

Time For States to
Amend U.S.
Constitution?

NCSL Louisville, KY 2010

What Amendments Have States Proposed Before?

- ◆ Balanced Budget etc. - 199 Resolutions
- ◆ State Only Amendment Process - 32 Resolutions
- ◆ Prohibition on Unfunded Mandates - 15 Resolutions

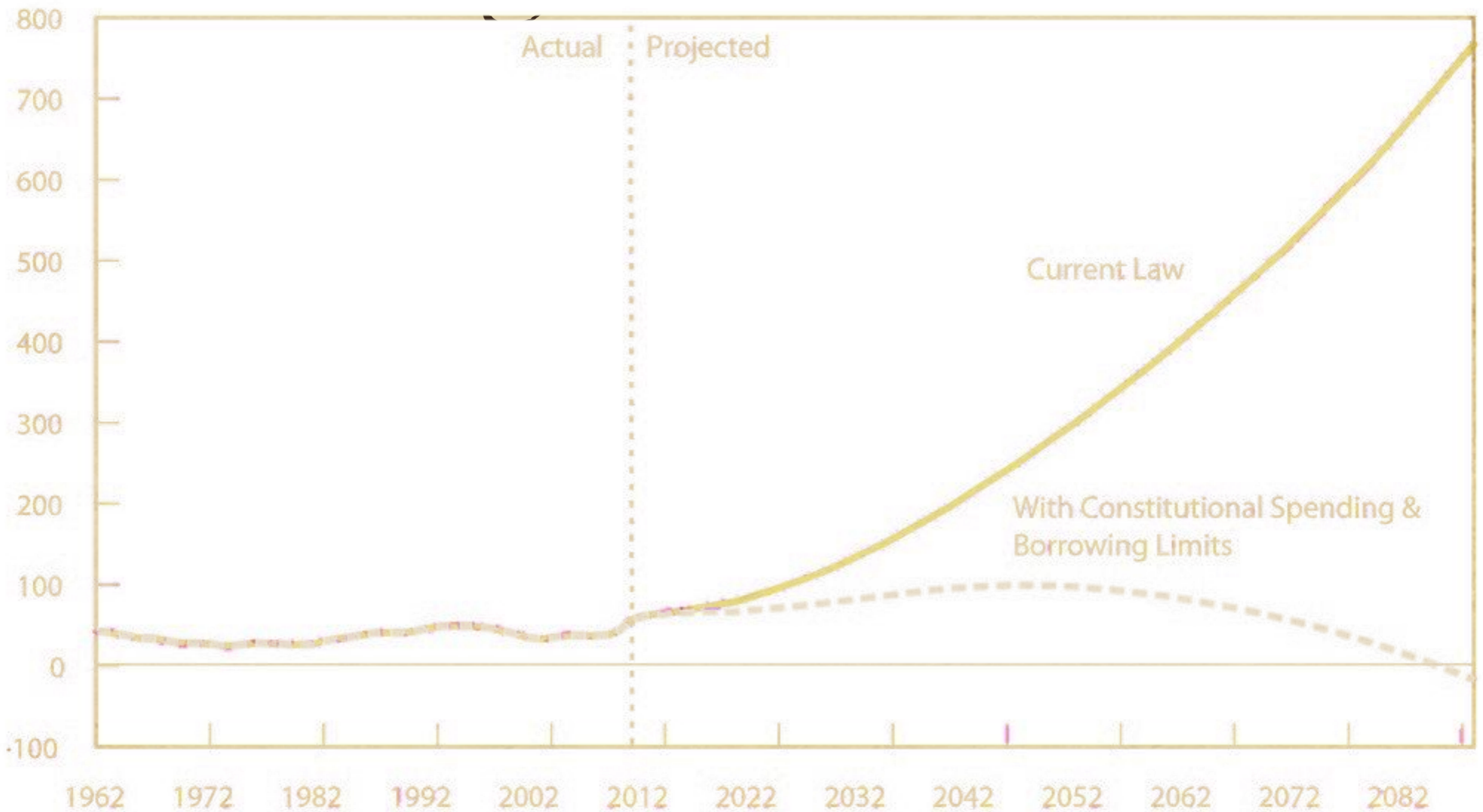
Why Should States Finish Balanced Budget Amendment Process?

- ◆ Average state share of U.S. obligations:
 - ◆ \$ 1 trillion deficit = \$ 20 billion
 - ◆ \$ 13 trillion debt = \$ 260 billion
 - ◆ \$ 100 trillion unfunded liabilities = \$ 2 trillion

Figure 1.

