

# STATE OF NEW YORK

3484

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

January 27, 2025

Introduced by Sens. HELMING, BORRELLO, MURRAY, OBERACKER, O'MARA -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Judiciary

### CONCURRENT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY

proposing the addition of a new article 20 to the constitution, in relation to dividing New York state into three autonomous regions; proposing an amendment to article 8 of the constitution, in relation to local, school and special district budgets; proposing an amendment to article 9 of the constitution in relation to formation of new towns; proposing an amendment to section 2 of article 19 of the constitution, in relation to the constitutional convention; proposing an amendment to article 11 of the constitution, in relation to public education; proposing an amendment to article 19 of the constitution, in relation to limiting voting on a new constitution; proposing an amendment to article 5 of the constitution, in relation to officers and civil departments; repealing article 11 of the constitution relating to education; repealing section 6 of article 3 of the constitution relating to the state legislature; and repealing section 1 of article 5 of the constitution relating to officers and civil departments

1 Section 1. Resolved (if the Assembly concur), That article 20 of the  
2 constitution be renumbered article 21 and a new article 20 be added to  
3 read as follows:

4 ARTICLE XX  
5 REGIONS

6 Section 1. The state of New York shall be divided into three Regions:  
7 the New Amsterdam Region, the New York Region and the Montauk Region.

8 (a) The New York Region shall consist of the counties of Bronx, Kings,  
9 New York, Queens and Richmond.

10 (b) The New Amsterdam Region shall consist of the counties of Albany,  
11 Allegany, Broome, Cattaraugus, Cayuga, Chautauqua, Chemung, Chenango,  
12 Clinton, Columbia, Cortland, Delaware, Dutchess, Erie, Essex, Franklin,  
13 Fulton, Genesee, Greene, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Living-  
14 ston, Madison, Monroe, Montgomery, Niagara, Oneida, Onondaga, Ontario,

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 Orange, Orleans, Oswego, Otsego, Putnam, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenec-  
2 tady, Schoharie, Schuyler, Seneca, St. Lawrence, Steuben, Sullivan,  
3 Tioga, Tompkins, Ulster, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates.

4 (c) The Montauk Region shall consist of the counties of Nassau,  
5 Suffolk, Rockland, and Westchester.

6 (d) Any new counties not listed shall be assigned by state law to the  
7 correct Region.

8 (e) The New Amsterdam Regional capital shall be within Albany County  
9 unless the New Amsterdam Region by Regional law picks a different  
10 location. The New York Regional capital shall be within Richmond County  
11 unless the New York Region by Regional law picks a different location.  
12 The Montauk Regional capital shall be within Westchester County unless  
13 the Montauk Region by Regional law picks a different location.

14 § 2. (a) The legislative power of each Region shall be vested in two  
15 houses; a Regional Senate and a Regional Assembly, whose members shall  
16 be elected by the United States citizens who are 18 years of age or  
17 older and reside in their respective districts. Regional Assemblyper-  
18 sons and Regional Senators must be a United States citizen and be a  
19 resident of the respective district or reside within seven miles of  
20 their respective district.

21 (b) Regional Senators will also serve in the New York State Senate;  
22 Regional Assemblypersons also will serve in the New York State Assembly.

23 (c) New Amsterdam Regional Senate shall have 24 Senators, the Montauk  
24 Region shall have 12 Senators, and the New York Regional Senate shall  
25 have 34 Senators.

26 (d) (i) The number of New Amsterdam Regional Assembly members shall be  
27 calculated by dividing the population of the New Amsterdam Region by  
28 125,000 and rounded upward to the nearest odd whole number.

29 (ii) The number of New York Regional Assembly members shall be calcu-  
30 lated by dividing the population of the New York Region by 125,000 and  
31 rounded upward to the nearest odd whole number.

32 (iii) The number of Montauk Regional Assembly members shall be calcu-  
33 lated by dividing the population of Montauk Region by 125,000 and round-  
34 ed upward to the nearest odd whole number.

35 (e) Each federal census taken decennially shall be controlling as to  
36 the number of inhabitants in the state or any part thereof for the  
37 purposes of the apportionment of members of the assembly and readjust-  
38 ment or alteration of Regional senate and assembly districts next occur-  
39 ring in so far as such census and the tabulation thereof purport to give  
40 the information necessary therefor. The first year after this Article  
41 takes effect the Court of Appeals shall draw the Regional Senate and  
42 Assembly districts; thereafter each Regional Legislature shall by  
43 Regional law draw contiguous Senate and Assembly districts of roughly  
44 equal population for that Region; however one Assembly district and one  
45 Senate district may include parts of Westchester and Nassau counties if  
46 needed to keep districts roughly equal in population. Regional Assembly-  
47 persons and Regional Senators terms will be two years. The term shall  
48 start at noon on December 1st following their election and end two years  
49 later at noon on December 1st. No town shall have more than one assem-  
50 blyperson unless its population exceeds the population required for a  
51 Regional assembly district.

52 (f) Each Regional Legislature shall hold its regular session in months  
53 of January, February, and March of each year adjourning no later than  
54 March 20th. Each Regional senator shall have one vote in their Regional  
55 senate. Each Regional assemblyperson shall have one vote in their  
56 Regional assembly.

1 (g) The fiscal year of each Region will be from March 1st to the last  
2 day of February of the following year. If at noon on the date a new  
3 fiscal year starts all the appropriate region's budget appropriation  
4 bills and revenue bills have not been enacted into law, then that  
5 region's previous fiscal year's budget shall become that region's  
6 default budget. Once a regional default budget takes effect, no part of  
7 the appropriate proposed regional executive budget shall be enacted into  
8 law. The appropriations shall remain the same as the previous fiscal  
9 year's appropriation laws. The appropriations given to each county,  
10 city, town, village or school district shall also remain the same as  
11 that region's previous fiscal year. No moneys may be transferred between  
12 appropriation laws or other changes to default budget may be enacted,  
13 unless approved by new supplemental regional appropriation bill(s) which  
14 are enacted into law. Any appropriations that were designed to be non-  
15 recurring appropriations shall be dropped from the default regional  
16 budget. Supplemental regional appropriation bill(s) voted on between  
17 April 1st and December 31st of any calendar year shall require at least  
18 three-fifths (3/5) vote of both of the appropriate regional legisla-  
19 ture's houses with the ayes and nays entered on the journal, to be  
20 enacted. The default regional budget shall be treated as a regular  
21 regional budget and expire at the end of the fiscal year. Supplemental  
22 regional appropriation bill(s) are any appropriation bill created by the  
23 appropriate regional legislature.

24 (h) The following consolidated chapters of New York State law shall  
25 become the Regional laws of each Region: Abandoned Property, Agriculture  
26 and Markets, Alcoholic Beverage Control, Alternative County Government,  
27 Arts and Cultural Affairs, Banking, Benevolent Orders, Boxing Sparring  
28 and Wrestling, Business Corporation, Canal, Civil Practice Law and  
29 Rules, Civil Rights, Civil Service (Regional and Local), Cooperative  
30 Corporations, Correction, County, Criminal Procedure, Debtor and Credi-  
31 tor, Domestic Relations, Economic Development Law, Education, Elder,  
32 Election (Regional and Local), Eminent Domain Procedure, Employer's  
33 Liability, Energy, Environmental Conservation, Estates Powers and  
34 Trusts, Executive, Financial Services Law, General Associations, General  
35 Business, General City, General Construction, General Municipal, General  
36 Obligations, Highway, Insurance, Judiciary (Superior, Appellate,  
37 Supreme, County and Local) Labor, Legislative (Regional and Local),  
38 Lien, Limited Liability Company Law, Local Finance, Mental Hygiene,  
39 Military, Multiple Dwelling, Multiple Residence, Municipal Home Rule,  
40 Navigation, New York State Printing and Public Documents, Not-For-Profit  
41 Corporation, Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Partnership,  
42 Penal, Personal Property, Private Housing Finance, Public Authorities,  
43 Public Buildings, Public Health, Public Housing, Public Lands, Public  
44 Officers, Public Service, Racing, Pari-Mutuel Wagering and Breeding Law,  
45 Railroad, Rapid Transit, Real Property, Real Property Actions and  
46 Proceedings, Real Property Tax, Religious Corporations, Rural Electric  
47 Cooperative, Second Class Cities, Social Services, Soil and Water  
48 Conservation Districts, State, State Administrative Procedure Act, State  
49 Finance, State Technology, Statute of Local Governments, Tax (except it  
50 may not enact or collect any Regional sales taxes), Town, Transporta-  
51 tion, Transportation Corporations, Uniform Commercial Code, Vehicle and  
52 Traffic, Village, Volunteer Ambulance Workers' Benefit, Volunteer Fire-  
53 fighters' Benefit, Workers' Compensation, Family Court, Surrogate's  
54 Court Procedure, Uniform City Court, Uniform District Court, Uniform  
55 Justice Court, and any other types of laws not listed in State Legisla-  
56 ture's list in section 3 of this article. Regional laws for these types

1 of laws shall be supreme over state and local laws. Any state law  
2 changed by this section to a Regional law shall have any mention of the  
3 Court of Appeals changed to that Region's Superior Court. No person can  
4 be imprisoned for any number of civil offenses for more than six months  
5 in any calendar year. New York City Civil Court, New York City Criminal  
6 Court law will become New York Regional law. Each Regional Legislature  
7 may amend, repeal, or create new laws, but any changes will only apply  
8 to that Region. No offense greater than a misdemeanor with a maximum  
9 penalty less than or equal to one year in jail may be enacted by local  
10 governments. Felonies with a maximum penalty greater than one year in  
11 jail can only be enacted under Regional law. Misdemeanors may also be  
12 enacted under Regional law. Asset forfeiture shall be allowed only if  
13 the person(s) who own the asset is/are convicted of a felony and the  
14 asset was used in the crime and/or was obtained as result of the crime.  
15 The election law requirements for getting on the ballot, for Regional  
16 Assemblyperson shall be the same or less strict than they were for a  
17 state Assemblyperson; for Regional Senator shall be the same or less  
18 strict than they were for state Senator. Any other laws that are not  
19 listed in this paragraph or in section 3 of this article shall expire on  
20 July 1st, five years after the regional governors take office for the  
21 first time unless reenacted as a Regional Law. All local laws, rules,  
22 ordinances and regulations must be filed with the appropriate regional  
23 secretary of state before they can take effect or be enforced. In the  
24 New Amsterdam region; except for local land use zoning laws all such  
25 local laws, rules, ordinances and/or regulations shall expire ten years  
26 after they are filed. Those that were pre-existing to this article will  
27 expire on January 1st, three years after the regional governors take  
28 office for the first time, unless reenacted and refiled.

