

# Constitution Convention Coalition

**Joining hands to break the chains of the past!**

*The purpose of the Constitution Convention Coalition is to connect non-profits throughout Alabama in the common interest of drafting a new constitution through a representative, citizen-led constitutional convention.*

## **Coalition Background:**

In August of 2005, a diverse group of Alabamians representing more than thirty-five organizations throughout the state gathered to work on message framing for the Alabama constitutional reform movement. Through a series of follow up meetings, it was decided that since the true goal of the non-profit groups represented was to call for a citizens' convention, the name of the coalition would be the Constitution Convention Coalition. The Coalition is being staffed by Greater Birmingham Ministries' Constitutional Reform Education Campaign and the Alabama Citizens of Constitutional Reform (ACCR) Foundation.

## **Why a new CONSTITUTION?**

The 1901 Alabama Constitution is a hindrance to the work of non-profits because it taxes families further into poverty, deters appropriate funding of social services and discourages citizen participation at all levels of government.

## **Why a constitution CONVENTION?**

A convention is needed to empower Alabama citizens to shape their own future through writing a new, more just Alabama constitution. There are two options to reform the constitution; by amendment or by a convention. To date, we have amended the Alabama Constitution 799 times, so let's give a citizen-delegated convention a chance.

## **Why become a member of the constitution convention COALITION?**

Joining the Coalition will help your organization meet your mission and goals. It will also create a vibrant network for education, advocacy and action with other organizations throughout the state that share the common interest of creating a quality future for *ALL* Alabama citizens.

## **What are Coalition Members asked to do?**

- EDUCATE your constituents on the need for constitution reform.
- ENCOURAGE Alabamians to sign-up with Alabama Citizens for Constitutional Reform ([www.constitutionalreform.org](http://www.constitutionalreform.org)) and contact their legislators to urge them to Let the People Vote on holding a Constitution Convention!
- ASK your organization's Board to approve a resolution which will ENDORSE the call for a citizens' convention and allow your group to JOIN the Constitution Convention Coalition (see back side for details).
- SPEAK with your local legislators and urge their support to approve legislation that gives the people of Alabama the opportunity to vote on holding a Constitution Convention.

***Alabama citizens united for a new state constitution!***

**{ORGANIZATION NAME} Resolution to join the  
Constitution Convention Coalition**

WHEREAS,

Alabama's 1901 constitution

- Restricts local democracy,
- Locks in an unfair tax system,
- Hinders economic development,
- Is the largest known constitution in the world,
- Has undemocratic origins rooted in a racist past, and
- {INSERT A STATEMENT TAILORED TO YOUR ORGANIZATION'S MISSION}.

AND WHEREAS,

{ORGANIZATION NAME} respects and values all Alabama citizens, holding profound trust in the intelligence, resourcefulness and basic decency of the people of our great state,

AND WHEREAS,

We envision a greater Alabama, governed under a Constitution that promotes efficient, effective and fair governance for all citizens,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

{ORGANIZATION NAME} hereby enlists in the CONSTITUTION CONVENTION COALITION, pledging our best efforts to move the Alabama legislature to empower our citizens by calling a convention of representative citizens to draft a new Constitution for approval by Alabama citizens in a statewide referendum.

Board Chair Signature

Executive Director Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**INSTRUCTIONS**

When your organization resolves to join the Alabama Constitution Convention Coalition, please forward a copy of the resolution, along with contact information, to the following:

AL Citizens for Constitutional Reform Foundation  
Attn: Mark Berte  
P. O. Box 10747  
Birmingham, AL 35202  
Email: [Mark@constitutionALreform.org](mailto:Mark@constitutionALreform.org)

Greater Birmingham Ministries  
Constitutional Reform Education Campaign  
Attn: Hill Carmichael  
2304 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue North  
Birmingham, AL 35234  
Fax: (205) 252-8458  
Email: [Hill@GBM.org](mailto:Hill@GBM.org)