



Did You Know?

- Once upon a time Upstate New York had major economic based manufacturing jobs but now good jobs are moving out of state.
- Many counties in upstate NY have lost population.
- We are losing our young people to other states because there are no jobs here for them to stay once they get their education. This in turn is producing a population that is significantly older.
- Unnecessary regulations are restricting people rights and driving businesses from upstate

Divide New York Plan

The New Amsterdam regional government would have the power to repeal these unnecessary regulations and bad laws that are killing upstate.

Our Secession plan calls for establishing a more republican form of government than the strange form of democracy NYS currently has which allows Downstate state to rule upstate which destroys good paying jobs upstate , while upstate can occasionally block things downstate wishes to enact. **We would partition NYS into two or three Autonomous Regions the New Amsterdam Region (upstate) and the New York Region (downstate). A third Montauk region is also a possibility;** alongside a token state government to comply with the US Constitution. The token NYS government that remains would have about the same power as the Queen of England! Because we are forming regions not a new state or moving counties between states; Congress can be legally bypassed. Our autonomous regions method is more likely to succeed!

We need your help to make this happen Please sign-up on the Get Involved page on our web site

www.newamsterdamny.org

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While the approval of both Congress and State Legislature is needed to divide NY into two states, an amendment to our New York State constitution is all that is needed to divide our state into autonomous regions which is almost the same as being separate states. Since Congress is unlikely to give the Northeast two more US Senate seats a new state would require; the autonomous regions plan, with a token state government, is more likely to succeed.



Slide C

This Amendment creates **fully autonomous regions**. Since we are forming Autonomous Regions not a new state some of the more expensive things are being left at the token state level. The boundaries of the regions are drawn to insure each has enough income to support itself plus local government and school districts are being freed from the many unfunded mandates that force local property taxes to be highest in the nation. The token state government is needed to comply with the US Constitution is kept small by limiting its taxing power to a three (3) percent sales tax; with all other taxing power transferred to the regions.



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The token state laws are limited to those related to Executive (for the state only), Indian, Legislative (for the state only), National Guard, Retirement & Social Security, State Administrative Procedure & State Finance (for the state only), Civil Service (state employees only), Court of Appeals, State Court of Claims, State Judicial Conduct. **All the rest of the laws, which are about 3/4 of NY laws**, become regional laws of each region and are deleted from the state code; the SAFE act and Common Core laws are among the ones that become Regional laws; **each region can then independently modify or repeal them.**



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Regional Senators from all regions **will also serve** as the New York State Senate; Regional Assemblypersons from all regions **will also serve** as the New York State Assembly; their votes weighted by the size of their regional district. The regular sessions for regional Legislatures are limited to January, February, and March. Fiscal years of each region will be from March 1 to last day of February. The State Legislature regular session is limited to April and May; The State fiscal year, from May 1 to April 30.

Autonomous Regions



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Each region shall have an elected Regional Governor, Regional Lieutenant-Governor, and Regional Secretary of State. The Regional Governor appoints most officials including the Education Commissioner; the Regional Secretary of State appoints the Regional Attorney General and Regional Motor Vehicles Commissioner. The token state government will keep an elected-Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, and Comptroller.



Slide G

In order to prevent opposition to the region's plan the transfer of state departments/agencies/employees to regional departments/agencies/employees is explained in detail in the amendment and **the pension system remains at the state level unchanged**. The New York & Montauk regions would still pay for their residents attending New Amsterdam's regional colleges and vice versa. Some prisons in the New Amsterdam region will be owned by the New York or the Montauk region. Local Governments ownership rights are not affected by this Amendment so the City of New York retains ownership of its water system.



Slide H

The reason the existing school funding formula does not work is it covers both large downstate and smaller upstate districts. In addition unfunded mandates cause NYS schools cost so much more to run than neighboring states; even as teachers are paid about the same they even include some non-educational related things. The Regional Legislatures would be required to review all unfunded mandates any that they wish to keep must be reapproved by Regional Legislature for that region. Each region will then design its own school funding formula.



