

Subject: NY Voters and Retirees – Read This!

**If you live in New York or count on a New York State pension,
this message is important for you.**

**NYS CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION:
VOTE NO**

On November 7th on the back of their ballot NYS voters will find 3 proposals. The first one asks:
Shall there be a convention to revise the constitution and amend the same?

If approved, **the convention must remain in session for a minimum of six weeks with no maximum cut-off. Delegates often include elected officials and political party leaders. They are paid \$79,500 for each year or part of year that the convention is in session, in addition to their regular salary. Add costs for housing, travel, printing and other expenses and cost estimates for a Constitutional Convention range from \$50-300 million** depending on how long it is in session.

Delegates can choose to review any aspect of the current constitution and, while the public must vote on all amendments suggested, delegates may choose to offer everything to voters as a block vote, or they may decide to offer each amendment separately.

The present constitution contains laws affecting important areas such as: public education, state parks, the environment, social welfare, workers' rights, and retirement security/pensions. **The current political climate makes it too risky to open the door to possible changes that may negatively impact middle class and working class issues, as well as the environment and public education.** While there are areas that might benefit from review and change, there is another way to amend the constitution -- by legislative review and amendment. Over 225 amendments have been added to the constitution since its inception.

Do we need a Constitutional Convention? Given the enormous cost to the taxpayer, it would seem foolish. It would require tax dollars that could be put to better use to improve our schools, parks, roads and infrastructure, especially since review and change can be brought about through legislative action without a costly convention.

A convention also leaves open the possibility of eliminating or changing items that most New Yorkers feel are of great benefit to them, such as laws affecting free public education, preservation of the environment, and protections for workers and retirees.

For all the above reasons, we urge our fellow New Yorkers to

VOTE "NO" to the proposal:

Shall there be a convention to revise the constitution and amend the same?

If you plan to be out-of-state on November 7,
be sure to contact your local Board of Elections now for an absentee ballot.

If you no longer live in New York, please contact friends and family in NYS
and encourage them to **VOTE "NO"** on proposal #1

With thanks for your attention,

**NYS RETIRED SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS AND SUPERVISORS
EXECUTIVE BOARD**