

Tidal Wave of Support for Constitutional Convention Call

We must admit we were surprised by the tidal wave of overwhelmingly positive responses from across the state from business groups, good government groups, former legislators and private individuals supporting our call for a constitutional convention. As Jim Wunderman conducted the hour-long [KQED Forum](#) on the topic yesterday, the producers were frustrated by the volume of calls of support and questions of where to sign up (they prefer controversy from callers). Almost all have urged us to keep moving this ball forward. We will.



California's Constitutional Convention met in 1849 at Colton Hall in Monterey

Our staff is busy reaching out to interested and influential groups and individuals statewide to join a coalition for a constitutional convention. We urge you to join the Bay Area Council for a press conference and lobbying trip this coming Wednesday, August 27 at 10 a.m. at the Capitol in Sacramento to call for the legislature to authorize a constitutional convention (RSVP to mpaulos@bayareacouncil.org). If the legislature fails to act, we have other options to pursue.

As stated in an [op ed](#) we published, we think it is undeniable that California's government suffers from drastic dysfunction — our prisons overflow, our water system teeters on collapse, our once proud schools are criminally poor, our financing system is bankrupt, our democracy produces ideologically-extreme legislators that can pass neither budget nor reforms, and we have no recourse in the system to right these wrongs.

This is our government, we are the governed, and – as we have been reminded countless times since Thomas Jefferson penned the Declaration of Independence – we have a duty to alter our government if it becomes destructive to our future.

We believe that the only viable solution is to hold a state constitutional convention – to learn from other states, and apply tested solutions to fix our “system” of governance.

California's problem isn't the inherent quality of our elected officials. We believe our legislators went to Sacramento with best intentions of serving and guiding this great state. The problem is the very system and rules of governance enshrined in our current Constitution.

This is the tip of a spear of a broader effort that will involve a large coalition. We are excited for what the future holds.

Article of the Week

[Listen to the KQED Forum](#) on a Constitutional Convention.

Quote of the Week

“While Sacramento dawdles, the rest of California wonders: What will it take for these dug-in ideologues to leave their snug positions and craft a budget deal?” – [SF Chronicle editorial](#) on the continuing budget deadlock.

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