

RESOLUTION # 37 (2009)

Whereas, tough economic times and New York State's tremendously high tax burden are causing families and businesses to struggle, while state government has been paralyzed by questions of gubernatorial succession, leadership fighting and political dysfunction; and

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

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

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

Whereas, recent events in state government involving gubernatorial succession, legislative stalemates and appointments to statewide elected offices have exposed flaws and weaknesses in our current constitution on these issues; and

Whereas, families and businesses have been forced to cut back, while New York State government continues to spend beyond its means and force unfunded mandates on already overburdened local governments and taxpayers; and

Whereas, in the face of the most challenging economic environment since the Great Depression, the people of New York have little confidence that the state government, as currently structured, is responsive to their wants, needs, or principal concerns; and

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

Whereas, the people must act now to thwart the dysfunction in Albany, and convene a People's Convention to take New York State government back; and

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

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

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

Resolved, that a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Governor of the State of New York, the Temporary President of the New York State Senate, the Speaker of the New York State Assembly, and to the Minority Leaders of the Assembly and Senate.

Dated: September 21, 2009
Town of Smithville
Chenango Co., NY

RESOLUTION # 37 (2009), offered by Councilman Connelly, 2nd by Councilwoman Graves. This Resolution was ADOPTED.

Kay Borne, Councilwoman
Holly Mohr, Councilwoman
Dianne Graves, Councilwoman
Roger Connelly, Councilman
Allan Johnson, Supervisor

CERTIFICATION

STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF CHENANGO

I hereby certify that the aforementioned is a true and accurate copy of a Resolution adopted by the Town of Smithville Town Board on September 21, 2009.

Dated, October 1, 2009

Alison B. Owens

Alison B. Owens
Smithville Town Clerk