Debt Held by the Public

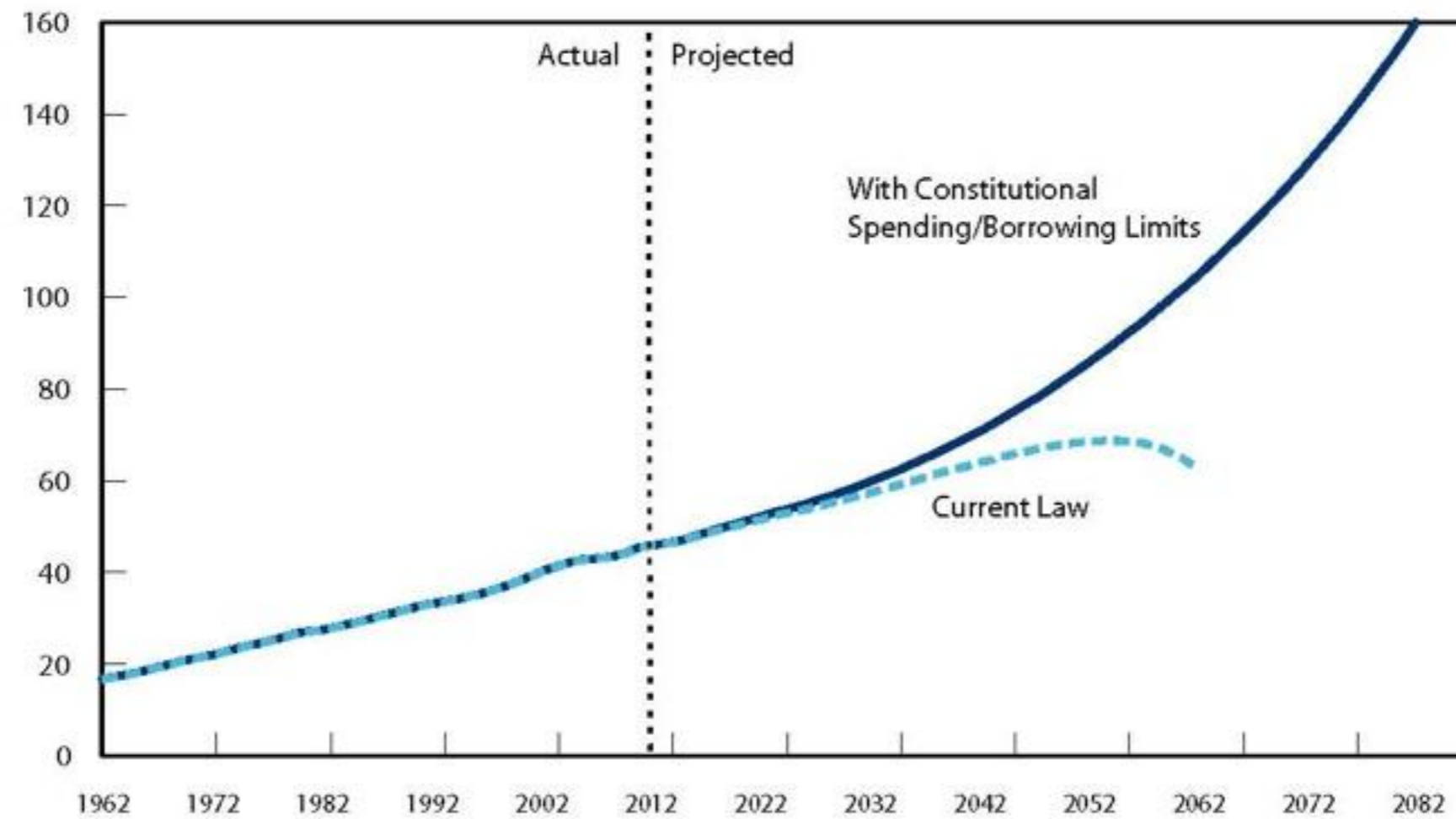
(Percentage of gross domestic product)



Source: Congressional Budget Office based on the agency's *The Long-Term Budget Outlook* (June 2009).

Real Potential Gross National Product Per Person

(Thousands of 2009 dollars)



Source: Congressional Budget Office based on the agency's *The Long-Term Budget Outlook* (June 2009).

Why "State Only" Amendment Process?

- ◆ Restore States' Rights - one amendment at a time
- ◆ Put DC on notice that the states can now impose a constitutional check on an overreaching federal government
- ◆ Founders wanted states to be equal to DC in proposing amendments not 27-0

Should Constitution Stop Unfunded Mandates?

- ◆ Should state revenues be subject to federal appropriation?
- ◆ Didn't the tenth amendment make it clear the states were responsible for "powers not delegated to the U.S."?
- ◆ Shouldn't states be more like "laboratories" than puppets on grant strings?

How to Get 34 States to Propose and 38 to Ratify a U.S. Amendment?

- ◆ Join other states weekly in Constitutional Road to Prosperity's virtual meeting about:
 - ◆ amendment(s) needed,
 - ◆ exact "subject" language to reach 34
 - ◆ firewalls against a "runaway" and
 - ◆ strategy to finish the job.

Vote on Taxes Amendment

- ◆ Pays off the debt & quadruples U.S. family incomes in 4 generations
- ◆ Prohibits unfunded mandates
- ◆ Gives 2/3 states power to propose amendment...no convention, congress or courts
- ◆ ALEC model legislation