

The new Constitution will mean more jobs, more skilled training for all.

Under the unique partnership created by the new Constitution government and industry can cooperate to create jobs; to train our citizens to fill jobs now empty because of inadequate training and because of the difficulties involved in establishing job-training programs under our present charter. It makes economic security for every citizen a basic policy of the state.

Constitutional guarantee—what it means for citizens

What's the difference between a Constitutional guarantee and a law to the same effect?

First, both houses of the Legislature must agree to the change in the Constitution.

Second, a general election must be held.

Third, the newly elected legislature must agree to the exact same change in the Constitution.

Fourth, the change must be approved by the voters in a state wide referendum at the next general election.

There are two ways: 1) Constitutional Convention (a rare thing, there have been only 9 Constitutional Conventions in the state's 190 year history) and voter acceptance.

2) What is called the Legislative route.

Compare old, new before you make your choice

	In the new	In the old
CITIZENS Guarantee that records of state, local government be open to public	YES	NO
Guarantee against unconstitutional acts by state with right to go to court	YES	NO
Conservation Bill of Rights for natural resources	YES	NO
Guarantee on equal educational opportunity for all; development of full educational potential for every citizen	YES	NO
Consumer protection and consumer Bill of Rights	YES	NO
Provision for equal voting age	YES	NO
Provision for equal distribution of welfare costs throughout the entire state	YES	NO
Provision for equal distribution of court costs throughout the entire state	YES	NO
Constitutionally established limit on how much the state can borrow	YES	NO
Provision forbidding discrimination on the basis of sex, age, physical or mental handicap	YES	NO
STATE Flexibility to reorganize state government to meet new needs	YES	NO
Reappointment by bi-partisan commission	YES	NO
Matter of state policy to promote economic security of all citizens	YES	NO
Authority to cooperate with all private groups to meet needs in housing, health, welfare, all public purposes	YES	NO
Broad community development and urban renewal provision	YES	NO
Provision for the legislature to assist in the construction and maintenance of hospitals, nursing homes, homes for the aged	YES	NO
Limits expense payments to legislators for actual necessary expenses only	YES	NO
GENERAL Provision for distribution of aid to public schools equally based on number of students enrolled	YES	NO
Provision for separation of church and state	YES	NO
Provision for the legislature to assist divorce and separation jurisdiction to Family Court	YES	NO
Citizens' Board of Welfare and Education	YES	YES



Wild guesses at taxes deflated by analysis of facts, figures

A factual analysis of the rather strange cost estimates being used by many people in considering the Constitution is a useful piece of information.

Of course the Constitution, itself, can't raise anybody's taxes. Only the Legislature can do that. What the Constitution can do is establish policy which the Legislature must carry out.

The analysis of the proposed costs, is reprinted here for your information:

State Taxes

One thing you can be sure of: a lot of fiscal years' taxes are going to be used in opposition to the New Constitution. It's already begun with the report by New York State's Budget Director T. N. Hurd.

His guesstimate, as a result of the proposals of the New Constitution (note that proposals, not mandated expenses, and therein lies a great difference) there would be an 80% increase in state spending in 10 years.

Sounds frightening, doesn't it? We'll discuss his guesstimates later, but let's just take a look at this total 80% increase in the next 10 years first.

Take a look at the last ten years under the old Constitution. Under the old Constitution state taxes in the last ten years have increased within a hair of 300%. That's right, three hundred percent, from \$1,377 billion (\$7-68) to \$4,326 billion (67-68). So considering past experience an 80% increase is kind of modest even if it were true.

Tax Facts

On the basis of Mr. Hurd's own report 31% of his 80% would represent no increase in taxes at all... but a tax shift. That's because the 31% represents the welfare cost to the state of assuming the welfare and court costs from local government.

Of course taxpayers presently pay that 31% in local taxes (since local taxes currently are collected to cover these costs of welfare and courts). That's not an increase as far as the taxpayer is concerned. He already supports welfare and courts in his local tax payments.

Going Down

Let's look at the remaining 49% increase. 21% of the 80% is based on what Mr. Hurd figures would be the cost of free higher education. But free higher education isn't mandated by the new Constitution. In fact, free higher education is possible under the present Constitution (even though it's not mandated the cost of both).

