

Why to Vote No on the Constitutional Convention

Here are the reasons we all must - Vote NO on the referendum to open a Constitutional Convention

In the coming months we may be boarding an incarnation of the Titanic. Only this time we can see the iceberg both above and below the surface. This iceberg is the constitutional convention that will be voted on in November. With the political climate the way it is, the radical instability of the present administration, and the inflammatory presidential decrees already in progress, we are taking our future into our hands. And that future is not bright.

By opening up the Constitution it gives New York State delegates the right to propose amendments and changes in the state Constitution. There is also the distinct possibility of losing some of the things that we have worked so hard for over the course of our career. We are not automatically grandfathered in for any of the rights you now enjoy. You could possibly lose your pension, your retirement securities, your right to collectively bargain, your right to a union and most importantly the student's right to a free public education.

With Betsy DeVos, the confirmed new Secretary of Education, having no experience in public education nor having not sent any of her children to public schools; this may be a portent of things to come. We have already seen the money drain from public schools to subsidize both charter schools and private parochial institutions both statewide and nationally.

What would you do if you woke up one morning and received a letter saying that your pension benefits have been cut? As you read further down that letter you also find out that tenure has been abolished and your union has no longer been able to collectively bargain. These are all distinct possibilities if the New York State Constitution is opened up for changes.

In addition changes that need to be made can be done with amendments and not the convention.

Do you really want to be on a ship you already know will sink? The iceberg is already there, and if you open up the Constitution that ship will be irreparably damaged and definitely sink. It is incumbent on all of us to vote no in November.

New York's Constitution allows a mixed delegate election system. There are 204 delegates to be elected, 189 are elected from New York's 63 state Senate districts (three from each district) and 15 elected at large for the entire state. These delegates would follow the political leanings of the districts they represent. We can't allow these politicians to cut benefits, give free reign to corporate monopolies, and go after our rights that are protected by a Constitution that already exists. Our schools are teetering on a precipice of subterfuge and disaster. Again, please vote no to opening up a constitutional convention.

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