

10 Reasons

to

VOTE NO

on CONCON

On **November 7, 2017** voters will be asked to decide whether the state should convene a Constitutional Convention to redraft the state's constitution. The outcome could have **far-reaching and devastating effects** for decades. Opening up the constitution to haphazard changes is like opening a Pandora's Box.

Proposition 1 on whether to hold a Constitutional Convention will be on the **BACK of the ballot** and will read as follows:

“Shall there be a convention to revise the Constitution and amend the same?”

1. *IT IS A WASTE OF MONEY*

A Constitutional Convention is projected to **cost \$340 million** in taxpayer money and could **seriously damage current benefits and protections** for at least the next 20 years.

2. *IT IS A POLITICIAN'S CONVENTION*

During the last Convention, 4 out of 5 delegates were career politicians and Albany insiders who will earn two salaries every day during the Convention that has no time limit.

3. *THE RIGHT TO UNIONIZE*

Workers' rights to organize, and form and join unions at free will would be at risk.

4. *COLLECTIVE BARGAINING*

Remember what Scott Walker did in Wisconsin? Voting against a Constitutional Convention would help safeguard collective bargaining rights in New York.

5. *PENSION PROTECTION*

Public employee pensions are currently protected by the State constitution, but a Convention could remove those protections. Also at risk? Workers' Compensation, unemployment, retirement systems, and contributions.

6. *CIVIL SERVICE LAWS AND RULES*

The current system of competitive lists and job protections as we know them could be undone. Awarding political patronage jobs instead of hiring people based on merit could become the norm.

7. *SOUND BASIC EDUCATION*

The current Constitution guarantees children the right to a free public education and limits the use of funding for school maintenance and establishment.

8. *ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS*

NYS's Constitution has the nation's strongest protections for “forever wild” areas in the Adirondacks and the Catskills. Greedy developers could push to undo these safeguards for profit.

9. *SOCIAL SAFETY NET*

The State Constitution now ensures that New York provide for its citizens in need with welfare and unemployment benefits, emergency healthcare, and homeless shelters, to name a few. All of this would be on the line with a Constitutional Convention.

10. *VOTING RIGHTS*

Restrictions and stringencies on voting rights could be implemented with a Constitutional Convention, including diminishing polling sites and requiring government-issued identification. This would ultimately reduce the number of eligible voters.