29 (i) All Regional Senators and Regional Assemblypersons shall receive  
30 the same salary set by their Regional law. They shall not receive any  
31 additional compensation from the Region other than reimbursement for  
32 traveling and lodging expenses if they live more than 20 miles from the  
33 Regional capital. However, the Regional Speakers and the Regional senate  
34 temporary senate presidents shall receive the same salary as their  
35 Regional lieutenant governor. After the salary is set, no law varying  
36 the compensation of Regional Senators or Regional Assemblypersons shall  
37 take effect until an election of Regional Assemblypersons shall have  
38 intervened. Each Regional Assemblyperson shall be provided a district  
39 office of approximately the same square footage in their district and an  
40 office at the Regional capital. The same amount shall be given to each  
41 Assemblyperson to pay for staff. Such amount shall be set by Regional  
42 law. Each Regional Senator shall be provided two district offices total-  
43 ing approximately the same square footage, in their district and an  
44 office at the Regional capital. The same amount shall be given to each  
45 Regional Senator to pay for staff. Such amount shall be set by Regional  
46 law.

47 (j) The Regional Legislature may impeach for crimes and remove from  
48 office a Regional governor, Regional lieutenant governor, Regional  
49 Secretary of State, local elected officials or appointed Regional offi-  
50 cers in its Region by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of each Regional house.  
51 The state or Regional governor or any other official may not remove from  
52 office any elective sheriff, county clerk, district attorney or other  
53 elective local official; they may only be removed mid-term by impeach-  
54 ment or conviction of a felony. A regional governor may supersede a  
55 district attorney in their region for specific case(s) by appointing a  
56 special prosecutor in a manner defined by regional law. The region may

1 by regional law reassign types of cases where there might exist a  
2 conflict of interest with their regional attorney general.

3 (k) A majority of each Regional house shall constitute a quorum to do  
4 business. Each Regional house shall determine the rules of its own  
5 proceedings and is the judge of the elections, returns and qualifica-  
6 tions of its own members; shall choose its own officers; and each  
7 Regional senate shall choose a temporary president and each Regional  
8 assembly shall choose a speaker. No person shall serve as both a State  
9 and Regional temporary senate president, nor anyone serve as both a  
10 state and Regional speaker. Each Regional house of each Regional legis-  
11 lature shall keep a journal of its proceedings, and publish the same on  
12 the internet, except such parts as two-thirds (2/3) of its members agree  
13 require secrecy. At request of one fifth (1/5) of its members, the ayes  
14 and nays shall be entered on the journal. The doors of each Regional  
15 house shall be kept open, except when the public welfare shall require  
16 secrecy. Neither house in a Regional legislature shall, without the  
17 consent of the other, adjourn for more than two days. Any bill may orig-  
18 inate in either house of the Regional legislature, and all bills passed  
19 by one house may be amended by the other. No bill shall be passed or  
20 become a law unless it shall have been printed and placed on the inter-  
21 net, in its final form, at least seven calendar days prior to its final  
22 passage, unless the appropriate regional governor, or the appropriate  
23 acting regional governor, shall have certified, under their hand and the  
24 seal of the state or Region, the facts which in their opinion necessi-  
25 tate an immediate vote thereon, in which case the law must expire ten  
26 calendar days after passage, unless it is re-passed a second time after  
27 it has been on the internet for seven days; nor shall any bill be passed  
28 or become a law, except by the assent of a majority of the members  
29 elected to each branch of a Regional legislature; and upon the last  
30 reading of a bill, no amendment thereof shall be allowed, and the ques-  
31 tion upon its final passage shall be taken immediately thereafter, and  
32 the ayes and nays entered on the journal. Pre-existing tax or revenue  
33 laws shall expire on July 1st, five years after this article takes  
34 effect. Every law or bill which imposes, continues or revives a tax or  
35 raises revenue shall require at least three fifths (3/5) vote of both  
36 Regional houses to pass, the ayes and nays entered on the journals, and  
37 must distinctly state the tax and the object to which it is to be  
38 applied. It shall not be sufficient to refer to any other law to fix  
39 such tax or object; all such laws must expire on July 1st, five years  
40 after being passed. Any law or bill that will mandate that any county,  
41 district, or other municipality must spend its own funds to comply with  
42 such law shall require at least three fifths (3/5) vote of both Regional  
43 houses to pass, the ayes and nays entered on the journals, all such laws  
44 must expire on July 1st, ten years after being passed. Any policy, rule  
45 or regulation that will mandate that any county, district, or other  
46 municipality must spend its own funds to comply with it must be ratified  
47 by at least three fifths (3/5) vote of both Regional houses, the ayes  
48 and nays entered on the journal, before it takes effect and must expire  
49 on July 1st ten years after being ratified. Pre-existing mandates that  
50 require a county or other municipality to spend its own funds to comply  
51 with shall expire on July 1st one year and 7 months after the regional  
52 governors take office for the first time. Medical costs for the needy  
53 shall not be delegated by the State or by a Region to counties or other  
54 municipalities, and shall be paid by the Region up to limits set by  
55 Regional law. A Region may by Regional law contract debts in antic-  
56 ipation of the receipt of taxes and revenues, direct or indirect, for

1 the purposes and within the amounts of appropriations theretofore made.  
2 Notes or other obligations for the moneys so borrowed shall be issued as  
3 may be provided by law, and shall with the interest thereon be paid from  
4 such taxes and revenues within one year from the date of issue. Except  
5 for anticipation debt listed above no Regional debt shall be hereafter  
6 contracted by or on behalf of the Region, unless such debt shall be  
7 authorized by law, for some single work or purpose, to be distinctly  
8 specified therein. No such debt law shall take effect until it shall, at  
9 a November general election, have been submitted to the people of that  
10 Region, and have received a majority of all the votes cast for and  
11 against it at such election. Any such Regional debt voted on must be  
12 paid off within twenty years. The Regional legislature shall provide  
13 for the maintenance and support of a system of free common schools,  
14 wherein all the children of its Region may be educated.

15 § 3. (a) The office of State Senator is abolished; Regional Senators  
16 shall replace state senators. When meeting as the State Senate each  
17 Regional Senator's vote shall be weighed by the population of their  
18 Regional Senate District.

19 (b) The office of State Assemblyperson is abolished; Regional Assem-  
20 blypersons shall replace state Assemblypeople. When meeting as the  
21 State Assembly each Regional Assemblyperson's vote shall be weighed by  
22 the population of their Regional Assembly District.

23 (c) The State Legislature shall hold its regular session in the months  
24 of April and May of each year and adjourn its regular session no later  
25 than May 31st. Members of the State Legislature shall not receive more  
26 than fifty dollars a day in compensation from the state for each day  
27 they attend during the regular session and no compensation from the  
28 state during Extraordinary sessions. The State Legislative member may  
29 receive reimbursement when receipts are provided for traveling and lodg-  
30 ing expenses if they live more than 30 miles from a state meeting's  
31 location. No additional compensation shall be provided by the state for  
32 service in the State Legislature.

33 (d) The fiscal year of the state will be from May 1st to April 30th of  
34 the following year.

35 (e) State Legislature's power to enact laws shall be limited only to  
36 the following types of laws: Election (for state wide offices/issues and  
37 United States offices only), Executive (for the state only), Indian,  
38 Judiciary (Court of Appeals, Court of Claims, Judicial Conduct only),  
39 Legislative (for the state only), Military (National Guard and Naval  
40 only), Retirement and Social Security, State Administrative Procedure  
41 Act (for the state only), State Finance (for the state only), Tax, but  
42 limited to sales taxes only, Court of Claims, Civil Service (state  
43 employees only), relations with the federal government, relations with  
44 other states or Canada for connecting roads, bridges and other reasons,  
45 and connecting roads and bridges between Regions. No criminal penalties  
46 greater than a misdemeanor with a maximum one year in jail may be  
47 enacted by the state or local governments. Felonies can only be enacted  
48 under Regional law; National Guard felonies will be prosecuted under  
49 Regional military law. Any other types of laws not listed in this  
50 section shall become Regional laws for each Region and be deleted from  
51 State code on July 1st following the date the Regional governors take  
52 office for the first time.

