Leaders of the 50 States:

David Guldenschuh  
Secretary  
(Delegate, GA)

We all know our nation is experiencing serious structural challenges -- from interest on an accelerating national debt that is consuming all non-defense discretionary spending; to the centralization of governing affairs to a degree that is erasing what Justice Louis Brandeis described as "the laboratories of democracy." This condition is pitting neighbor against neighbor in a national winner-takes-all battle for the soul of America every four years.

Jerry Herta  
Treasurer  
(State Representative, MN, retd.)

Knowing the natural tendency of people and governments to amass unbridled power, the Framers fashioned a remedy for such structural imbalance(s) in the Constitution.

Mark Lepak  
Executive Member  
(State Representative, OK)

In 2017, for the first time since 1861, an official nation-wide convention of states was held in Phoenix, Arizona to draft proposed rules for an eventual convention of States under Article V of the Constitution. An enduring outgrowth of this Convention was the formation of the Phoenix Correspondence Commission (PCC) as a non-partisan, government organization to assist the 50 State Legislatures in all federalism matters, including the exercise of their Article V authority.

Rex Rice  
Executive Member  
(State Senator, SC)

Jim Stalzer  
Executive Member  
(State Senator, SD)

**The PCC is the first official government organization of states to address such federalism matters in a combined fashion, as well as to tackle the obvious federal debt crisis. The role of the PCC is crucial in restoring and maintaining the health and strength of our country.** Accordingly, representation from all states in the PCC is vital. *All states need to be at the table as the PCC debates and continues its work in restoring Constitutional balance.*

Among the services of the PCC, it is a committee of correspondence between the states, Congress, and the people; and it makes recommendations to Congress. In terms of Article V it:

- Monitors all Article V activity;
- Educates state leaders about the history and application of Article V;
- Serves as a repository of information and assistance to the States on all things pertaining to Article V; and
- Facilitates the States in the convening and administration of any potential Article V convention in a constitutionally responsible manner to restore the delicate governing balance between the national government and the States, as well as fiscal integrity.

The Framers protected the people from the perils of a consolidated governing power through a

**W. Bruce Lee, Executive Director**

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vast network of limits, divisions, and balance of governing powers built into the very structure of the Constitution (including Federalism and the Separation of Powers). Through Article V, they entrusted and empowered the States to preserve and maintain this balance “to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.”

The PCC is a non-partisan “.gov” organization that acts as an agent on behalf of legislative leaders in the responsible exercise of the constitutional tools which enable the States to revise and repair the structural imbalances which the Framers anticipated would arise in the tug and pull of a federated government. Our website is <https://Phoenix-Correspondence-Commission.gov>.

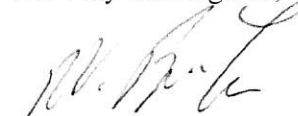
As the leader of your legislative body, you quite literally hold the power to guide your legislative body in the exercise of this awesome constitutional power. Our mission is to assist you in this constitutional responsibility. Further, as the Commission was created by the States for the States for these purposes, our sole funding comes through the States.

**In order to carry out our mission to assist you, we respectfully request your consideration of the following:**

- 1) A modest appropriation of \$50,000, matching that of Arizona, which will enable the PCC to serve you and your legislature in the ways highlighted above;
- 2) Facilitate discussion of the PCC and its role serving state legislatures at national conferences and symposiums, such as the National Speakers Conference or Senate Presidents’ Forum; and
- 3) Thirty minutes with your leadership team to update you on the progress of specific Article V efforts and to better understand how we can be of service to you in your work for your state and our nation.

**Thank you very much for your time and effort in all of the above!**

Our very best regards,



W. Bruce Lee

Executive Director

Phoenix Correspondence Commission

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