Levin's book calls for amendments to the U.S. Constitution

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Randy Bright

My wife and I just returned from a vacation to Alaska that we had planned for several years.

Alaska is a beautiful state, to say the least, and larger than one can imagine. We were there only one week, so we only saw a small part of it – Anchorage, the Denali National Park, and Fairbanks – traveling by train from one to the other.

On one leg of the train trip, we met a very interesting couple who lived in California, but had immigrated to the United States in 1989 from Russia. She was from Moscow, and had worked as a translator there. Her husband was an electrical engineer who was from St. Petersburg.

I asked them what had prompted them to move to America, and they gave the obvious answer – Freedom.

I asked if they still had family in Russia, and she acknowledged that they did, and that they kept in touch via the Internet. We talked a little about how things were changing in America, and how our freedom was diminishing, so I asked them what the people in Russia thought of that. She chuckled, and said that they were so accustomed to living under big government that they could not comprehend what it would be like to live under our freedoms. In fact, she added, they were so accustomed to it that most of them would not want it any other way.

I thought it was tragic, and very difficult to understand. It's not unlike the wife who won't leave the husband who is abusing her, believing that the pain and suffering is worth the false security of staying in the abusive relationship.

As we arrived in the Anchorage airport to make the long flight home, I picked up a book to read, Mark Levin's *The Liberty Amendments-Restoring the American Republic*.

I believe as Levin does, that America needs to return to its Constitutional roots. Levin believes that we need to invoke Article V of the Constitution, which provides for two ways to amend it.

This is what the Constitution says in Article V, with italics added by Levin to emphasize the second means of doing so:

"The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it unnecessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or, on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments, which, in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as Part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States or by Conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be proposed by the Congress..."

Many people fear that a Constitutional Convention is too risky, given that the Left would certainly attempt to rewrite the Constitution in a way that would erase our freedoms, but Levin is not proposing a Constitutional Convention. What he believes that we must do is the second method, calling for a Convention for proposing amendments, which can be done by the states without interference by Congress.

- An amendment to establish term limits for members of congress
- An amendment to restore the senate (which involves repealing the 17th Amendment)
- An amendment to establish term limits for supreme court justices and super-majority legislative override
- Two amendments to limit federal spending and taxing
- An amendments to limit the federal bureaucracy
- An amendment to promote free enterprise
- An amendment to protect private property rights
- An amendment to grant the states authority to directly amend the Constitution
- An amendment to grant the states authority to check congress
- An amendment to protect the vote

Levin makes a compelling case for moving forward with these, and if they were passed it would no doubt preserve our freedoms. My only question was, is it too late? Levin says no, but I am not so sure. Just like the Russians, we have many people in this country that are willing to give up their freedoms for the security of big government.

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