

Table 1.4
PROCEDURES FOR CALLING CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTIONS
Constitutional Provisions

<i>State or other jurisdiction</i>	<i>Provision for convention</i>	<i>Legislative vote for submission of convention question (a)</i>	<i>Popular vote to authorize convention</i>	<i>Periodic submission of convention question required (b)</i>	<i>Popular vote required for ratification of convention proposals</i>
Alabama.....	Yes	Majority	ME	No	Not specified
Alaska.....	Yes	No provision (c)(d)	(c)	10 years; 2002 (c)	Not specified (c)
Arizona.....	Yes	Majority	(e)	No	MP
Arkansas.....	No	No			
California.....	Yes	2/3	MP	No	MP
Colorado.....	Yes	2/3	MP	No	ME
Connecticut.....	Yes	2/3	MP	20 years; 2008 (f)	MP
Delaware.....	Yes	2/3	MP	No	No provision
Florida.....	Yes	(g)	MP	No	3/5 voting on proposal
Georgia.....	Yes	(d)	No	No	MP
Hawaii.....	Yes	Not specified	MP	9 years; 2008	MP (h)
Idaho.....	Yes	2/3	MP	No	Not specified
Illinois.....	Yes	3/5	(i)	20 years; 2008	MP
Indiana.....	No	No			
Iowa.....	Yes	Majority	MP	10 years; 2010	MP
Kansas.....	Yes	2/3	MP	No	MP
Kentucky.....	Yes	Majority (j)	MP (k)	No	No provision
Louisiana.....	Yes	(d)	No	No	MP
Maine.....	Yes	(d)	No	No	No provision
Maryland.....	Yes	Majority	ME	20 years; 2010	MP
Massachusetts.....	No	No			
Michigan.....	Yes	Majority	MP	16 years; 2010	MP
Minnesota.....	Yes	2/3	ME	No	3/5 voting on proposal
Mississippi.....	No	No			
Missouri.....	Yes	Majority	MP	20 years; 2002	Not specified (l)
Montana.....	Yes (m)	2/3	MP	20 years; 2010	MP
Nebraska.....	Yes	3/5	MP (o)	No	MP
Nevada.....	Yes	2/3	ME	No	No provision
New Hampshire.....	Yes	Majority	MP	10 years; 2002	2/3 voting on proposal
New Jersey.....	No	No			
New Mexico.....	Yes	2/3	MP	No	Not specified
New York.....	Yes	Majority	MP	20 years; 1997	MP
North Carolina.....	Yes	2/3	MP	No	MP
North Dakota.....	No	No			
Ohio.....	Yes	2/3	MP	20 years; 1992	MP
Oklahoma.....	Yes	Majority	(e)	20 years; 1970	MP
Oregon.....	Yes	Majority	(e)	No	No provision
Pennsylvania.....	No	No			
Rhode Island.....	Yes	Majority	MP	10 years; 2004	MP
South Carolina.....	Yes	(d)	ME	No	No provision
South Dakota.....	Yes	(d)	(d)	No	(p)
Tennessee.....	Yes (q)	Majority	MP	No	MP
Texas.....	No	No			
Utah.....	Yes	2/3	ME	No	ME
Vermont.....	No	No			
Virginia.....	Yes	(d)	No	No	MP
Washington.....	Yes	2/3	ME	No	Not specified
West Virginia.....	Yes	Majority	MP	No	Not specified
Wisconsin.....	Yes	Majority	MP	No	No provision
Wyoming.....	Yes	2/3	ME	No	Not specified
American Samoa.....	Yes	(r)	No	No	ME (s)
No. Mariana Islands.....	Yes	Majority (t)	2/3	10 years	MP and at least 2/3 in each of 2 senatorial districts
Puerto Rico.....	Yes	2/3	MP	No	MP

See footnotes at end of table.

STATE CONSTITUTIONS

PROCEDURES FOR CALLING CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTIONS—Continued Constitutional Provisions

Source: John Dinan and The Council of State Governments, February 2011.

Key:

MP — Majority voting on the proposal.

ME — Majority voting in the election.

(a) In all states not otherwise noted, the entries in this column refer to the proportion of members elected to each house required to submit to the electorate the question of calling a constitutional convention.

(b) The number listed is the interval between required submissions on the question of calling a constitutional convention; where given, the date is that of the most recent submission of the mandatory convention referendum.

(c) Unless provided otherwise by law, convention calls are to conform as nearly as possible to the act calling the 1955 convention, which provided for a legislative vote of a majority of members elected to each house and ratification by a majority vote on the proposals. The legislature may call a constitutional convention at any time.

(d) In these states, the legislature may call a convention without submitting the question to the people. The legislative vote required is two-thirds of the members elected to each house in Georgia, Louisiana, South Carolina and Virginia; two-thirds concurrent vote of both branches in Maine; three-fourths of all members of each house in South Dakota; and not specified in Alaska, but bills require majority vote of membership in each house. In South Dakota, the question of calling a convention may be initiated by the people in the same manner as an amendment to the constitution (see Table 1.3) and requires a majority vote on the question for approval.

(e) The law calling a convention must be approved by the people.

(f) The legislature shall submit the question 20 years after the last convention, or 20 years after the last vote on the question of calling a convention, whichever date is last.

(g) The power to call a convention is reserved to the people by petition.

(h) The majority must be 50 percent of the total votes cast at a general election or at a special election, a majority of the votes tallied which must be at least 30 percent of the total number of registered voters.

(i) Majority voting in the election, or three-fifths voting on the question.

(j) Must be approved during two legislative sessions.

(k) Majority must equal one-fourth of qualified voters at last general election.

(l) Majority of those voting on the proposal is assumed.

(m) The question of calling a constitutional convention may be submitted either by the legislature or by initiative petition to the secretary of state in the same manner as provided for initiated amendments (see Table 1.3).

(n) Two-thirds of all members of the legislature.

(o) Majority must be 35 percent of total votes cast at the election.

(p) Convention proposals are submitted to the electorate at a special election in a manner to be determined by the convention. Ratification by a majority of votes cast.

(q) Conventions may not be held more often than once in six years.

(r) Five years after effective date of constitutions, governor shall call a constitutional convention to consider changes proposed by a constitutional committee appointed by the governor. Delegates to the convention are to be elected by their county councils. A convention was held in 1972.

(s) If proposed amendments are approved by the voters, they must be submitted to the U.S. Secretary of the Interior for approval.

(t) The initiative may also be used to place a referendum convention call on the ballot. The petition must be signed by 25 percent of the qualified voters or at least 75 percent in a senatorial district.