

**In Support Of The State Legislature's Proposed Legislation
"People's Convention To Reform New York Act"**

Chairman David B. Donaldson, Legislator Cahill, and multi-sponsors: Legislator Loughran and the Ways and Means Committee (Chairman Lomita and Legislators Cahill, Dart, Gregorius, Provenzano, Rodriguez, Cummings, Gerentine and Noonan) offer the following:

WHEREAS, our State Constitution was originally meant to be a vibrant, living and breathing document, reflective of the times in which we live that holds up to the political dynamic of the day, and

WHEREAS, our current State Constitution was adopted 115 years ago in 1894 and modified at a constitutional convention in 1938 and at various other times by legislative action, and

WHEREAS, our state, our nation and the world have changed dramatically in the past forty-two years as the information age has transformed communications, business and government in ways that could not even have been imagined when our State Constitution was adopted, and

WHEREAS, we are in the face of the most challenging economic environment since the Great Depression, and

WHEREAS, the people of New York have expressed their desire to hold a "People's Convention" to reform state government, as evidenced by recent Quinnipiac University and Siena College Research polls, showing more than 60 percent of voters supporting a People's Convention to Reform New York, and

WHEREAS, members of the State Legislature have introduced "The People's Convention to Reform New York Act," which grants the people the opportunity to hold a constitutional convention, establishes a procedure for the non-partisan election of delegates, restricts political parties, campaign committees and special interests' influence over delegates, and requires state or local elected official and officers or party officials to vacate their post upon being elected delegate, and

WHEREAS, while the Constitution empowers the elected delegates to set the convention agenda for "The People's Convention to Reform New York," we ask that the delegates consider government reforms such as a state spending cap and property tax cap, restrictions on unfunded mandates, debt reform, an absolute ban on backdoor borrowing, public authorities reform, a clear line of succession to the governorship and lieutenant governorship and elections to fill elected state office vacancies, now, therefore, be it

Resolution No. 300 October 14, 2009

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RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature pause in its deliberations to acknowledge the need for true state government reform and urge the immediate passage and chaptering of the "People's Convention to Reform New York Act," which will allow for the creation of a more accountable and responsive state government by the people to serve the people, and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed 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 York State Assemblymen Kevin A. Cahill, Clifford W. Crouch, Peter Lopez and Frank K. Skartados and the New York State Association of Counties,

and move its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 28 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislators Briggs, Cummings, Sheeley,
Stoeckeler, and Zimet)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
TO BE DETERMINED