

**NEW YORK STATE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION POLL  
 BARUCH COLLEGE SURVEY RESEARCH**

**For release: 10/23/17**

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**Constitutional Convention Poll Identifies Issues Voters Would Like  
 Taken Up at a Constitutional Convention**

**ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED (Q5-Q17)**

New York State registered voters were queried on 13 issues whether the issue would be a reason to vote 1. For a Constitutional convention, 2. Against a Constitutional Convention, 3. Or the issue was not a reason to vote either way.

<b>Issue/Policy Area</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Margin of Difference</b>	<b>Neither</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>
A Convention could recommend constitutional mandate for air/water quality	<b>64%</b>	12%	+52 pts	22%	2%
A Convention could recommend term limits for statewide offices	<b>61%</b>	11%	+50 pts	25%	3%
A Convention could recommend term limits for state legislature	<b>61%</b>	11%	+50 pts	25%	3%
A Convention could recommend that all ethical questions about legislators be decided by independent, non-partisan body	<b>54%</b>	12%	+42 pts	28%	5%
A Convention could recommend guaranteeing right to lawyer in serious civil cases	<b>47%</b>	23%	+24 pts	26%	3%
A Convention held now would have more diverse delegate body than in past	<b>45%</b>	8%	+37 pts	44%	3%

A Convention could recommend same right to abortion as in US Constitution	<b>44%</b>	23%	+21 pts	27%	5%
A Convention could recommend district lines be drawn by a non-partisan commission	<b>43%</b>	13%	+30 pts	37%	6%
A Convention could provide for early voting	<b>42%</b>	22%	+20 pts	34%	3%
A Convention could recommend voter registration on Election Day	<b>39%</b>	27%	+12 pts	30%	3%
A Convention could recommend that state elections be publicly financed by state taxes	31%	28%	+3 pts	<b>34%</b>	6%
A Convention could recommend eliminating existing environmental protections	23%	<b>43%</b>	-20 pts	30%	4%
A Convention could recommend eliminating right to collective bargaining	20%	<b>41%</b>	-21 pts	32%	6%

**INITIALLY NARROWLY FAVOR (Q4)**

When asked initially, “based on what you know now, if the referendum [on a Constitutional Convention] were held today” would they vote for it, against it, or not vote for the referendum at all, one third --32% -- of NYS registered voters said they’d vote for, 27% would vote against.

Nearly two in 10 (18%) registered voters initially said they wouldn’t vote on Constitutional Convention at all, while 21% weren’t sure.

**AFTER HEARING THESE ISSUES, A MAJORITY FAVORS (Q19)**

After hearing about some of the issues that might be considered at a Constitutional Convention, a majority of NYS registered voters – 55% -- now favored voting for a Constitutional convention, while 21% were against; 14% would not vote on a Convention, and 10% weren’t sure.

Thus, after considering this list of some of the possible impacts of a Convention, NYS registered voters increased their support of a Constitutional Convention from 32% to 55%-- from about one-third to more than one-half.

**UNAWARE OF CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION (Q3)**

A majority – 56% -- of New York State registered voters have neither heard nor read about the proposed referendum calling for a Constitutional Convention which will be on the ballot on November 7, 2017; 42% have heard or read something about the proposed referendum.

**The Survey Questions and Top Line Results are attached**

## METHODOLOGY

**This telephone poll of 801 registered voters, based on an RDD sample of 1121 adults in New York State, was conducted at OAC by Baruch College Survey Research, Marxe School of Public and International Affairs, Baruch College, CUNY from October 2-13, 2017.** The survey was commissioned by Evan A. Davis \* to explore voter opinion on issues which might be addressed at a Constitutional Convention. 575 landline telephone interviews and 546 cell phone interviews were conducted with separate samples of New York State residents.

The landline sample was based on a random digit dial (RDD) design which draws numbers from all existing landline telephone exchanges in all 62 counties in New York State, giving all phone numbers, listed and unlisted, a proportionate chance of being included. Respondents in the landline sample were selected randomly within the household. This sample was supplemented by an RDD cell phone sample, based on numbers identified as active cell phones throughout the state. Respondents were screened for residence in New York State, were offered the option of being interviewed in Spanish, and were then screened for registration. Non-registered adults were kept in the sample for demographic questions and weighting. The full sample was weighted for region, age, race, gender, education, and income to US Census data for New York State.

The margin of sampling error (MoE) for data from the poll is +/- 2.9 points for the full sample of 1121 adults at the 95% confidence level. That is, the chances are about 19 out of 20 that if all households with telephones were surveyed with the same questionnaire, the results of the complete census would not be found to deviate from the poll findings by more than **2.9** percentage points. Error for subgroups is higher. **The margin of sampling error (MoE) for the 801 registered voters is +/- 3.5 percentage points.** Sampling is only one source of error. Other sources of error may include question wording, question order and interviewer effects.

\* While Evan Davis is Manager of the Committee for a Constitutional Convention, the Committee did not commission this survey, and the survey was conducted with an explicit commitment to its publication regardless of the outcome.

**A fuller report on the poll, including detailed subgroup analysis and full cross-tabular results are available from Ms. Blum and Dr. Muzzio.**