

Written Testimony in SUPPORT of- Senate Joint Resolution SJ1 – concerning -United States Constitution
– Amendments Convention – Limitations on Federal Power

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Education, Energy, and the Environmental Committee

Dear Committee Chair Brian Feldman and the Honorable Committee Members,

I am Mary Jane Perraut, Regional Captain, and I represent almost 5,000 Convention of States supporters, and am thankful for your attention today. Our Article V Convention of States resolution is simply calling for a national convention to debate the three topics outlined in the application.

Citizens across the state are concerned about what is happening in Washington and are relieved when they learn that there is a solution. They immediately sign the petition knowing that term limits and fiscal restraints are needed!

A recent survey showed that 80% of voters, across party lines, wanted Congress term-limited. Those opposed have said elections are term limits, yet the President can only serve 2 terms. Congress should be term-limited as well, but it can only be accomplished through a Convention of States.

Inflation, created by federal overspending, lowers our standard of living and creates a huge strain on lower-income families who suffer the most. In 30 years 40% of the national budget will be interest expense on the debt. Wouldn't it be helpful to have one topic in one bill, as we do in Maryland? This helps control costs.

The third topic is restraining the federal government to rebalance the power between the states and the federal government. I used to think it could be a slippery slope to have a Convention of States, but after reading more, I learned that's not possible. The result of the convention is to simply propose amendments constrained by three topics, which need to be ratified by 38 states. So, we are just asking to have a meeting to discuss these types of solutions.

Ask yourself, what do I have to lose by voting on this bill for the first time? You have much to gain because this is the most important legislation of our lifetime.

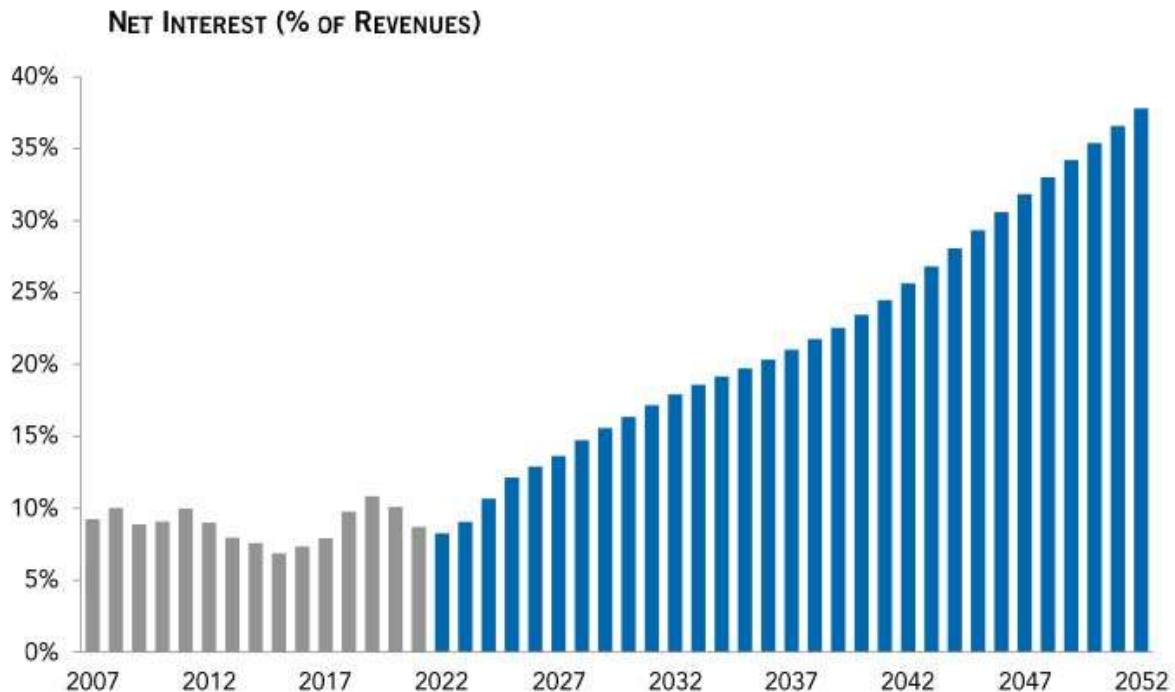
Please approve SJ1.

Thank you!

Appendix 1: National Debt Interest Impact on Budget



Net interest costs will account for almost 40 percent of federal revenues by 2052



SOURCE: Congressional Budget Office, *The Budget and Economic Outlook: 2022 to 2032*, May 2022.
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Note

Investors usually don't become concerned until the debt-to-GDP ratio reaches a critical level. The World Bank has said the **tipping point is 77%** or more. In 2022 the Debt to GDP is over this threshold at 121% plus \$173 T of unfunded liabilities.

