

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

Approved by the membership 10/11/17

WHEREAS a New York State Constitutional Convention poses risks to rights protected by New York State's constitution, including those upholding social service and school funding, environmental laws, public employee pensions, civil liberties, tenant protections, sanctuary cities and union activities,

WHEREAS if Republicans get control of the convention, they can overturn any New York law or regulation and enact the Trump agenda,

WHEREAS it is unlikely that a majority of delegates will be progressives because (1) three delegates will be elected from each of 63 state senate districts, but the New York State Senate was gerrymandered in 2012 with the intent of producing a Republican majority, (2) the average expenditure in 2014 to win in a state senate district was \$995,000 and (3) running for one of the 15 statewide delegate seats will cost millions,

WHEREAS the cost of the convention is likely to be inordinately high because there is no set time limit on its length nor budgetary limit on its expenses. The 204 convention delegates are paid at the same rate as State Senators, with legislators and judges who serve as delegates collecting double pay, and the convention can hire whatever staff and consultants it chooses.

WHEREAS if voters decide in November 2017 to hold a convention, the election of delegates will be on the same day in 2018 as the congressional election, sidetracking our efforts to take back Congress.

WHEREAS after the convention, there will be a statewide referendum on proposed amendments that could cost millions for paid media, encouraging an influx of money by hedge fund managers, the Koch brothers and others.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, because the convention poses too many risks, Three Parks Independent Democrats opposes the New York State Constitutional Convention and will publically campaign for a "NO" vote in the referendum to be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2017.