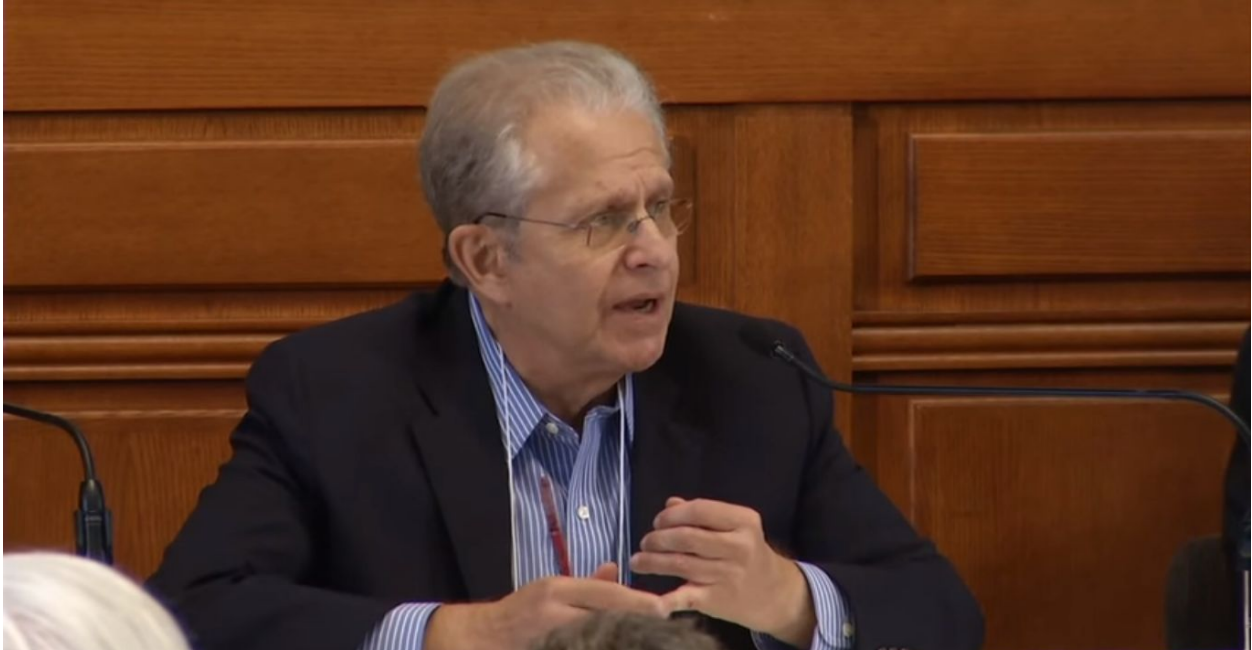


## Harvard Law Professor Laurence Tribe, a source frequently cited by the opposition

[Harvard University School of Law, September 24, 2011, Q&A](#)

[wolf-pac.com/tribe](#)



**Convention on Citizens United:** I do agree that there's a difference between and Article V Convention, which I read the Constitution contemplates... and a totally new Convention.... It's just that I don't know the metes and bounds of those differences. Now does that lead me to believe we should never have another Article V Convention? No. I agree very much..., there's a first time for everything. And I do believe there may be certain kinds of systemic breakdowns where a large majority of the people of the United States want something to happen. For example, and I take this just as an example, they want to limit the ability of amassed corporate wealth to dominate American politics. Now I count myself as part of that group. I've helped people in Congress to introduce an Amendment that would try specifically to overturn Citizens United... But it may be the case that the very things that make us want to change the influence of corporate money in politics will make it essentially inconceivable that Congress would propose that Amendment to the States. Now if we get that kind of lock-down... then I think we're at least in the territory where there's perhaps a plausible systemic case for a limited purpose....

**Convention on other topics:** I don't see [fiscal and budgetary issues] as similar in a structural sense to the Citizens United problem. And if we're going to limit the experiment of the Article V Convention to situations where we really have a plausible argument that we are inherent locked out of making a change through the ordinary amendment process, if we're going to limit it in that way, then I don't see that as a plausible occasion for having a convention....

**On regulations and safeguards:** I do agree that Article V should be read to oblige Congress under certain circumstances which I can't fully define, but there've got to be circumstances. Suppose all 50 States were to petition Congress to convene a convention to consider Amendments to restrict or overturn Citizens United. Suppose it was framed that way. Now obviously at that point, it would be political suicide for members of Congress to thumb their noses at these 50 state calls. At that point, if there really were to be a convention, I would agree with my colleague Larry Lessig that under the necessary and proper clause, Congress would at least have the authority to enact facilitating legislation. I don't think that that legislation would have the power to prevent the convention from proceeding. I think it would have to facilitate it....

**On those who take his words out of context:** *I would also object very much to someone who said that because I don't know the answers to all the questions about an Article V Convention I would oppose ever having one. And that's why I made very clear that I don't take that view.*