



TASK FORCE ON THE NEW YORK STATE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND PROCEDURE

I. Introduction

In 2017, as mandated by the State Constitution, the New York state ballot will ask voters: “Shall there be a convention to revise the constitution and amend the same?” If the answer is in the affirmative, delegates will be elected in 2018. The State Constitution provides that three convention delegates shall be elected from each senatorial district, and 15 delegates are elected at-large.

The New York City Bar Association has formed a Task Force on the New York State Constitutional Convention to deal with the issues surrounding the constitutional convention. Statement of Purpose

The Task Force should formulate the Association’s positions with respect to the following issues:

- A. Should the voters answer “yea” or “nay” to the question of whether there should be a constitutional convention?
- B. Assuming there is a convention (regardless of the Association’s recommendation) what legislative action should be taken with respect to the election of delegates to that convention?
- C. Assuming there is a convention (regardless of the Association’s recommendation) what proposed changes (or resistance to proposed changes) to the existing Constitution should the Association recommend to the Convention?
- D. Assuming a convention is held (regardless of the Association’s recommendation) and a proposed new constitution is recommended, what recommendations should the Association make?

II. Procedures to be Followed by the Task Force

- A. Formation of Task Force.
- B. Review of background material, including relevant prior Association reports, and distribution of same to Task Force.
- C. Organizational meeting of the Task Force.
- D. Goals to be accomplished by the Task Force in 2015:
 - 1. Formulate recommendations with respect to election of convention delegates and related issues and advocating for adoption of those recommendations;
 - 2. Establish approach to coordinate with existing City Bar committees on the relevant topics, including establishment of subcommittees.
- E. Goals to be accomplished by the Task Force by no later than the spring of 2017:
 - 1. Identify relevant substantive issues the convention might consider;
 - 2. Solicit from appropriate Association committees their views on the substantive issues;
 - 3. Study the substantive issues not in the jurisdiction of an Association committee;
 - 4. Formulate recommendation as to whether the convention should be held¹;
 - 5. Advocate for adoption of the Association's position; and
 - 6. If a State preparatory commission is created, discuss whether the Task Force should create a sub-committee to interact with the same.
- F. Longer-Term Goals of the Task Force:

¹ This may include discussion of and reference to the Association's position on the 1997 ballot question of whether a constitutional convention should be held.

1. If the voters vote to hold a convention, formulate Association recommendations with respect to each issue the convention might consider;
2. Address delegate selection process;
3. Advance the recommendations of the Association at the convention;
4. Formulate Association position with respect to proposals made by the convention.