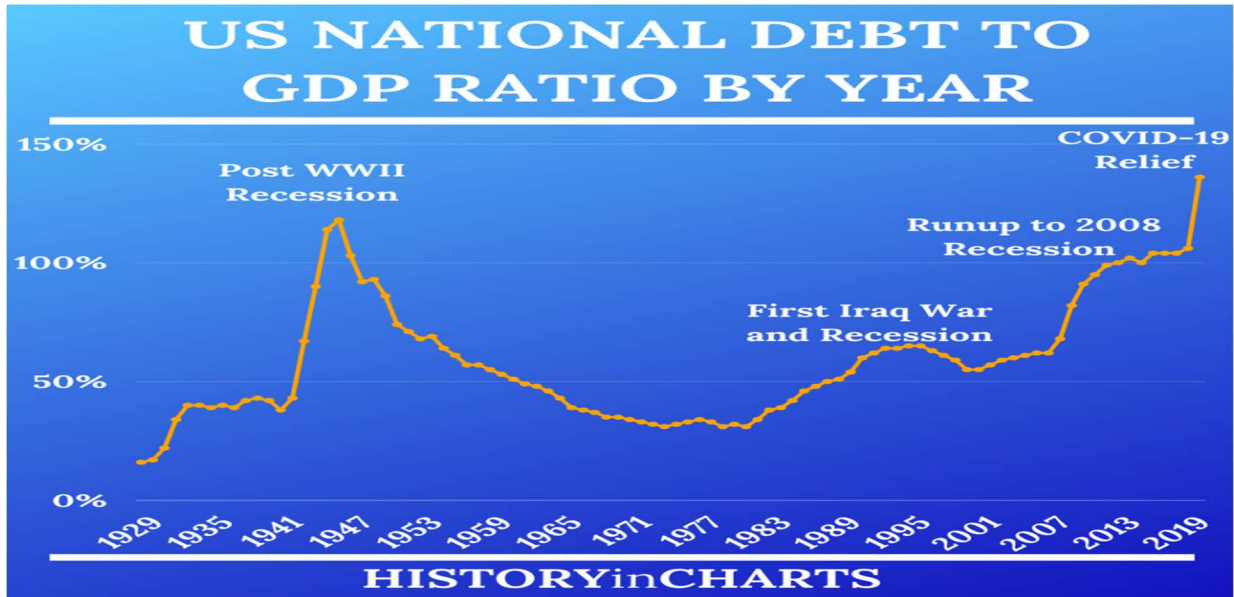
U.S. Debt to GDP

1960 52%

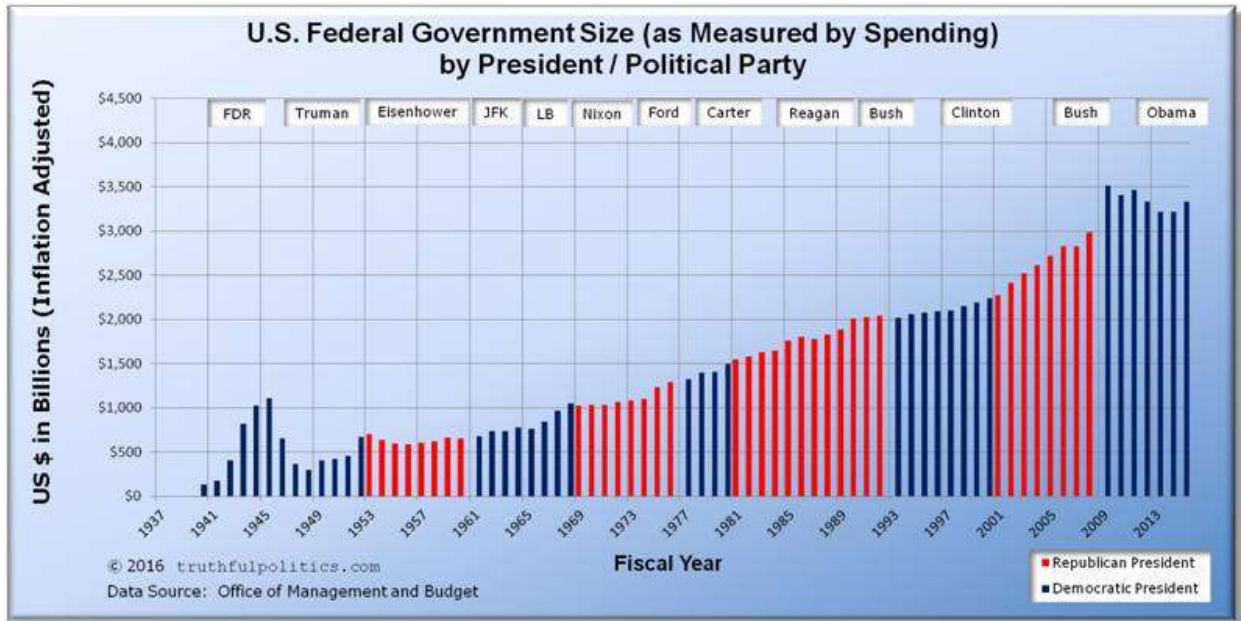
1980 34%

2000 55%

2022 121%

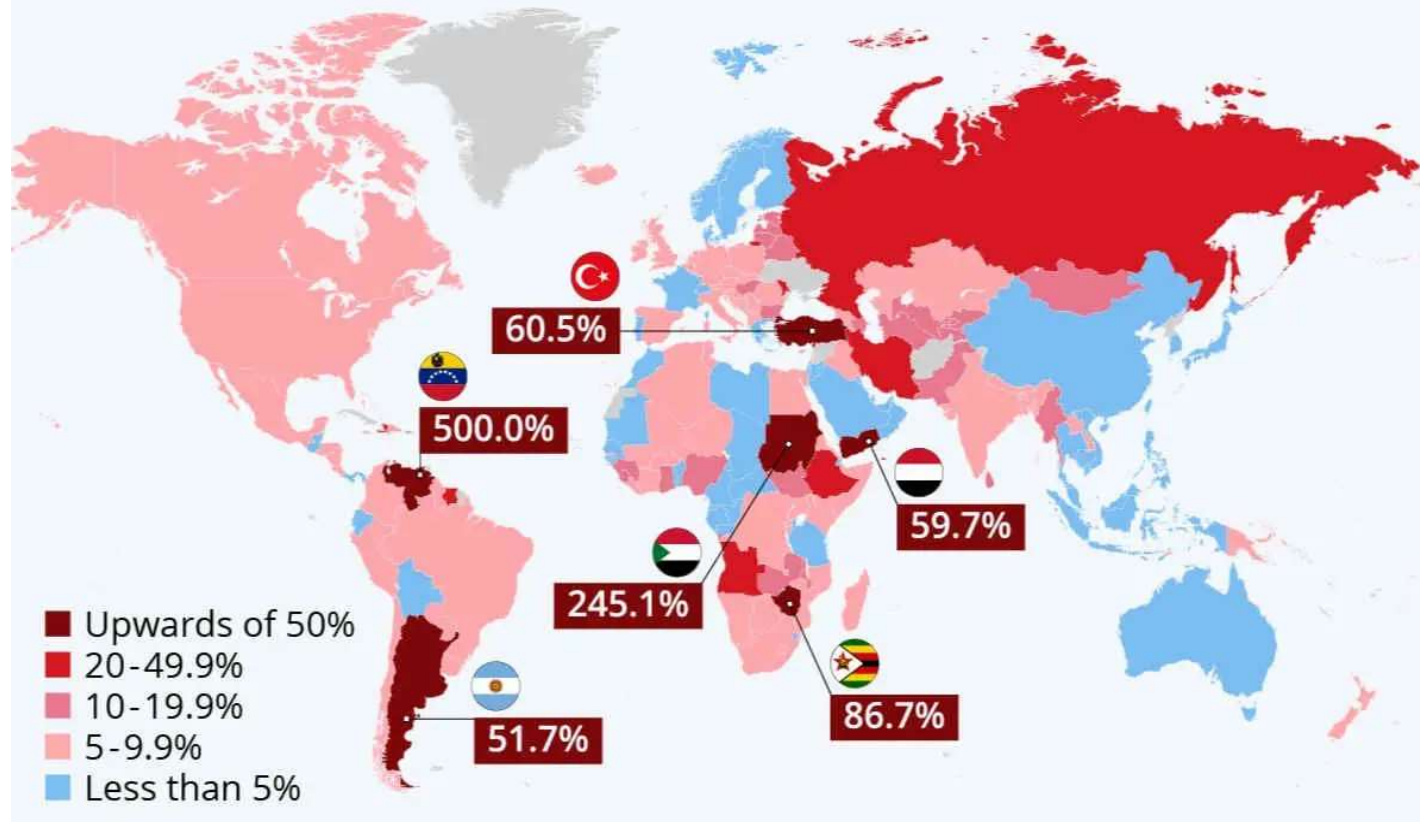


THE USA IS RANKED 11TH IN THE WORLD FOR DEBT TO GDP



Appendix 2: Annual Inflation

Projected annual inflation by country in 2022



[Inflation by Country 2023 - Wisevoter](#)

Appendix 3: Examples of Possible Amendments to be Discussed

- Impose term limits for Senators to 2 terms and Congress to 4 terms
- Limit Supreme Court Justices to nine members.
- Require members of Congress to live under the same laws they pass for the rest of us.
- Require a balanced federal budget.
- Impose limits on federal spending and/or taxation.
- Return the education system to the states and localities.
- Stop unelected federal officials from imposing regulations.
- Set term limits for Supreme Court Justices.
- Set term limits for federal officials, ending the dominance of the federal bureaucracies.
- Give the primacy of the state over the federal government in energy policy.

- Force the federal government to honor its commitment to return federal lands to the states.
- Prevent the addition of states without the consent of three-quarters of the existing states.
- One bill only includes one topic