

# CONSERVATIVE STATE LEGISLATORS FOR STATE BASED REFORM

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March 7, 2016

Dear Mr. Trump, Gov. Kasich, Senator Rubio and Senator Cruz,

While many of us support or have even endorsed you or one of your colleagues running for president, we write to you without respect to those endorsements. As conservative state legislative leaders, we have a direct understanding of the importance of the States as the laboratories of democracy. By enacting the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment and other basic tenets of federalism, our country's founders understood that a too-powerful national government would usurp powers reserved to the States and the American people.

We share serious concerns that the federal government has retreated from the historic partnership of cooperative government between the States and the federal government. It's time to reset the relationship and to promote state-based solutions to our problems rather than "one size fits all" national solutions. That's why we write this letter: to ask the candidates who are asking to run our Nation to agree the following proposals:

1. **Restore the balance between the States and federal government.** Return program authority and control to the States, without unnecessary strings, limitations and restrictions. Federal programs like Medicaid, as well as funding through the Department of Transportation and Department of Education, should be block granted to the States to allow state-based solutions and innovation.
2. Most States are required to balance their budgets and live within their means. The national debt has reached levels that will significantly reduce the quality of life for future American generations. That's why we must **pass a Balanced Budget Amendment to the U. S. Constitution** that will responsibly require the federal government to live within its means.
3. A strong economy is essential for job growth and it allows all Americans to pursue and achieve their God-given potential. While the States have made significant strides at improving local economic conditions through tax reform, **we must pass similar tax reform at the federal level** to unlock a robust economic recovery for every American at every economic level. Your leadership can help ensure passage of a simpler, broad-based low rate tax code that enhances State reforms and allows every citizen to achieve the American dream.
4. Overregulation significantly limits opportunity and economic growth. While everyone agrees that clean air, clean water and safe workplaces are important, common-sense compliance, applied with a cost-benefit balance is essential. Federal regulatory overreach puts Americans out of work, hurting millions of children and families. **Congress and the President should pass new regulatory review processes, standards and limitations, including a strong emphasis on cost-benefit balance and common-sense compliance.**

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5. A strong and stable judiciary that recognizes the essential separation of responsibilities in our federal-state partnership is essential to restore the balance between the States and the federal government. One of the most lasting impacts of any presidency is reflected in the quality and character of federal judges nominated by the President. **We ask you to agree to nominate strong Constitutional conservatives who will respect the essential role of state authority in our federal system.**

If you are elected President will you join us in advancing policies that are consistent with these five issues to move America forward? We look forward to your reply and we welcome the continuing discussion necessary to set our country on the right path toward Ronald Reagan's "shining city on the hill."

Respectfully yours,

NAME	POSITION	STATE
Keith Faber	Senate President	Ohio
Leah Vukmir	Senate Asst. Majority Leader	Wisconsin
Tom Leonard	House Speaker Pro Tem	Michigan
Kurt Daudt	Speaker of the House	Minnesota
Bryce Reeves	State Senator	Virginia
Larry Obhof	President Pro Tem	Ohio
Bill Seitz	State Senator	Ohio
Cliff Rosenberger	Speaker of the House	Ohio
Frank LaRose	State Senator	Ohio
Jay Hottinger	State Senator	Ohio
Joe Uecker	State Senator	Ohio
Randy Gardner	State Senator	Ohio
Shannon Jones	State Senator	Ohio
Tom Patton	State Senator	Ohio
John Eklund	State Senator	Ohio
Kevin Bacon	State Senator	Ohio
Cliff Hite	State Senator	Ohio
Bill Coley	State Senator	Ohio
Bob Peterson	State Senator	Ohio
Dave Burke	State Senator	Ohio
Troy Balderson	State Senator	Ohio
Ron Amstutz	Speaker Pro Tempore	Ohio
Barbara R. Sears	House Majority Floor Leader	Ohio
Dorothy Pelanda	Assistant Majority Whip	Ohio
Jim Buchy	Assistant Majority Floor Leader	Ohio
Ryan Smith	State Representative	Ohio
Kirk Schuring	State Representative	Ohio
Mike Dovilla	Majority Whip	Ohio

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Robert Sprague	State Representative	Ohio
Dan Duffy	State Senator	Illinois
John Anthony	State Representative	Illinois
Brandt Hershman	Senate Majority Floor Leader	Indiana
David Long	President Pro Tempore	Indiana
Jim Merritt	Majority Caucus Chair	Indiana
Phil Boots	State Senator	Indiana
Travis Holdman	State Senator	Indiana
Eric Bassler	State Senator	Indiana
Ed Charbonneau	State Senator	Indiana
Jean Leising	State Senator	Indiana
Mark Messmer	State Senator	Indiana
Luke Kenley	State Senator	Indiana
Dennis Kruse	State Senator	Indiana
Mike Young	State Senator	Indiana
Randy Head	State Senator	Indiana
Jeff Raatz	State Senator	Indiana
Jim Smith	State Senator	Indiana
Greg Walker	State Senator	Indiana
Mike Crider	State Senator	Indiana
Pete Miller	State Senator	Indiana
Erin Houchin	State Senator	Indiana
Jon Ford	State Senator	Indiana
Liz Brown	State Senator	Indiana
Pat Miller	State Senator	Indiana
Jim Banks	State Senator	Indiana
Robin Vos	Speaker of the State Assembly	Wisconsin
Tyler August	Speaker Pro Tempore	Wisconsin
David Shafer	Senate President Pro Tempore	Georgia
Andy Sanborn	State Senator	New Hampshire
Ray Merrick	Speaker of the House	Kansas
Kim David	Senate Majority Whip	Oklahoma
Stephanie Bice	State Senator	Oklahoma
David Holt	State Senator	Oklahoma
Jason Sheppard	State Representative	Michigan
Damon Thayer	Senate Majority Floor Leader	Kentucky

*\*Legislative support and signatures continue to grow and the list will be periodically updated.*