53 (f) Taxes and revenue for the state shall be limited only to a sales  
54 tax which may not exceed a maximum of four (4) percent. After January  
55 1st, ten years after the regional governors take office for the first  
56 time it may not exceed a maximum of three (3) percent. The sales tax

1 for the state and local governments shall be defined as a tax on sales,  
2 on the receipts from sales and/or receipts from hotel/motel room  
3 rentals, leases or rentals of moveable goods, and/or any taxable  
4 services; including a use tax on items over one thousand dollars in  
5 value that are used within the state by a permanent resident but which  
6 were bought elsewhere, and which are thus not originally subject to the  
7 sales tax. The sales taxes shall never be applied to medicines, food  
8 unless served in a restaurant, fuel, real property, sale of buildings,  
9 and/or nonalcoholic beverages. The state shall give 25 percent of its  
10 sales tax revenue to the regions divided in proportion to each region's  
11 population, until January 1st, ten years after the regional governors  
12 take office for the first time, which shall be paid on the 15th of every  
13 month for previous month's revenue. The maximum combined state and local  
14 sales taxes may not exceed 8 percent. After January 1st, ten years after  
15 the regional governors take office for the first time, the maximum  
16 combined sales tax may not exceed 7 percent.

17 (g) The state may no longer contract any debt other than in antic-  
18 ipation of the receipt of taxes and revenues which must be paid back  
19 within one year.

20 § 4. Regional Executive. (a) The executive power in each Region shall  
21 be vested in the Regional governor, who shall hold office for four years  
22 starting at noon on December 1st after their election. The Regional  
23 lieutenant governor shall be chosen at the same time, and for the same  
24 term. The Regional governors, Regional lieutenant governors, and  
25 Regional secretary of states shall be elected by the people of their  
26 respective Regions. They must be a United States citizen and have been a  
27 resident of their respective Region for at least five years or a resi-  
28 dent of their respective Region at time of its creation. Each Regional  
29 governor shall have power to convene their Region's legislature, or  
30 their Region's senate only, on extraordinary occasions; for a special  
31 session which may last no longer than two weeks. No such special session  
32 may be called within six weeks of the end of another special session. In  
33 case of the removal of the Regional governor from office or of their  
34 death or resignation, the Regional lieutenant-governor for that Region  
35 shall become Regional governor for the remainder of the term. In case  
36 the Regional governor is otherwise unable to discharge the powers and  
37 duties of their office the Regional lieutenant-governor for that Region  
38 shall act as Regional governor until the inability shall cease or until  
39 the term of the Regional governor shall expire. If both the Regional  
40 governor and Regional lieutenant governor offices for a Region are  
41 vacant or otherwise unable to discharge the powers and duties of their  
42 offices, that Region's Regional Secretary of State shall become gover-  
43 nor, automatically resigning as a Regional Secretary of State upon  
44 taking the oath as Regional governor. If all three offices are vacant  
45 that Region's temporary senate president will become governor automat-  
46 ically resigning as a senator and temporary senate president upon taking  
47 the oath as Regional governor. Each Region shall by Regional law deter-  
48 mine how and who shall become acting Regional governor if the Regional  
49 governor, Regional lieutenant governor, Regional Secretary of State and  
50 temporary senate president offices all are vacant or all are otherwise  
51 unable to discharge the powers and duties of their offices. The Regional  
52 lieutenant-governor shall be the president of the Regional senate for  
53 their Region but shall have only a vote if they be equally divided. The  
54 election law petition requirements for getting on the ballot for  
55 Regional governor, Regional lieutenant governor or Regional Secretary of  
56 State shall be the same or less strict than are for State Comptroller.

1 Any party conventions shall be held by Region for these Regional  
2 offices. The salaries of Regional governor, Regional lieutenant governor  
3 and Regional Secretary of State shall be by Regional law. After the  
4 salary is set no law varying their compensation shall take effect until  
5 an election of Regional governor shall have intervened.

6 (b) Every bill which shall have passed the Regional senate and assem-  
7 bly shall, before it becomes a law, be presented to the Regional gover-  
8 nor for that Region. If the appropriate regional governor approve, they  
9 shall sign it; but if not, they shall return it with their objections to  
10 the Regional house in which it shall have originated, which shall enter  
11 the objections at large on the journal, and proceed to reconsider it. In  
12 either case they shall place a copy of their actions on the internet. If  
13 after such reconsideration, two-thirds of the members voting in that  
14 Regional house shall agree to pass the bill, it shall be sent together  
15 with the objections, to the other Regional house, by which it shall  
16 likewise be reconsidered; and if approved by two-thirds of the members  
17 voting in that house, it shall become a regional law notwithstanding the  
18 objections of the appropriate regional governor. In all such cases the  
19 votes in both Regional houses shall be determined by yeas and nays, and  
20 the names of the members voting shall be entered on the journal of each  
21 Regional house respectively. If any bill shall not be returned by the  
22 appropriate regional governor within ten days (Sundays excepted) after  
23 it shall have been presented to them, the same shall be a law in like  
24 manner as if they had signed it, unless the legislature shall, by their  
25 adjournment, prevent its return, in which case it shall not become a law  
26 without the approval of the appropriate regional governor. No bill shall  
27 become a law after the final adjournment of the Regional legislature,  
28 unless approved by the governor within thirty days after such adjourn-  
29 ment. If any bill presented to the appropriate regional governor  
30 contains several items of appropriation of money, the appropriate  
31 regional governor may object to one or more of such items while approv-  
32 ing of the other portion of the bill. If a single item of appropriation  
33 shall exceed \$250,000 the appropriate regional governor may reduce the  
34 amount appropriated with their objections. In such cases the appropriate  
35 regional governor shall append to the bill, at the time of signing it, a  
36 statement of the items to which they object; and the appropriation so  
37 objected to shall not take effect. If the Regional legislature be in  
38 session, they shall transmit to the Regional house in which the bill  
39 originated a copy of such statement, and the items objected to shall be  
40 separately reconsidered. If on reconsideration one or more of such items  
41 be approved by two-thirds of the members voting in each appropriate  
42 Regional house, the same shall be part of the law, notwithstanding the  
43 objections of the appropriate Regional governor. All the provisions of  
44 this paragraph, in relation to bills not approved by the appropriate  
45 Regional governor, shall apply in cases in which they shall withhold  
46 approval from any item or items contained in a bill appropriating money.

47 (c) Each Regional governor shall nominate, and by and with the Advice  
48 and Consent of the Regional Senate for their Region, shall appoint  
49 Regional Commissioners, other public Ministers and Consuls, Authorities,  
50 and other government controlled Public Corporations board members,  
51 Regional Education Commissioner, Justices of the Appellate divisions in  
52 their Region from elected Supreme Court Justices in their Region for the  
53 remainder of their elected term, and all other Regional Officers, whose  
54 Appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be  
55 established by law. Those appointed by Regional governor without a fixed  
56 term may be removed by the appropriate regional governor; but the

1 Regional legislature may by Regional law vest the Appointment of such  
2 inferior Officers, as they think proper, in their Regional governor  
3 alone, in the Courts of Law, or in the Heads of Departments. The appro-  
4 priate regional governor shall be empowered to seek a warrant in a  
5 Regional supreme court to hand over a criminal fugitive from another  
6 state or Region to the agents of the Governor of the State of New York  
7 to allow for the fugitive's return to the location the fugitive commit-  
8 ted the alleged crime. This power can be regulated by Regional law. Each  
9 regional governor shall be empowered to pardon for civil and criminal  
10 offenses of state, regional law or local law that occurred within their  
11 region.

12 (d) Annually, on or before the first Monday of January each Regional  
13 governor shall place on the internet and submit to their Regional legis-  
14 lature a budget containing a complete plan of expenditures proposed to  
15 be made before the close of the ensuing fiscal year and all moneys and  
16 revenues estimated to be available therefor, together with an explana-  
17 tion of the basis of such estimates and recommendations as to proposed  
18 Regional legislation, if any, which the appropriate regional governor  
19 may deem necessary to provide moneys and revenues sufficient to meet  
20 such proposed expenditures. It shall also contain such other recommenda-  
21 tions and information as the appropriate regional governor may deem  
22 proper and such additional information as may be required by law. At the  
23 time of submitting the budget to their Regional legislature the appro-  
24 priate regional governor shall submit a bill or bills containing all the  
25 proposed appropriations and re-appropriations included in the budget and  
26 the proposed Regional legislation, if any, recommended therein. No money  
27 shall ever be paid out of a Regional treasury or any of its funds, or  
28 any of the funds under its management, except in pursuance of an appro-  
29 priation by law; nor unless such payment be made within two years next  
30 after the passage of such appropriation act; and every such law making a  
31 new appropriation or continuing or reviving an appropriation, shall  
32 distinctly specify the sum appropriated, and the object or purpose to  
33 which it is to be applied; and it shall not be sufficient for such law  
34 to refer to any other law to fix such sum.

35 (e) The Regional Secretary of State for each region shall be elected  
36 at the same general election as the regional governor and hold office  
37 for the same term. The Regional Secretary of State shall run their  
38 region's Department of State and shall appoint with the Advice and  
39 Consent of appropriate regional Senate for their region the regional  
40 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles and the regional Attorney-General, and  
41 may remove them. Should the office of Regional Secretary of State be  
42 vacant or they become regional governor or acting regional governor, the  
43 appropriate regional Senate will elect a Regional Secretary of State to  
44 serve the remainder of the term.

