

The New York State Constitution Guarantees Citizens' Rights

- Free education/oversight of how public money can be spent
- Protection of our forests and natural resources
- Equal protection of the laws for all
- Fair voting requirements
- Religious freedom
- Protection and promotion of our health
- Aid, care and support of the needy; housing for low-income residents
- Right to organize and to bargain collectively
- Protection of state employee pensions
- Balance of power among the branches of government

To make the changes we believe are necessary, the constitution states that

*[a]ny amendment or amendments to this constitution may be
proposed in the Senate and Assembly ...*

We have a way to amend our constitution, which we've done more than 200 times. It is less costly and it doesn't give powerful special-interest groups unfettered access to our *entire* state Constitution.

Let's use this proven legislative process to make the changes we need.

Vote No! on the Nov. 7 ballot referendum.
Vote No! to a constitutional convention.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT UUP VICE PRESIDENT JAMIE DANGLER
800.342.4206 | JDANGLER@UUPMAIL.ORG | 518.640.6600

The NYS Constitution guarantees ...



Religious freedom

The free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without discrimination or preference, shall forever be allowed in this state to all humankind ...



Protection of state workers' pensions

... membership in any pension or retirement system of the state or of a civil division thereof shall be a contractual relationship, the benefits of which shall not be diminished or impaired.



Protection and promotion of our health

The protection and promotion of the health of the inhabitants of the state are matters of public concern and provision therefore shall be made by the state ...



Right to organize and bargain collectively

Employees shall have the right to organize and to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing.



Aid, care and support of the needy

The aid, care and support of the needy are public concerns and shall be provided by the state and by such of its subdivisions ... [T]he legislature ... may prescribe for low rent housing and nursing home accommodations for persons of low income...



Fair voting requirements

All elections ... shall be by ballot ... provided that secrecy in voting be preserved. ... The legislature shall provide for identification of voters through their signatures in all cases where personal registration is required and shall also provide for the signatures, at the time of voting. ...



Free education for all children

The legislature shall provide for the maintenance and support of a system of free common schools, wherein all the children of this state may be educated. ... Use of public property or money in aid of denominational schools prohibited ...



Equal protection of the laws for all

No person shall be denied the equal protection of the laws of this state ... No person shall, because of race, color, creed or religion, be subjected to any discrimination ... by any other person or by any firm, corporation, or institution, or by the state ...



Protection of forests, natural resources

[State] lands ... shall be forever kept as wild forest lands. They shall not be leased, sold or exchanged, or taken by any corporation, public or private, nor shall the timber thereon be sold, removed or destroyed. ... The policy of the state shall be to conserve and protect its natural resources ... [And] shall include adequate provision for the abatement of air and water pollution ...



Balance of power

The legislative power ... shall be vested in the senate and assembly ... Every bill (to pass) the senate and assembly shall, before it becomes a law, be presented to the governor (to sign or) return it with his or her objections ... If after such reconsideration, two-thirds of the members elected to that house shall agree to pass the bill, it shall be sent ... to the other house ... if approved by two-thirds of the members elected to that house, it shall become a law notwithstanding the objections of the governor.

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Vote No! to a constitutional convention.