

On Thursday, May 4, 2017, then NV Assemblyman [Ira Hansen](#) requested to provide comment during the Assembly Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections vote on Senate Joint Resolution 10 (SJR10) on how he was voting. The resolution was for the purpose of rescinding all previous resolutions of the Nevada Legislature which requested Congress to convene a convention to propose amendments pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution.

At that committee meeting, Assemblyman Hansen stated, “You know, this has been a really interesting one because I’ve got a lot more people frankly who’ve told me to vote ‘no’ on it, although I am going to vote ‘yes’ on it today. But I think we do need to make sure that, for my sake, I want it on the record that the reason I’m voting yes is, frankly, the Republican Party platform calls for eliminating this. So, when it came down to all the different pros and cons on the issue—and I believe there’s great merit on the ‘no’ side of this frankly as well- but that was kind of the swaying thing for me. It’s one of those ‘49-51’ kind of decisions.”

I am not recollecting then Assemblyman Hansen’s comments from memory. The proceedings of the Nevada State Legislature are available for all to see on video archive, and the Assemblyman’s comments can be viewed on the video clip from the aforementioned meeting and date at the [12:51:30 mark](#).

Then Nevada State Assemblyman Hansen is now Nevada State Senator Hansen. With all due respect to Senator Hansen for his service to his districts and our state, it is interesting to note that, by his own acknowledgement, he decided it would be better for him to represent the will of his state political party with his vote rather than the will of the clear majority of the constituents in his district—even though he believed the perspective of the majority of his constituents had “great merit.”

And what justification did he give for his vote from the perspective of his own state political party—the Republican Party- whose merit he did not even find worthy of mentioning? That justification was the Nevada Republican Party’s platform calling for the elimination of utilizing the Article V convention provision put in our Constitution by the Framers themselves.

Simply put, the Nevada Republican Party wants to eliminate the check and balance of allowing our state the Constitutional authority given to us in Article V to propose useful alterations to our US Constitution.

In a day and age when our nation could significantly benefit from clarifying language that could prevent Congress, the White House and the judiciary from manipulating the General Welfare, Necessary and Proper and Commerce clauses to do whatever they want about spending, surveillance, immigration and a host of other issues, we need every Constitutional tool at our disposal to help our state and nation.

Alarming, the Nevada GOP declared open opposition to the Article V convention provision of the US Constitution in [lines 69-70 of their 2018 platform](#) and in [line 68 of their 2020 platform](#).

When confronted about their open opposition to a Constitutional provision, they took a softer, more nuanced approach in [lines 88-89 of their most recent 2022 platform](#), where they simply claim what the Framers gave America was too insufficiently clear to trust and follow. Nevada Republicans need to know that selectively opposing or subverting any portion of the US Constitution is unacceptable.

The Nevada GOP should quit playing games with our Constitution. They should try supporting it, defending it, and bearing true faith and allegiance to it.