State Government's Role

The main feature of the New Constitution viewed simply as a way to run a state in the last half of the 20th Century is this: it recognizes (as our present Constitution does not) that expanding population cities, growth, problems of housing and welfare are not local challenges... but state challenges.

Today's problems have been saddled on local governments. Our present Constitution falls to provide the means for State Government to step in and assume some of its proper responsibilities.

Take one example: Medicaid. The Legislature recognizing a real problem, established a program which it considered to be reasonable and appropriate. The program hit the local governments' pocketbook quite hard (so much so that Governor Rockefeller recently advanced a proposal that the state pick up any local costs; i.e. whatever the local welfare bill for Medicare is now will remain frozen, any increase to be paid for by the state). Had the shifting in tax base for welfare costs in the New Constitution been in effect when Medicaid was passed, there would have been no unusual burden on any local unit of government. It would be the state's responsibility to meet the need and the cost of both.

The new Constitution is a unique, humane, up-to-date document that will benefit all the people of the state, and do it more equally, and justly than we do today.

Support from all sides shows new charter meets state's need

Support for the new Constitution has come from many quarters, from Republicans and Democrats, from representatives of labor and commerce, from Christian and Jew.

Governor Rockefeller, Senator Kennedy, the AFL-CIO, newly appointed undersecretary of Commerce Samuels and the New York State Catholic Committee and the national Orthodox Jewish organization Agudath Israel of America.

All make a single point: the new Constitution is better than the old, better able to meet the needs of the times.

Some provisions that have led to enthusiastic approval for the new charter are these:

- the new Constitution permits the state to cooperate with private enterprise in rebuilding our cities;
- it allows the state to join with private enterprise in creating jobs;
- it allows the state to join with private enterprise in providing health and nursing care for the sick and aged;
- for the first time in any constitution of any state, it allows the state to join with private groups in meeting any and all human needs;
- it creates a partnership between state and people in solving common problems;
- it contains the strongest bill of rights ever achieved by the people of any state;
- it prohibits discrimination of any kind including sex, age, mental and physical handicap;
- it establishes as a responsibility of state government the planning and establishing of a firm basis for economic security for all, aged, sick, poor, handicapped disabled;
- it guarantees equal opportunity in education for every child, rich or poor;
- it requires the state to establish a system of education that will open college doors to all institutions to the poor as well as the rich;
- it establishes a Consumer Bill of Rights giving the citizen protection against unfair practices and hidden financing costs when he buys any item;
- it gives local citizens the right to determine their own tax increases (under present law local property tax decisions are subject to state-wide referendum which means citizens in Rochester, for instance, are making decisions on local tax issues for citizens in Long Island);
- it provides for equal distribution of public school aid by basing the aid on the number of students to be educated, not the number of students who come to school each day;
- it lifts the backbreaking burden of local welfare costs from the local homeowner and shifts it to the broad state tax structure;
- it provides for full development of the educational potential of every citizen.

It provides for equal distribution of court costs throughout the state.

It establishes a state debt limit for the first time.

It provides for the government continuing in case of atomic attack.

It places stricter controls on electronic eavesdropping and wiretapping.

It prevents snowstorms from cutting off state aid to public school students (at present if a child stays home from school because of a snowstorm his school loses state aid).

It enables the state to consider the needs of all school students without regard to religion, race or national origin.

It guarantees one-man, one vote by providing a bi-partisan non-political system of establishing voting districts and representation in Senate and Assembly.

It forbids gerrymandering.

It lets the governor reorganize state government, a flexibility required by the fast-pace of change today.

It guarantees separation of Church and state (no such guarantee is in the present constitution).

It puts an end to unlimited indirect financing (over 80% of state debt has been borrowed indirectly, avoiding voter referendum and uncheckbooked by any constitutional provision). The new constitution sets a limit for all financing, direct and indirect.

It gives citizens the right to sue the state if they think the state is spending money unconstitutionally.

It ends the restrictive Blaine Amendment and permits the state to consider the educational needs of all children regardless of religious belief.

It gives the public the right to examine records of state and local government and public authorities, putting an end to secrecy in government.

It provides a flexible character of government, looking to the future needs, not the needs of the 1850's when our present Constitution was written.

Don't be fooled!

Don't be fooled by the single submission argument. That's the statement being made by some people that they're going to vote against the Constitution because it is in one place on the ballot.

