

**Calling On The New York State Legislature To Enact Legislation Calling For A State Constitutional Convention As Soon As Possible To Address Unfunded State Mandates On Local Governments, Structural State Budget Deficits And Issues Of Lines Of Succession For Elected Officials**

Legislator Loughran, Chairman Frederick J. Wadnola and Co-Sponsors: The Governmental Services, Environmental and Administrative Committee (Chairman Roberts and Legislators Belfiglio, Fabiano, Petit, Ronk, Richard Parete, Robert Parete, Rodriguez and Shapiro) offer the following:

WHEREAS, our current State constitution was adopted 116 years ago in 1894 and modified through a constitutional convention in 1938 and at various other times by legislative action, and

WHEREAS, our State and nation have changed in ways that could not even have been imagined over 40 years ago when New York last attempted to modify the constitution through a people's convention, and

WHEREAS, the State is facing the most dramatic fiscal and budget crisis since the Great Depression, and

WHEREAS, the State recently went through an unprecedented transfer of power with the resignation of one Governor, appointment of a Lieutenant Governor and an attempted coup in the State Senate—raising questions about clear lines of succession and how stalemates would be broken in that Chamber in the absence of a Lieutenant Governor, and

WHEREAS, a majority of the people of New York have expressed their desire to convene a “people's convention” to reform state government and fix structural State budget problems, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) and the Ulster County Legislature call on the State Legislature to take the necessary steps to convene a constitutional convention to reform New York State government and ask that delegates consider reforms to permanently end unfunded state mandates on counties and other local governments in order to reduce the highest in the nation local tax burden, develop clear lines of succession for the top statewide elected offices and eliminate the long term structural imbalances in the State Budget, and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor David Paterson, Senate Majority Leader Pedro Espada Jr., Senate Minority Leader Dean G. Skelos, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assembly Majority Leader Ron Canestrari, Assembly Minority Leader Brian M. Kolb, New York State Senators John J. Bonacic and William J. Larkin, Jr., New

Resolution No. 243 September 21, 2010

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York State Assemblymen Kevin A. Cahill, Clifford W. Crouch, Peter Lopez and Frank K. Skartados, the New York State Association of Counties, and all others deemed necessary and proper,

and move its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 31 NOES: 0  
(Absent: Legislators Briggs and Richard Parete)  
(Legislator Fabiano left at 7:44 PM)  
(Legislator Richard Parete arrived at 8:43 PM)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:  
NONE

0920

STATE OF NEW YORK  
ss:  
COUNTY OF ULSTER

This is to certify that I, the undersigned Clerk of the Legislature of the County of Ulster have compared the foregoing resolution with the original resolution now on file in the office of said clerk, and which was adopted by said Legislature on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of September, 2010, and that the same is a true and correct transcript of said resolution and of the whole thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the County of Ulster this 23<sup>rd</sup> Day of September in the year Two Thousand and Ten.

/s/ Karen L. Binder  
Karen L. Binder, Clerk  
Ulster County Legislature