

The National Debt Relief Amendment

The Solution to the Federal Debt Crisis

“An increase in the federal debt requires approval from a majority of the legislatures of the separate states.”

The National Debt Relief Amendment (NDRA) is a simple yet powerful 18-word amendment that will contain the growth in federal debt, lead to a balanced federal budget, rebuild federalism, create transparency, enforce budget discipline and expand democracy.

The National Debt Relief Amendment represents a common sense solution to the federal debt crisis that will make Congress accountable through a more transparent and politically open process before the national debt can be increased. The National Debt Relief Amendment requires approval from a majority of state legislatures to increase the national debt. This allows the American people to have a voice through the government closest to them, the state legislatures, before new debt is authorized. It is consistent with the separation of powers philosophy that guided our Founding Fathers and delivers on their vision of a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

The NDRA delivers fiscal discipline. Congress will find it necessary to build realistic budgets based upon the honest scoring of bills. Congressional earmarks, war funding, and off-budget spending will require offset or new debt authorization by the states.

The NDRA allows Congress to request an increase in federal debt when necessary. The NDRA does not prevent our country from responding to a national crisis, still enabling states to respond quickly to an emergency.

The NDRA does not rely upon the courts for interpretation or enforcement. It would be practically impossible for the U.S. Treasury to sell bonds in the open market without state approval.

The NDRA provides an effective constraint to federal overreach. The states will have an effective tool to return the Federal Government to its limited role and release the states from federal mandates and unconstitutional intrusions upon their sovereignty.

The NDRA has been supported by state legislators and citizens from across the political spectrum and has been thoroughly researched and endorsed by the Goldwater Institute.

Congress will never propose an Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that limits its ability to borrow and spend money. A campaign for a state led Amendment process under Article V of the U.S. Constitution is underway. North Dakota and Louisiana have passed the NDRA, 17 states will be introducing the Amendment for consideration in their next sessions, and active discussions are underway with state legislators in many more.