

Will the transition to a new Constitution work without chaos?

Most previous amendments will likely become local laws or state statutes. A schedule is usually included in a constitution to lay out a smooth transition. More than 149 constitutions have been rewritten in this nation.

Alabama has written 6 constitutions. We have done this before and we can do it again!

ACCR's past and present Boards include many well known citizens of Alabama including:

The late Professor Bailey Thomson
Former Governor, Albert Brewer
The late retired Pres. of Samford U.
Dr. Thomas Corts
Former US Congressman, Jack Edwards
Attorney, Lenora Pate
Prof., Auburn Univ., Dr. Wayne Flynt
Former Sec. of State, Jim Bennett

www.constitutionalreform.org

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Provided by Alabama Citizens for
Constitutional Reform 2010

The most important thing you can do is to contact your state legislators and tell them you want them to vote to allow the citizens to vote for or against holding a citizen's convention. **Go and talk with your legislator or send letters or e-mails. Ask others to do the same. Form groups in your district and get involved and recruit others.**

Find your Legislators

www.legislature.state.al.us or call your local library or call us at ACCR: 205 514-3074

Help educate your friends and neighbors about the need for a new constitution. Make copies of this pamphlet and pass it out to everyone.

Join ACCR today! Go to our Website:
www.constitutionalreform.org

Become part of our network of informed active citizens.
Send a check for \$25.00 to ACCR Inc.

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P.O. Box 10746
Birmingham, AL 35202

Alabama's 1901 Constitution keeps our State and children from moving beyond last place in the things that are most important



Here's why:

- * it gives the Legislature control over your county,**
- * it sets up an unfair tax system that doesn't fund education adequately.**
- * it prevents public transit,**
- * and it stands in the way of bringing new businesses to your state.**

We can change this. Here's how.....

The Constitution can be changed two ways:

1. Article by article: the Legislature can rewrite an article and the people must then vote to approve yet another amendment. *But the Legislature has changed only one article in 109 years* OR

2. A constitutional convention: The Legislature can approve a bill that will call for a constitutional convention. Then the people can vote to approve that bill and elect citizens to write a new constitution. The people must approve or reject the new constitution or parts of it.

The majority of citizens want a convention to rewrite the constitution according to statewide polls conducted in 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009.

Who would write the new constitution?

A bill calling for a citizen's convention to write a new constitution for Alabama would provide for a non-partisan election of citizens to be delegates.

The bill may allow voters to elect citizen delegates from their House or Senate District. These may be community and business leaders, teachers, scholars, ministers, doctors.

But what about special interest groups?

Special interest groups would have less influence on delegates than they now have on elected officials because political contributions to delegates would be limited to \$100 per donation and no PAC money.

The delegates will have to create a document that will balance all of their interests against the interests of the other delegates for the good of Alabama. And whatever they write will have to be accepted or rejected by the citizens' vote.

Also, delegates will run only once, so they will not have to make promises to guarantee re-election.

How will the delegates know what kind of a constitution would be best for Alabama?

They will have copies of other states' constitutions to use as guides. The Preamble and some of the existing Articles should be retained and constitutional scholars could serve as advisors. Seminars could be provided for delegates. **They could propose a complete constitution or parts of a constitution for voters to approve or reject.**

But what about TAXES?

The cry that "**a new Constitution will raise taxes**" is untrue. It is fear of trusting the people. **Alabamians are so reluctant to accept new taxes that delegates are not likely to recommend tax increases in a new constitution. They know their fellow Alabamians will not approve tax increases.**

A constitution shouldn't include the State's tax code. The cities, counties and state should recommend taxes and allow the PEOPLE TO VOTE ON ALL TAXES.