

My name is Jacob Strandlien and I am a freelance computer technician and a network administrator for a school in Eugene. Today, our nation is facing a specific kind a threat; the threat of growing corruption from the inside of our very system of government. This threat manifests in the hundreds of millions of dollars that are being pumped in, directly or indirectly, to this nation's election system. In the last Presidential election cycle, total expenditures from inside and outside the campaigns rose to well over one billion dollars. At the federal level, Senators and Representatives allocate between one third and two thirds of their schedule to fundraising efforts, and 90% of elections are won by the candidate with the most money spent on their behalf. This is a clear flaw in our political system, the type of flaw that the Article V amendment process was intended to solve. Calling for a convention is the right way to solve the problem, and it is safe. There are plenty of protections, not the least of which is the ratification process, to safeguard us from a badly-designed, overreaching, or one-sided amendment. I urge you to support HJM 201, and allow us to open this conversation, to make Oregon a leader in the fight against the corruption we see today, and to make this a better nation for tomorrow.