45 (f) The Regional Board of Elections for each region shall regulate all  
46 elections with the local boards of elections in its region. The State  
47 Board of Elections shall coordinate and fund elections for state wide  
48 offices/issues and United States offices with regional Boards of  
49 Elections. Ballots for state wide offices/issues and United States  
50 offices shall be a separate ballot sheet from regional offices/issues  
51 and Local Offices/issues. In the New Amsterdam and Montauk regions each  
52 County shall continue to fund a county Board of Elections. Starting on  
53 July 1st, after the regional governors take office for the first time,  
54 the New Amsterdam and Montauk Regional Board of Elections and the County  
55 Boards of Elections shall conduct all regional, local, school district,

1 village, fire district and other local district elections in a manner  
2 set by New Amsterdam or Montauk regional law.

3 § 5. After the regional governors take office for the first time, the  
4 governors' panel shall consist of the State Governor and the Regional  
5 Governors. The governors' panel shall meet weekly to divide departments,  
6 transfer employees, property, assets as defined in this article by  
7 majority vote, and debts as defined in this article. After August 1st of  
8 the year the regional governors take office for the first time, the  
9 governors' panel shall continue to meet at least once a calendar year.  
10 The Court of Appeals shall have original jurisdiction if a Regional  
11 governor appeals a decision of this governors' panel or to break a tie  
12 vote of this governors' panel. When a department, office or agency is  
13 divided, its employees will become employees of the Region they primari-  
14 ly work in, or whose issues they primarily work on. If a department,  
15 office or agency only works on the issues of a single Region its employ-  
16 ees shall all become employees of that Region. Equipment, media and  
17 vehicles shall be divided equitably. Each member of a state board, or  
18 Commission which is divided shall remain on the boards, Regional author-  
19 ity boards, or Regional Commissions for the remainder of their term only  
20 for the Region where they are registered to vote (if they are not regis-  
21 tered to vote in New York State their seat shall be vacant in all  
22 Regions). Any vacant seats will be filled according to Regional law. Any  
23 Department/ operations and agency/office whose employees' pay and bene-  
24 fits are fully funded by the federal government may be left under state  
25 by this governors' panel and continue to perform their duties while  
26 under the state governor's chain of command. The governors' panel shall  
27 continue to review whether any changes in federal funding have occurred  
28 that would require it to be divided at a later date. Unless otherwise  
29 stated in this article such divisions shall be completed by April 1st  
30 after the Regional governors take office for the first time.

31 (a) The Office of State Attorney-General is abolished and all its  
32 powers and duties given to the Regional Attorney-Generals. Department of  
33 Law and Office of State Attorney-General employees and duties shall be  
34 divided between the Regional Attorney-Generals' Departments of Law. For  
35 the purposes of this constitution, the term "attorney-general" shall  
36 mean "appropriate regional attorney-general" wherever it appears.

37 (b) The State Comptroller shall have the power to audit each Region  
38 and charge the Regions the reasonable costs related to performing the  
39 audits. The State Comptroller's other powers and duties of their office  
40 shall not be affected by the provisions of this article.

41 (c) The Board of Regents is abolished and all its powers and duties  
42 transferred to the Regional Education Departments. Department of educa-  
43 tion employees shall be divided between the Regional Education Depart-  
44 ments.

45 (d) The Office of General Services, Department of Civil Service, and  
46 State Board of Elections employees shall be divided into four sections,  
47 some remaining under the state and the rest being transferred to each  
48 Region. Department of Tax and Finance employees shall also be divided  
49 into four sections; provided that those employees whose duties involve  
50 sales taxes shall remain under the Governor and the rest shall be  
51 divided between the Regional Departments of Tax and Finance.

52 (e) The Division of State Police is abolished and its employees shall  
53 be divided between the Capital Police under the State (which shall not  
54 have more than 50 officers), the New Amsterdam Regional Police Division,  
55 Montauk Regional Police Division, and New York Regional Police Division.

1 (f) The following departments, corporations or authorities shall  
2 remain part of New York State government: Court of Appeals, Court of  
3 Claims, Office of State Comptroller (Department of Audit and Control,  
4 NYS and Local Retirement System), Governor's Office, Metro-North Commu-  
5 ter Railroad Company and Long Island Rail Road Company whose boards will  
6 be nominated by State Governor and confirmed by State Senate, State  
7 Commission on Judicial Conduct, and Teachers' Retirement System. All  
8 other Executive Departments, offices, or agencies not otherwise set  
9 forth in this article shall be abolished and their duties and employees  
10 shall be divided between the new Regional Departments or offices of the  
11 same name.

12 (g) Unless otherwise stated in this article, appointments for depart-  
13 ments, offices and agencies shall be made by the appropriate regional  
14 governors. Appointments for vacant local offices shall be made by the  
15 appropriate Regional governor.

16 (h) (i) Authorities, and other Public Corporations, who have some of  
17 their board members appointed by the Governor or other New York State  
18 officials, and exist in only one region shall have their board members  
19 appointed by that Region's Regional Governor. Authorities and other  
20 government controlled Public Corporations who have some of their board  
21 members appointed by the Governor or other New York State officials and  
22 exist in more than one region shall be divided into regional Authori-  
23 ties, or regional government controlled Public Corporations, by July 1st  
24 after the first time the regional governors take office. Each of the new  
25 regional Authorities or regional government controlled Public Corpo-  
26 rations shall take over the ownership of the assets, property, and leas-  
27 es in their Region. Equipment, media, and vehicles shall be divided  
28 equitably, while debts are divided in proportion to each region's popu-  
29 lation. They shall have their board members appointed by that Region's  
30 Regional Governor. If some or all of the board members of these divided  
31 Authorities and other government controlled Public Corporations are  
32 appointed by local officials, each local official may only appoint board  
33 members of new regional Authorities or regional government controlled  
34 Public Corporations in the region that official serves.

35 (ii) Schools, Libraries, Fire districts or villages that exist in more  
36 than one region shall be divided along the regional boundary within  
37 three years after the first time the regional governors take office. The  
38 divided districts shall take over the ownership of the assets, property  
39 and leases in their region. Equipment, media and vehicles shall be  
40 divided equitably, while debts shall be divided in proportion to each  
41 new district's/village's assessed value. The State Comptroller shall  
42 assign employee(s) to help the districts/villages divide assets and  
43 debts.

44 (i) The State University of New York shall be divided by July 1st  
45 after first election of Regional governors. All campuses, locations, and  
46 employees in the New Amsterdam Region shall be part of the University of  
47 New Amsterdam and its board(s) appointed by the New Amsterdam Regional  
48 Governor with advice and consent of the New Amsterdam Regional Senate.  
49 The New York and Montauk Regions shall pay at least \$8,000 every six  
50 months for each Regional resident enrolled full time in a Bachelor's  
51 degree program at the University of New Amsterdam, for a maximum of  
52 eight payments, unless they shall by New York or Montauk Regional law  
53 set a higher amount. All campuses, locations, and employees in the  
54 Montauk Region shall be part of the University of Montauk and its  
55 board(s) appointed by the Montauk Regional Governor with advice and  
56 consent of the Montauk Regional Senate. The New York and New Amsterdam

1 Regions shall pay at least \$8,000 every six months for each Regional  
2 resident enrolled full time in a Bachelor's degree program at the  
3 University of Montauk, for a maximum of eight payments, unless they  
4 shall by New York or New Amsterdam Regional law set a higher amount. All  
5 campus, locations, and employees in the New York Region including the  
6 City University of New York shall be part of the University of New York  
7 and its board(s) appointed by the New York Regional Governor with advice  
8 and consent of the New York Regional Senate. The New Amsterdam and  
9 Montauk Regions shall pay at least \$8,000 every six months for each  
10 Regional resident enrolled full time in a Bachelor's degree program at  
11 the University of New York, for a maximum of eight payments, unless they  
12 shall by New Amsterdam Regional law set a higher amount.

13 (j) (i) New York State owned assets, roads and bridges, property,  
14 revenue, taxes (other than state sales taxes), and leases shall, by  
15 April 1st after the first election of Regional governors, become the  
16 assets, roads and bridges, property, revenue, taxes, and leases of the  
17 Region of which they are located, earned, or of persons from which they  
18 are collected reside; except that in the case of income taxes, if a  
19 person earns income in one Region and resides in another Region, the  
20 Region they earn the income in shall give them a tax credit for the  
21 amount of income taxes paid in their home Region on that income. The  
22 following buildings and associated land will remain state owned: The  
23 State Capitol building, the Legislative Office building, the Governor  
24 Alfred E Smith building, State Comptroller's building at 110 State St,  
25 State Comptroller's building Parking Garage, Sheridan Hollow Parking  
26 Garage, and The Governor's Executive Mansion, all located in Albany, and  
27 the Adam Clayton Powell Jr. State Office Building in Harlem.