Look at it this way:

Does anyone suggest you vote for the constitution because its in one place on the ballot? Of course not, that's absurd.

Is it any more sensible to vote against the constitution because it is in one place on the ballot? Of course not.

The only responsible vote is one based on the merits of the charter. One which examines it for what it is; not where it is on the ballot.

There's no question that changes in the Constitution are needed. Thousands of words of testimony were given at the public hearings held all summer around the state in every major city, before the Convention debate began.

Who came to the hearings? Educators and tax men, physicians and lawyers, hospital administrators, welfare workers, local government officials and just, plain interested citizens.

It's from their testimony, from the men and women involved and facing the problems, that the new Constitution was written.

First the delegates listened to the public. Blaine got all the headlines but Blaine was only a part of the reams and reams of testimony given. There were citizens interested in better welfare, a new way of meeting housing needs, community development, transportation,

education, wiretapping, discrimination, health, hospitals... all in the public welfare areas.

Other citizens and groups came to their views on local government, taxes, defense, courts, payment for legislators, rights of citizens, forest preserve and a hundred other issues.

Only after the 12 Committees and 43 sub-committees heard and digested all this did the debate begin. First in the Convention hall, then in the public hearing. Then on the Convention floor, delegate to delegate. Then in committee and vote. Finally after public debate and vote, amendments and vote, the new Constitution came up, article by article for final passage.

Over three-fourths of the delegates approved each article as it came up for final passage. Republicans and Democrats, both cast ballots for approval.

There's no question that changes in the Constitution are needed. Thousands of words of testimony were given at the public hearings held all summer around the state in every major city, before the Convention debate began.

Who came to the hearings? Educators and tax men, physicians and lawyers, hospital administrators, welfare workers, local government officials and just, plain interested citizens.

It's from their testimony, from the men and women involved and facing the problems, that the new Constitution was written.

First the delegates listened to the public. Blaine got all the headlines but Blaine was only a part of the reams and reams of testimony given. There were citizens interested in better welfare, a new way of meeting housing needs, community development, transportation,

education, wiretapping, discrimination, health, hospitals... all in the public welfare areas.

Other citizens and groups came to their views on local government, taxes, defense, courts, payment for legislators, rights of citizens, forest preserve and a hundred other issues.

Only after the 12 Committees and 43 sub-committees heard and digested all this did the debate begin. First in the Convention hall, then in the public hearing. Then on the Convention floor, delegate to delegate. Then in committee and vote. Finally after public debate and vote, amendments and vote, the new Constitution came up, article by article for final passage.

Over three-fourths of the delegates approved each article as it came up for final passage. Republicans and Democrats, both cast ballots for approval.

The Catholic
COURIER
Journal
THE NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE
ROCHESTER, N.Y., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1967

The new Constitution can benefit all because it creates a partnership between the state and its people. That means government and private citizens can join together in meeting problems of housing for the aged, education for the young, hospital care for the sick. It provides the strongest bill of rights of any Constitution in the nation. It includes protection for the worker, the consumer, the hunter and the fisherman, the city and country.



Every point of view heard

There's no question that changes in the Constitution are needed. Thousands of words of testimony were given at the public hearings held all summer around the state in every major city, before the Convention debate began.

Who came to the hearings? Educators and tax men, physicians and lawyers, hospital administrators, welfare workers, local government officials and just, plain interested citizens.

It's from their testimony, from the men and women involved and facing the problems, that the new Constitution was written.

First the delegates listened to the public. Blaine got all the headlines but Blaine was only a part of the reams and reams of testimony given. There were citizens interested in better welfare, a new way of meeting housing needs, community development, transportation,

education, wiretapping, discrimination, health, hospitals... all in the public welfare areas.

Other citizens and groups came to their views on local government, taxes, defense, courts, payment for legislators, rights of citizens, forest preserve and a hundred other issues.

Only after the 12 Committees and 43 sub-committees heard and digested all this did the debate begin. First in the Convention hall, then in the public hearing. Then on the Convention floor, delegate to delegate. Then in committee and vote. Finally after public debate and vote, amendments and vote, the new Constitution came up, article by article for final passage.

Over three-fourths of the delegates approved each article as it came up for final passage. Republicans and Democrats, both cast ballots for approval.