



August 28, 2023

John Laird  
Senator

Subject: VOTE NO ON SJR-7

Dear Senator Laird

The League of Women of Monterey County strongly opposes Governor Newsom's recent decision to seek an Article V constitutional convention. The proposal, encapsulated in SJR-7, seeks to add California to the states aiming to alter the U.S. Constitution, a move that comes without a clear structure or guidelines.

The uncertainty surrounding the nature of a Constitutional Convention cannot be understated. Former Chief Justice Warren Burger once expressed concerns about the ambiguity and danger, noting, “[T]here is no way to effectively limit or muzzle the actions of a Constitutional Convention. The Convention could make its own rules and set its own agenda. Congress might try to limit the Convention to one amendment or one issue, but there is no way to assure that the Convention would obey. After a Convention is convened, it will be too late to stop the Convention if we don’t like its agenda.”

The Constitution is a living document, representing the fundamental tenets on which our democracy rests. The LWVC supports targeted and focused policy action to address gun violence and the damage it is doing to our children and our communities, but a constitutional convention is not the right approach.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marianne Gawain, President

League of Women Voters of Monterey County