28 (ii) One half of state debt, incurred prior to the effective date of  
29 this article shall remain a state obligation; the rest will become  
30 regional debt and shall be divided in proportion to each region's popu-  
31 lation. Any payments for retirees of the New York State and Local  
32 Retirement System and Teachers' Retirement System shall remain a state  
33 obligation. The governors' panel shall designate two correctional facili-  
34 ties for males and one correctional facility for females located in the  
35 New Amsterdam Region to be owned, rented, or leased by New Amsterdam  
36 Region. The remaining correctional facilities located in the New Amster-  
37 dam Region shall be designated to be owned, rented, or leased by the New  
38 York Region or the Montauk Region. The employees in these correctional  
39 facilities shall become New York Region employees or Montauk Region  
40 employees. Incarcerated individuals in correctional facilities shall be  
41 divided so that those who committed their crimes in the New York Region  
42 shall serve their time in correctional facilities owned, rented, or  
43 leased by the New York Region; while those who committed their crimes in  
44 the New Amsterdam Region shall serve their time in correctional facili-  
45 ties owned, rented, or leased by the New Amsterdam Region and while  
46 those who committed their crimes in the Montauk Region shall serve their  
47 time in correctional facilities owned, rented, or leased by the Montauk  
48 Region. Incarcerated individuals shall be transferred to appropriate  
49 correctional facilities by February 1st, two years after the regional  
50 governors take office for the first time. After that date a region hold-  
51 ing incarcerated individuals that should be transferred may charge the  
52 appropriate region for costs of holding the incarcerated individuals in  
53 their correctional facility. Patients or residents in Mental Hospitals,  
54 Developmental Centers or Group Homes who are currently paid for by the  
55 state and whose original home address is in a different region than such

1 Mental Hospital, Developmental Center or Group Home is located shall  
2 have their costs paid by their original home region.

3 (k) The Office of Court Administration shall be divided into four  
4 sections; some employees remaining under the chief judge of the Court of  
5 Appeals and the rest being transferred to each Region. The division of  
6 Military and Naval Affairs' New York National guard and employees will  
7 remain under the New York State governor as commander in chief; the  
8 division of Military and Naval Affairs' New York Guard and employees  
9 shall be divided into Regional guards with each Regional governor as  
10 commander in chief. Employees and property owned or leased for use of  
11 the Division of Military and Naval Affairs will be divided appropriate-  
12 ly.

13 § 6. Regional Judiciary. (a) The New York Regional Governor shall  
14 appoint, with the advice and consent of the New York Regional Senate,  
15 county judges and/or Supreme Court Justices in the New York Region to  
16 serve the remainder of their term of office as Chief Justice or associ-  
17 ate justice on New York Regional Superior Court. There shall be a Chief  
18 Justice and four associate justices on the New York Regional Superior  
19 Court. The New York Regional Superior Court shall hear appeals, in a  
20 manner defined by New York Regional law, from the First and Second judi-  
21 cial departments, on Regional laws or local laws within the Region and  
22 shall have the final determination in interpreting New York Regional  
23 laws or local laws and whether such laws are constitutional. Salaries  
24 and expenses of all courts in the First and Second judicial departments  
25 shall be set and paid in a manner defined by New York Region law. When a  
26 vacancy occurs in the New York Regional Superior Court or a New York  
27 Regional supreme court and the Regional senate is not in session, the  
28 New York regional governor shall call it back in a special session to  
29 fill the vacancy.

30 (b) The New Amsterdam Regional Governor shall appoint, with the advice  
31 and consent of the New Amsterdam Regional Senate, county judges and/or  
32 Supreme Court Justices in the New Amsterdam Region, to serve the remain-  
33 der of their term of office as Chief Justice or associate justice on the  
34 New Amsterdam Regional Superior Court. There shall be a Chief Justice  
35 and four associate justices on the New Amsterdam Regional Superior  
36 Court. The New Amsterdam Regional Superior Court shall hear appeals, in  
37 a manner defined by New Amsterdam Regional law, from the Third and  
38 Fourth judicial departments on Regional laws and shall have the final  
39 determination in interpreting New Amsterdam Regional laws or local laws  
40 and whether such laws are constitutional. Salaries and expenses of all  
41 courts in the Third and Fourth judicial departments shall be set and  
42 paid in a manner defined by New Amsterdam Regional law. When a vacancy  
43 occurs in the New Amsterdam Regional Superior Court or a New Amsterdam  
44 Regional supreme court and the Regional senate is not in session the New  
45 Amsterdam regional governor shall call it back in a special session to  
46 fill the vacancy.

47 (c) The Montauk Regional Governor shall appoint, with the advice and  
48 consent of the Montauk Regional Senate, county judges and/or Supreme  
49 Court Justices in the Montauk Region; to serve the remainder of their  
50 term of office as Chief Justice or associate justice on the Montauk  
51 Regional Superior Court. There shall be a Chief Justice and four associ-  
52 ate justices on the Montauk Regional Superior Court. The Montauk  
53 Regional Superior Court shall hear appeals, in a manner defined by  
54 Montauk Regional law, from Fifth and Sixth judicial department on  
55 Regional laws and shall have the final determination in interpreting  
56 Montauk Regional laws or local laws and whether such laws are constitu-

1 tional. Salaries and expenses of all courts in the Fifth judicial  
2 departments shall be set and paid in a manner defined by Montauk  
3 Regional law. When a vacancy occurs in the Montauk Regional Superior  
4 Court or a Montauk Regional supreme court and the Regional senate is not  
5 in session the Montauk Regional governor shall call it back in a special  
6 session to fill the vacancy.

7 (d) Justices of the Appellate Division First and Second judicial  
8 departments shall be appointed by the New York Regional Governor.

9 (e) Justices of the Appellate Division Third and Fourth judicial  
10 departments shall be appointed by the New Amsterdam Regional Governor.

11 (f) Justices of the Appellate Division Fifth and Sixth judicial  
12 departments shall be appointed by the Montauk Regional Governor.

13 (g) The jurisdiction of each Regional Superior Court shall be limited  
14 to the review of questions of applicable United States law, state law,  
15 regional law, local laws, rules, charters, ordinances or regulations,  
16 when hearing appeals from appellate divisions; except where the judgment  
17 is of death where appeal will be to the Court of Appeals, or where the  
18 appellate division within its Region, on reversing or modifying a final  
19 or interlocutory judgment in an action or a final or interlocutory order  
20 in a special proceeding, finds new facts and a final judgment or a final  
21 order pursuant thereto is entered. The right to appeal shall not depend  
22 upon the amount involved. The applicable Regional Superior Court shall  
23 adopt and from time to time may amend a rule to permit the court to  
24 answer questions of Regional law certified to it by the Supreme Court of  
25 the United States, a Court of Appeals of the United States or an appel-  
26 late court of last resort of another state, which may be determinative  
27 of the cause then pending in the certifying court and which in the opin-  
28 ion of the certifying court are not controlled by precedent in the deci-  
29 sions of the courts of that Region. Each region may by regional law set  
30 up a regional court of claims, which shall have at least five judges the  
31 actual number of judges shall be set by regional law. The term of  
32 office shall be ten years. The terms shall be staggered so an equal  
33 number of judges terms expire on every December 31st of even numbered  
34 years. At least three judges must hear each case. The judges shall be  
35 appointed by the appropriate regional governor but must be confirmed by  
36 the appropriate regional Senate. The court shall have jurisdiction to  
37 hear and determine claims against that region or by that region against  
38 the claimant or between conflicting claimants as the regional legisla-  
39 ture may by regional law provide. Regional law may also give its  
40 regional court of claims the power to hear claims against any county,  
41 district, or other municipality over a dollar amount set by regional  
42 law. Jury trials shall not be allowed at a regional court of claims.  
43 Any appeals may be heard by the applicable Regional Superior Court. The  
44 Chief Justice of the applicable Regional Superior Court shall be the  
45 Chief Justice of that Region's courts and shall be the chief judicial  
46 officer of that region's unified court. In each Region there shall be an  
47 administrative board of the courts which shall consist of the Chief  
48 Justice of the applicable Regional Superior Court as chairperson and the  
49 presiding justice of the appellate division of the supreme court of each  
50 judicial department within that Region. The Chief Justice shall, with  
51 the advice and consent of the administrative board of the courts,  
52 appoint a chief administrator of the courts in that Region who shall  
53 serve at the pleasure of that Regional Chief Justice. The Regional chief  
54 administrator, on behalf of the Chief Justice, shall supervise the  
55 administration and operation of the unified Regional court system. In  
56 the exercise of such responsibility, the Regional chief administrator of

1 the courts shall have such powers and duties as may be delegated to them  
2 by that Region's Chief Justice and such additional powers and duties as  
3 may be provided by Regional law. The Chief Justice, after consultation  
4 with that Region's administrative board, shall establish standards and  
5 administrative policies for general application throughout that Region,  
6 which shall be submitted by the Chief Justice of that Region's superior  
7 court, together with the recommendations, if any, of that Region's  
8 administrative board. Such standards and administrative policies shall  
9 be promulgated after approval by that Region's superior court. When a  
10 judge is appointed to a Regional Superior Court an additional new judge  
11 position shall be temporarily created in the trial court for the length  
12 of the appointment and filled by election to take over the vacancy  
13 produced by the appointment to the Regional Superior Court. Each region  
14 shall fund its own courts. After January 1st, two years after the  
15 regional governors take office for the first time the number of judges  
16 on each Appellate Division shall be set by the applicable region's law.

