

RESOLUTION NO. 868

Whereas, it is a fundamental precept of American government that the best governance is that which is closest, most accessible, and most accountable to the people; and

Whereas, it is for this reason that our Constitution strictly limits and defines the powers of the federal government, and explicitly reserves all remaining government functions to the States and the people; and

Whereas, in recent decades, the jurisdiction, authority, and resources of the state and local governments have been radically diminished by an ever-growing usurpation of jurisdiction and power by all three branches of the federal government, which has corresponded with an increasing confiscation of tax dollars that could otherwise remain in the States and localities; and

Whereas, the realities of human nature and institutional momentum make it a virtual certainty that federal officials will not individually, nor as institutions, ever undertake reforms that would halt or reverse the exponential growth of their own power, and

Whereas, unsurprisingly, the decisions, policies, laws, regulations, and actions of our federal officials and institutions in Washington, DC, are unresponsive to the unique needs and situations of individual States and localities, and

Whereas, neither State and local leaders nor individual citizens have any meaningful way to impact or influence the decision-making of the federal officials and institutions which are now dictating many of the policies that govern them, and

Whereas, it is the duty of State and local leaders to uphold and defend the Constitution, and to use their positions of public trust in the best interest of the people, and

Whereas, the needs and interests of the people of our State and local communities can only be adequately served through a restoration of the authority and resources originally reserved to the State and local levels of government, and


Whereas, because systematic overreaching by all three branches of the federal government has gone unchecked at the federal level and resulted in *de facto* revisions of our Constitution to expand federal power and jurisdiction, the only proper, effective recourse is through the proposal and ratification of constitutional amendments that reject the perversions of constitutional language, reinstate the needed limitations on federal power and jurisdiction, and restore the authority of the state and local governments which are most responsive to the people, and

Whereas, Article V of the Constitution provides for the proposal of constitutional amendments on specific topics through a meeting (convention) of the States, upon application of two-thirds (34) of the States, and for the subsequent ratification of such amendments by three-fourths (38) of the States, and

Whereas, the Kansas Constitution requires a two-thirds majority of the Senate and House of Representatives to pass an Article V resolution, creating an unusually high legislative hurdle not required by any other of the States,

Now therefore, Be it resolved that the Board of Commissioners of Coffey County, Kansas, fulfilling its duty to serve the best interests of its constituents, hereby calls upon the Senate and House of Representatives of the Kansas State Legislature, especially Senator Michael Fagg and Representative Eric L. Smith, the elected representatives of those constituents, to advance and adopt with all possible speed, concurrent legislative resolutions adding Kansas to the roll of the many other States which have adopted resolutions to trigger an Article V convention of the States to draft, consider, debate and propose constitutional amendments that would impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit its power and jurisdiction, and impose term limits for its officials and members of Congress, restoring the proper measure of authority and resources to the levels of government closest and most responsive to the people.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,
COFFEY COUNTY, KANSAS



Tom Hugunin, Chairman



Donald S. Meats, Vice-Chairman



Jesse Knight, Member



Tim Johnson, Member

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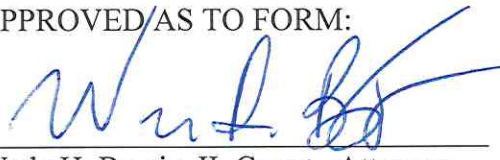
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Robert L. Saueressig, Member

ATTEST:


Angie Kirchner, County Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Wade H. Bowie, II, County Attorney

