

**PROPOSED
RESOLUTION
for submission to the
2013 NYSUT Representative Assembly**

Must be received by: Jan. 14, 2013
Return to: Office of the President
NYSUT
800 Troy-Schenectady Road
Latham, NY 12110

If this is a reaffirmation of a prior resolution, please check here.

Resolution title: Opposition to Constitutional Convention

Submitted by: Professional Staff Congress/CUNY

Local or Retiree Council Name

(See format and guidelines on last page of this document.)

WHEREAS, the New York State Constitution requires that the question, "Shall there be a convention to revise the constitution and amend the same" be put to voters every 20 years; and

WHEREAS, absent legislation passed by successive state Legislatures and pursuant to the applicable provisions of the New York State Constitution, the next such question is scheduled to be posed to voters in 2017; and

WHEREAS, in the interim, if two (2) successive state Legislatures pass legislation to put the question to the voters, then such question shall be posed to the voters at the next general election and a constitutional convention would be called upon a majority vote in support; and

WHEREAS, unfortunately, there continue to be activists, special interests and legislators who are actively promoting legislation to call for a Constitutional Convention in New York State in the interim; and

(over)

I hereby certify that the above resolution was approved for submission to the 2013 NYSUT Representative Assembly by the: Executive Council at a meeting held on 1/10/13
(Executive Board, General Membership, etc.) (date)

Please print name: Barbara Bowen
(President)

Signature: _____
(President) Local 2334
NYSUT Local or Retiree Council

Local or Retiree Council name: Professional Staff Congress/CUNY

Local or Retiree Council President's email address: bbowen@pscmail.org

(Reverse of Resolution Form)

WHEREAS, absent accurate and complete information about the protections, rights and benefits contained in the New York State Constitution, many in the general public may be inclined to support these efforts; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Constitution protects the right to organize and collectively bargain (Article I, Section 17); and

WHEREAS, the New York State Constitution guarantees that the retirement benefits earned and accrued by public employees cannot be diminished (Article V, Section 7); and

WHEREAS, the New York State Constitution also requires the state to provide for the maintenance and support of a system of free public schools where in all the children of the state may be educated (Article XI, Section 1); and prohibits the use of state monies to fund private/religious schools (Article XI, Section 3); and designates the 2.3 million acres of state owned land in the "Adirondack Park" as "forever wild" (Article XIV, Section 1); and clearly indicates the state's responsibility for aiding the needy, promoting the public health and caring for the physically- and mentally-challenged (Article XVII); and

WHEREAS, if a Constitutional Convention were convened, all of these and other rights, benefits and protections would be subject to change or repeal; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that NYSUT remain vigilant in opposing legislative efforts to convene a Constitutional Convention; and be it further

RESOLVED, that NYSUT continue to educate its members and the general public about the important rights, benefits and protections contained in the New York State Constitution, as well as the potential damaging effects that changes to those important provisions, or the outright repeal thereof, might cause.