17 (h) A Fourteenth Judicial District shall be created consisting of  
18 Dutchess, Orange, and Putnam counties. This 14th Judicial District shall  
19 be part of the Third Judicial Department. A fifteenth Judicial District  
20 shall be created consisting of Nassau County. A fifth Judicial Depart-  
21 ment shall be created consisting of the remaining parts of the tenth  
22 Judicial District and the fifteenth Judicial District. A Sixth Judicial  
23 Department shall be created consisting of the remaining parts of the  
24 ninth Judicial District.

25 (i) The Court of Appeals shall, after each federal census is taken  
26 decennially, also draw U.S. Congressional districts for the next  
27 election, but limit the number of districts crossing regional boundaries  
28 to maximum of three.

29 (j) (i) There shall be a unified court system for each Region of the  
30 state. The state-wide courts shall consist of the Court of Appeals, and  
31 the court of claims. The Region-wide courts of each Region shall  
32 consist of each Region's Regional superior court, supreme courts includ-  
33 ing the appellate divisions thereof, the county court, the surrogate's  
34 court and the family court, as hereinafter provided. The unified court  
35 system for each Region shall also include the district, town, city and  
36 village courts, within each Region as hereinafter provided. The New  
37 York Regional legislature shall establish in and for the city of New  
38 York, as part of the unified court system for its region, a single,  
39 city-wide court of civil jurisdiction and a single, city-wide court of  
40 criminal jurisdiction, as hereinafter provided, and may upon the request  
41 of the mayor and the local legislative body of the city of New York,  
42 merge the two courts into one city-wide court of both civil and criminal  
43 jurisdiction.

44 (ii) The Court of Appeals, the Regional superior courts, supreme  
45 courts including the appellate divisions thereof, the court(s) of  
46 claims, the county court, the surrogate's court, the family court, the  
47 courts or court of civil and criminal jurisdiction of the city of New  
48 York, and such other courts as the applicable Regional legislature may  
49 determine shall be courts of record.

50 (iii) All processes, warrants and other mandates of the Court of  
51 Appeals, and the court of claims may be served and executed in any part  
52 of the state. All processes, warrants and other mandates of the Regional  
53 superior court, supreme courts including the appellate divisions there-  
54 of, the county court, the surrogate's court, the family court and other  
55 Regional courts may be served and executed only in the applicable  
56 Region. All processes, warrants and other mandates of the courts or

1 court of civil and criminal jurisdiction of the city of New York may,  
2 subject to such limitation as may be prescribed by the New York Regional  
3 legislature, be served and executed in any part of the New York Region.  
4 The applicable Regional legislature may provide that processes, warrants  
5 and other mandates of the district court may be served and executed in  
6 any part of the Region and that processes, warrants and other mandates  
7 of town, village and city courts outside the city of New York may be  
8 served and executed in any part of the county in which such courts are  
9 located or in any part of any adjoining county within that Region.

10 (iv) The court of appeals is continued. Effective on December 1st  
11 after the regional governors are elected for the first time, it shall  
12 consist of the eleven judges. Those in office on the effective date of  
13 this article shall continue to hold their offices until the expiration  
14 of their respective terms. The official terms of the court of appeals  
15 chief judge and the associate judges shall be fourteen years. After the  
16 regional governors are elected for the first time, the chief judge shall  
17 assign each associate judge into Classes; the first Class shall be the  
18 current chief judge and one associate judge whose successors will  
19 continue to be nominated by the state governor. The chief judge shall  
20 also create one class for each region with three (3) judgeships in each  
21 class; and assign the remaining associate judges and new or vacant seats  
22 equally among the regional classes; so their successors or new judges  
23 can be nominated by the regional governor of the region of whose class  
24 they were assigned. The court of appeals shall have the power to  
25 appoint from its members its chief judge who will serve at the pleasure  
26 of the court. The court of appeals shall have power to appoint and to  
27 remove its clerk. A majority of the court may decide to hear or reject  
28 appeals from a Regional Superior Court. Two-thirds (2/3) members of the  
29 court shall constitute a quorum, and the concurrence of at least three-  
30 quarters (3/4) of full Court of Appeals judges shall be necessary to a  
31 decision on an appeal from a Regional Superior Court; however when the  
32 Court of Appeals has original jurisdiction only a majority vote will be  
33 needed for a decision. When the Court of Appeals cannot reach a decision  
34 the lower court ruling is upheld, except where the judgment is of death,  
35 where the Court of Appeals must reach a decision or a lower court ruling  
36 allowing death is overturned. The powers and jurisdiction of the court  
37 shall not be suspended for want of appointment when the number of judges  
38 is sufficient to constitute a quorum.

39 (v) The commission on judicial nomination members shall be replaced  
40 and shall be chosen as follows: four shall be appointed by each regional  
41 governor, four by the chief judge of the court of appeals, one by the  
42 regional speaker of each regional assembly, one by regional temporary  
43 president of each regional senate, one by regional minority leader of  
44 each regional senate, and one by regional minority leader of each  
45 regional assembly. Of the four members appointed by each of the regional  
46 governors, no more than two shall be enrolled in the same political  
47 party, two shall be members of the bar of the state or region, and two  
48 shall not be members of the bar of the state or region. Of the four  
49 members appointed by the chief judge of the court of appeals, no more  
50 than two shall be enrolled in the same political party, two shall be  
51 members of the bar of the state or region, and two shall not be members  
52 of the bar of the state or region. No member of the commission shall  
53 hold or have held any judicial office or hold any elected public office  
54 for which they receive compensation during their period of service,  
55 except that the governor and the chief judge may each appoint no more  
56 than one former judge or justice of the state or regional court system

1 to such commission. No member of the commission shall hold any office in  
2 any political party. No member of the judicial nominating commission  
3 shall be eligible for appointment to judicial office in any court of the  
4 state during the member's period of service or within one year thereaft-  
5 er.

6 (vi) The members appointed by the state governor, the temporary presi-  
7 dent of the senate, the speaker of the assembly and the minority leader  
8 of the senate shall be removed from the commission on December 1st after  
9 the regional governors are elected for the first time. The members first  
10 appointed by each regional governor shall have respectively one, two,  
11 three and four year terms as that regional governor shall designate.  
12 Each subsequent appointment by a regional governor shall be for a term  
13 of four years and those appointed by the chief judge shall be for a term  
14 of four years. The other members shall have a term of two years.  
15 Appointments to fill a vacancy shall only be for the remainder of the  
16 term.

17 (vii) The commission shall consider the qualifications of candidates  
18 for appointment to the offices of judge and chief judge of the court of  
19 appeals and, whenever a vacancy in those offices occurs, shall prepare a  
20 written report and recommend to the appropriate regional governor or  
21 state governor at least seven persons who are well qualified for those  
22 judicial offices.

23 (viii) The appropriate regional governor shall appoint, with the  
24 advice and consent of their regional senate, from among list of those  
25 recommended by the judicial nominating commission, a person to fill the  
26 office of Court of Appeals judge, whenever a vacancy occurs in a court  
27 of appeals in a seat in the class assigned to their region. The appro-  
28 priate regional governor shall transmit to their regional senate the  
29 written report of the commission on judicial nomination relating to the  
30 nominee; provided, however, that no person may be appointed a judge of  
31 the court of appeals by a regional governor unless such person is a  
32 resident of that governor's region and has been admitted to the practice  
33 of law in that region or in this state. The state governor shall  
34 appoint, with the advice and consent of the state senate, from among  
35 those recommended by the judicial nominating commission, a person to  
36 fill the office of Court of Appeals judge whenever a vacancy occurs in a  
37 court of appeals in seat in first class assigned to the state governor;  
38 provided, however, that no person may be appointed a judge of the court  
39 of appeals by the state governor unless such person is a resident of the  
40 state and has been admitted to the practice of law in this state or a  
41 region within this state for at least ten years. The governor shall  
42 transmit to the senate the written report of the commission on judicial  
43 nomination relating to the nominee.

44 (ix) The jurisdiction of the Court of Appeals shall be limited to the  
45 review of questions of law on appeal from a Regional Superior Court  
46 except where the judgment is of death. The Court of Appeals will only  
47 hear those appeals where at least two-thirds (2/3) of Court of Appeals  
48 judges vote to hear the case. The Court of Appeals shall continue to  
49 have the final say in interpreting New York State law and whether New  
50 York State laws are Constitutional when hearing appeals on New York  
51 State law from the appellate divisions. All appeals from the appellate  
52 divisions on regional law, local law, regional charter, regional regu-  
53 lation, or local regulation must first be heard by the appropriate  
54 Regional Superior Court before being appealed to the Court of Appeals.  
55 The Court of Appeals may only reverse a Regional Superior Court ruling  
56 or a lower court ruling that a Regional Superior Court has let stand if

1 at least three-quarters (3/4) of Court of Appeals judges vote to reverse  
2 the ruling. The Court of Appeals shall have original jurisdiction of  
3 actions of one region against another region.

4 (x) The state shall be divided into six judicial departments. The  
5 first department shall consist of the counties within the first and  
6 twelfth judicial districts of the state. The second department shall  
7 consist of the counties within the second, ninth, eleventh and thir-  
8 teenth judicial districts of the state. The third department shall  
9 consist of the counties within the third, fourth, sixth and fourteenth  
10 judicial districts of the state. The fourth department shall consist of  
11 the counties within the fifth, seventh and eighth judicial districts of  
12 the state. The fifth department shall consist of the counties within the  
13 tenth and fifteenth judicial districts of the state. A Sixth Judicial  
14 Department shall be created consisting of remaining parts of the ninth  
15 Judicial District in Rockland and Westchester counties. Each department  
16 shall be bounded by the lines of judicial districts. Once every ten  
17 years the applicable regional legislature may alter the boundaries of  
18 the judicial departments in its region, but without changing the number  
19 thereof and no judicial department may be drawn in such a way to have  
20 counties from more than a single Region.

21 (xi) Each of the justices of the appellate divisions of the supreme  
22 court are continued as justices and shall serve in the department and  
23 region they reside. Appellate divisions of the supreme court shall have  
24 name of its region, and shall consist of at least five justices of the  
25 supreme court but the exact number in each department shall be set by  
26 applicable region's law. In each appellate division, four justices shall  
27 constitute a quorum, and the concurrence of three shall be necessary to  
28 a decision. No more than five justices shall sit in any case.

29 (xii) The justices of each appellate division shall be designated by  
30 the appropriate regional governor, from all the justices elected to the  
31 supreme court for terms of five years or the unexpired portions of their  
32 respective terms of office, if less than five years, and each justice  
33 during their term of office shall be a resident of the department. The  
34 justices of each appellate division shall elect the presiding justice of  
35 their appellate division, for a two year term. Until an election is held  
36 the appropriate regional governor shall designate an acting presiding  
37 justice.

38 (xiii) The state shall be divided into judicial districts. Unless  
39 otherwise stated in this article all judicial districts shall continue  
40 to keep the same boundaries that existed prior to the adoption of this  
41 article unless modified according to section 6 of Article VI. If any  
42 judicial district exists in more than one region it shall be divided  
43 into separate districts along the regional boundary.

44 (xiv) Once every ten years the applicable regional legislature may  
45 increase or decrease the number of judicial districts or alter the  
46 composition of judicial districts and thereupon re-apportion the  
47 justices to be thereafter elected in the judicial districts so altered  
48 and/or assign judicial districts to a different judicial department.  
49 Each judicial district shall be bounded by county lines. No judicial  
50 district may be drawn in such a way to have counties from more than a  
51 single region or be assigned to judicial department not contained within  
52 its region.

53 (xv) Each supreme court shall have the name of its region added to the  
54 beginning of its title.

55 (xvi) The provisions of this section shall in no way limit or impair  
56 the jurisdiction of the regional supreme court as set forth in section

1 seven of this article. All proceedings of the family court shall be  
2 open to the public, however the court may require that only the first  
3 names of the minors and their parents or their relatives be used in its  
4 proceedings and shall prohibit video and photo(s) of its proceedings.

5 (xvii) The state legislature may provide for the manner of trial of  
6 actions and proceedings involving claims against the state. The appro-  
7 priate regional legislature may provide by regional law what claims  
8 against its region or local governments may be heard by its regional  
9 court of claims and whether a jury trial will be allowed.

10 (xviii) Each court shall exercise jurisdiction over any action or  
11 proceeding transferred to it pursuant to this section, but no action or  
12 proceeding shall ever be transferred out of its original region.

13 (xix) There shall be a commission on judicial conduct. The commission  
14 on judicial conduct shall receive, initiate, investigate and hear  
15 complaints with respect to the conduct, qualifications, fitness to  
16 perform or performance of official duties of any judge or justice of the  
17 unified court system, in the manner provided by law; and may determine  
18 that a judge or justice be admonished, censured or removed from office  
19 for cause, including, but not limited to, misconduct in office, persist-  
20 ent failure to perform their duties, habitual intemperance, and conduct,  
21 on or off the bench, prejudicial to the administration of justice, or  
22 that a judge or justice be retired for mental or physical disability  
23 preventing the proper performance of their judicial duties. The commis-  
24 sion shall transmit such determination to the chief judge of the court  
25 of appeals who shall cause written notice of such determination to be  
26 given to the judge or justice involved. Such judge or justice may either  
27 accept the commission's determination or make written request to the  
28 chief judge of the court of appeals if part of state unified court  
29 system or chief justice of the appropriate Regional Superior Court if  
30 part of regional unified court system, within thirty days after receipt  
31 of such notice, for a review of such determination by the court of  
32 appeals or the appropriate Regional Superior Court. Any complaint about  
33 a justice who is a member of a regional Superior Court shall be referred  
34 to the members of the applicable regional senate committee(s) for inves-  
35 tigation and appropriate action. Any complaint about a judge who is a  
36 member of the Court of Appeals shall be referred to all members of the  
37 applicable state senate committee(s) for investigation and appropriate  
38 action, as this commission on judicial conduct shall have no jurisdic-  
39 tion over them. The commission on judicial conduct members shall be  
40 replaced and shall be chosen as follows: four shall be appointed by each  
41 regional governor, one by each regional temporary president of the  
42 regional senates, one by the minority leader of each of the regional  
43 senates, one by each speaker of the regional assemblies, one by the  
44 minority leader of each of the regional assemblies and three by the  
45 chief judge of the court of appeals. Of the members appointed by the  
46 regional governors none shall be a member of the bar of the state or  
47 region nor a judge or justice. Of the members appointed by the chief  
48 judge all shall be members of the bar of the state or region. None of  
49 the persons to be appointed by the legislative leaders shall be justices  
50 or judges or retired justices or judges. The chief judge of court of  
51 appeals shall break any tie votes of the commission within three days.  
52 The persons first appointed by each regional governor shall have respec-  
53 tively one, two, three, and four-year terms as the applicable regional  
54 governor shall designate. The chief judge of the court of appeals shall  
55 designate remaining terms of members of the commission in such a way  
56 that no more than one quarter of persons appointed shall have their term

1 expire in any given year. Each member of the commission shall be  
2 appointed thereafter for a term of four years. A vacancy shall be  
3 filled by the appointing officer for the remainder of the term.

4 (xx) Judges of the court of appeals and Judges of the court of claims  
5 may be removed by concurrent resolution of both houses of the state  
6 legislature, if three-fifths of all the members elected to each house  
7 concur therein.

8 (xxi) Justices of the Regional Superior Court, Justices of the supreme  
9 court, judges of the regional court of claims, the county court, the  
10 surrogate's court, the family court, the courts for the city of New York  
11 established pursuant to this article, the district court and such other  
12 courts as the legislature may determine, may be removed by the applica-  
13 ble regional senate, on the recommendation of the applicable regional  
14 governor, if three-fifths of all the members elected to the regional  
15 senate concur therein.

16 (xxii) Temporary assignments of all the foregoing judges or justices  
17 listed in this section, and of judges of the city courts, shall be made  
18 by the appropriate regional chief administrator of the courts in accord-  
19 ance with established regional standards and administrative policies,  
20 but no judge or justice shall be assigned outside their region.

21 (xxiii) (1) The chief judge of the court of appeals shall be the chief  
22 judge of the state of New York and shall be the chief judicial officer  
23 of the state unified court system consisting of the Court of Appeals,  
24 the Court of Claims and the State Commission on Judicial Conduct. There  
25 shall be an administrative board of the courts which shall consist of  
26 the chief judge of the court of appeals as chairperson and two associate  
27 judges of the court of appeals selected by the court. The chief judge  
28 shall, with the advice and consent of the administrative board of the  
29 courts, appoint a chief administrator of the state courts who shall  
30 serve at the pleasure of the chief judge.

31 (2) The chief administrator of the state courts shall keep an up to  
32 date version of the New York State Constitution, New York State laws,  
33 charters, rules and regulations on the court's website; and links to all  
34 regional chief administrators of regional courts' websites and all  
35 regional secretary of state websites. Each region's secretary of state  
36 shall keep on a regional department of state website up to date versions  
37 of the New York State Constitution, that region's laws, charters, rules  
38 and regulations, local charters, laws, ordinances and rules and regu-  
39 lations within that region.

40 (xxiv) The state legislature shall provide for the allocation of the  
41 cost of operating and maintaining the court of appeals, the court of  
42 claims, the judicial nominating commission, and the State Commission on  
43 Judicial Conduct. Each region shall fund its own courts; the Regional  
44 Superior Court, the appellate division of the supreme court in each  
45 judicial department, the supreme courts, the county courts, the surro-  
46 gate's courts, the family courts, the courts for the city of New York  
47 and the district courts.

48 § 7. Full Faith and Credit shall be given in each Region to the public  
49 acts, records, licenses, permits, and judicial Proceedings of the other  
50 Regions. The State Legislature may by state laws prescribe the manner in  
51 which such acts, records, and proceedings shall be proved, and the  
52 effect thereof. Licenses and permits previously issued by the state  
53 shall remain in effect until their expiration date, when they may be  
54 renewed with the Region.

55 § 8. This new article XX shall supersede any part of the New York  
56 State Constitution it conflicts with. If any part of this amendment is

1 found to be unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction the  
2 remainder shall remain in effect.

3 § 2. Resolved (if the Assembly concur), That article 9 of the consti-  
4 tution be amended by adding a new section 4 to read as follows:

5 § 4. Owners of parcels of land that are adjacent to each other or only  
6 separated by a road, highway, railroad, body of water, and/or a waterc-  
7 course within a single county may separate from any city (cities) and/or  
8 town(s) whose jurisdiction the land is currently under, and incorporate  
9 a new town. First, the owners must draw up a map and prepare a charter  
10 of the proposed town and have one fifth (1/5) of the owners of land in  
11 the proposed new town sign a petition agreeing to the map and charter.  
12 The proposed town must have at least two thousand (2000) people residing  
13 in it. The charter they draft shall describe how any special district(s)  
14 will be affected and when the charter will take effect and when the  
15 special election to fill offices created for the first time under the  
16 charter will be held. Second the map, charter and petition must be filed  
17 with the county board of elections where the proposed town will exist  
18 before September 1st of any year. The county board of elections shall  
19 then schedule a vote on the proposed town on the next election day in  
20 November. Only voters who reside within the proposed town may vote on  
21 creating it. If a majority of those voting approve it the new town will  
22 be created and will cease to be part of the municipality or municipi-  
23 palities it separates from thirty days after the new town's officials  
24 take office. The new town and the municipality or municipalities it  
25 separates from should negotiate fair prices for water, sewer or other  
26 services that must continue to be shared. If an agreement cannot be  
27 reached either may petition the Appellate Division of Supreme court to  
28 set the prices for up to four years at a time. Should anyone go to  
29 court to block the creation of the new town and not prevail they shall  
30 pay the reasonable legal fees and court costs of those trying to create  
31 the new town.

32 § 3. Resolved (if the Assembly concur), That article 8 of the consti-  
33 tution be amended by adding two new sections 2-b and 2-c to read as  
34 follows:

35 § 2-b. In the New Amsterdam region and Montauk Region the fiscal year  
36 of any county, city, town, village or other district excluding school  
37 and library districts shall be from December 1st to November 30th of the  
38 following year. Whenever a proposed budget increase shall exceed two  
39 percent (2%) from the previous year's budget or a proposed property tax  
40 rate increase shall exceed two percent (2%) from the previous year's  
41 property tax rate; the proposed budget and/or property tax rate  
42 increased shall be submitted to their voters for a yes or no vote, on  
43 Election Day in November. Sixty (60) percent of voters voting on it must  
44 vote yes for it to be approved. If approved the budget shall take effect  
45 at the start of fiscal year and property taxes will be collected as  
46 defined by law; however if defeated or no budget/property tax rate vote  
47 was held, the budget that county, city, town, village or other district  
48 excluding school districts must have a budget increase of less than two  
49 percent (2%) and the property tax rate increase must be less than two  
50 percent (2%). Regional laws may be enacted to enforce this section.

51 § 2-c. In the New Amsterdam region and Montauk Region the fiscal year  
52 of all school and library districts shall be from July 1st to June 30th  
53 of the following year. The school budget shall be submitted to the  
54 voters, for a yes or no vote, on a day in May or June that is selected  
55 by law and any primaries held during May or June will occur on the same  
56 day at same election district polling places with the same poll hours

1 statewide. If a proposed budget increase shall exceed two percent (2%)  
 2 from the previous year's budget or a proposed property tax rate increase  
 3 shall exceed two percent (2%) from the previous year's property tax  
 4 rate, sixty (60) percent of voters voting must vote yes for it to be  
 5 approved. If the budget is approved it will take effect as defined by  
 6 law. If a school district budget is defeated a contingency budget will  
 7 be adopted; the amount of any contingency budget increase shall be less  
 8 than two percent (2%), per enrolled student as of July 1st. If a  
 9 library district budget is defeated the district must have a budget  
 10 increase of less than two percent (2%) and the property tax rate  
 11 increase must be less than two percent (2%). Regional laws may be  
 12 enacted to enforce this section.

13 § 4. Resolved (if the Assembly concur), That section 2 of article 19  
 14 of the constitution be amended to read as follows:

15 § 2. At the general election to be held in the year nineteen hundred  
 16 fifty-seven, and every twentieth year thereafter, and also at such times  
 17 as the legislature may by law provide, the question "Shall there be a  
 18 convention to revise the constitution and amend the same?" shall be  
 19 submitted to and decided by the electors of the state; and in case a  
 20 majority of the electors voting thereon shall decide in favor of a  
 21 convention for such purpose, the electors of every [~~senate district of~~  
 22 ~~the state, as then organized, shall elect three delegates]~~ regional  
 23 senate district of the state, as then organized, shall elect three  
 24 delegates and their votes shall be weighed by the population of the  
 25 delegate's Regional Senate District at the next ensuing general  
 26 election[~~, and the electors of the state voting at the same election~~  
 27 ~~shall elect fifteen delegates at-large]]. The delegates so elected shall  
 28 convene at the capitol on the first Tuesday of April next ensuing after  
 29 their election, and shall continue their session until the business of  
 30 such convention shall have been completed. Every delegate shall receive  
 31 for [~~his or her~~] their services the same compensation as shall then be  
 32 annually payable to the members of the assembly and be reimbursed for  
 33 actual traveling expenses, while the convention is in session, to the  
 34 extent that a member of the assembly would then be entitled thereto in  
 35 the case of a session of the legislature. A majority of the convention  
 36 shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and no amend-  
 37 ment to the constitution shall be submitted for approval to the electors  
 38 as hereinafter provided, unless by the assent of a majority of all the  
 39 delegates elected to the convention, the ayes and noes being entered on  
 40 the journal to be kept. The convention shall have the power to appoint  
 41 such officers, employees and assistants as it may deem necessary, and  
 42 fix their compensation and to provide for the printing of its documents,  
 43 journal, proceedings and other expenses of said convention. The conven-  
 44 tion shall determine the rules of its own proceedings, choose its own  
 45 officers, and be the judge of the election, returns and qualifications  
 46 of its members. In case of a vacancy, by death, resignation or other  
 47 cause, of any district delegate elected to the convention, such vacancy  
 48 shall be filled by a vote of the remaining delegates representing the  
 49 district in which such vacancy occurs. If such vacancy occurs in the  
 50 office of a delegate-at-large, such vacancy shall be filled by a vote of  
 51 the remaining delegates-at-large. Any proposed constitution or constitu-  
 52 tional amendment which shall have been adopted by such convention, shall  
 53 be submitted to a vote of the electors of the state at the time and in  
 54 the manner provided by such convention, at an election which shall be  
 55 held not less than six weeks after the adjournment of such convention.  
 56 Upon the approval of such constitution or constitutional amendments, in~~

1 the manner provided in the last preceding section, such constitution or  
2 constitutional amendment, shall go into effect on the first day of Janu-  
3 ary next after such approval.

4 § 5. Resolved (if the Assembly concur), That article 11 of the consti-  
5 tution be REPEALED and a new article 11 be added to read as follows:

6 ARTICLE XI  
7 EDUCATION

8 Each Regional legislature shall provide for the maintenance and  
9 support of a system of free common schools, wherein all the children of  
10 this state may be educated and shall provide for a Regional education  
11 department. The legislature may provide for the transportation of chil-  
12 dren to and from any school or institution of learning.

13 § 6. Resolved (if the Assembly concur), That article 19 of the consti-  
14 tution be amended by adding a new section 4 to read as follows:

15 § 4. No future amendment or new state constitution can be approved  
16 unless at least 55 percent of the voters voting on it in the New Amster-  
17 dam Region, 55 percent of the voters voting on it in the Montauk Region  
18 and at least 55 percent of the voters voting on it in the New York  
19 Region all approve the changes.

20 § 7. Resolved (if the Assembly concur), That section 1 of article 5 of  
21 the constitution be REPEALED and a new section 1 be added to read as  
22 follows:

23 Section 1. (a) In elections held after the regional governors take  
24 office for the first time the state comptroller shall be elected for a  
25 term of office of five years, and shall possess the qualifications  
26 provided in section 2 of article IV. The legislature shall provide for  
27 filling vacancies in the office of comptroller. The comptroller shall be  
28 required: (i) to audit all vouchers before payment and all official  
29 accounts; (ii) to audit the accrual and collection of all revenues and  
30 receipts; and (iii) to prescribe such methods of accounting as are  
31 necessary for the performance of the foregoing duties. The payment of  
32 any moneys of the state, or of any moneys under its control, or the  
33 refund of any moneys paid to the state, except upon audit by the comp-  
34 troller, shall be void, and may be restrained upon the suit of any  
35 taxpayer with the consent of the supreme court in the appellate division  
36 on notice to the appropriate regional attorney-general.

37 (b) In such respect the appropriate regional legislature only shall  
38 define the powers and duties and may also assign to them: (i) super-  
39 vision of the accounts of any political subdivision of their region; and  
40 (ii) powers and duties pertaining to or connected with the assessment  
41 and taxation of real estate, including determination of ratios which the  
42 assessed valuation of taxable real property bears to the full valuation  
43 thereof, but not including any of those powers and duties reserved to  
44 officers of a county, city, town or village by virtue of sections seven  
45 and eight of article nine of this constitution. The appropriate regional  
46 legislature shall assign to them no administrative duties, excepting  
47 such as may be incidental to the performance of these functions, any  
48 other provision of this constitution to the contrary notwithstanding.  
49 The office of comptroller shall also calculate annually the median annu-  
50 al income of individuals in the state.

51 § 8. Resolved (if the Assembly concur), That section 6 of article 3 of  
52 the constitution be REPEALED.

53 § 9. Resolved (if the Assembly concur), That the foregoing amendment  
54 be referred to the first regular legislative session convening after the  
55 next succeeding general election of members of the assembly, and, in

1 conformity with section 1 of article 19 of the constitution, be  
2 published for 3 months previous to the time of such election.