Slide I

Most of the powers of the Court of Appeals powers are transferred to each newly created Regional Superior Courts which have final say on ruling on its region laws. Felonies can only be enacted under regional law. Judicial departments are adjusted so they do not cross regional boundaries.



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The **New York Region** would consist of the counties Bronx, Kings(Brooklyn), New York, Queens and Richmond(Staten Island)*.

The **New Amsterdam Region** would consist of the counties of Albany, Allegany, Broome, Cattaraugus, Cayuga, Chautauqua, Chemung, Chenango, Clinton, Columbia, Cortland, Delaware, Dutchess, Erie, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Genesee, Greene, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Livingston, Madison, Monroe, Montgomery, Niagara, Oneida, Onondaga, Ontario, Orange, Orleans, Oswego, Otsego, Putnam, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Schuyler, Seneca, St Lawrence, Steuben, Sullivan, Tioga, Tompkins, Ulster, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates.

The **Montauk Region*** would consist of the counties of Nassau, Suffolk, Rockland, and Westchester.

*Staten Island could be moved to the Montauk region.

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There are TWO methods (see below) to amend the NY State Constitution to divide our state into two completely autonomous regions, with a token state government that does not need the approval of Congress.

- 1) Every twenty years the people of NYS get to vote on whether to hold a NY State Constitution Convention. If the Convention is approved, Delegates are elected for the Convention the following November. The Convention can then submit amendments to the NY State Constitution directly to the voters. **Since the voters rejected the Convention in Nov 2017**; the next time the Convention vote will be held is Nov 2037; so, we are going with option #2.



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- 2) The NY Legislature must pass the amendment twice with an election of Legislators, in between, and then it is submitted to the voters. If a **County/Borough, Town, City or Village to adopt the home-rule resolution found on this web page** <http://www.newamsterdamny.org/ask-your-county.html> **their Assemblyman and NYS Senator are obliged to introduce the bill(amendment)**. If we can get introduced there may be a chance it could be passed if the upstate economy continues to decline downstate will have to supply more money to support upstate that should increase support for the split.



Future Plans

The last time the voters called a convention was 1937. The last time the Legislature called a convention was 1965. Cuomo, Speaker Carl Heastie and Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan were opposed to a YES vote on holding a constitutional convention in 2017 BECAUSE THE MATH was NOT in their favor.

In 2022 THE MATH would be DIFFERENT! Cuomo (if he wins reelection in 2018) may have the Legislature call an OFF-CYCLE convention in 2022 like they did in 1960s. After the 2020 census NYC could add two or three senate districts due upstate population lost. However, if Cuomo were to lose reelection and gas drilling were to allowed upstate would gain some population which also change the math. We must stay organized so can elected our delegates on short notice if the Legislature were to call a constitutional convention.

We hope to expand our board with more energetic members in case we do have to wait for 2037 for another try.

Future Plans Continued

One option is a court suit to overturn the US Supreme Court “one man, one vote” ruling; **Reynolds v. Sims** 1964 before that ruling the NYS Senate had one Senator per County so there was a balance between upstate and NYC. However, this option is expensive and a long shot since the US Supreme Court rarely reverses itself.

Another option is at different times in New York history upstate and NYC have both wanted to split; if we ever get a time when both regions wish to split at the same time the divide amendment would pass the NY Legislature. We plan to ask local governments to pass **home-rule resolutions**. This would make sure the divide amendment is in the Legislature when time is right to adopt it.

In NYS under the home rule clause; NYS Senators and Assembly(wo)men are obliged to introduce a bill if a municipality in their district passes a home rule resolution and sends a copy of the resolution and the bill to their legislators. Ask your County/Borough, Town, City or Village to help

A copy of draft amendment and more details are on the “Ask Your County” page of our website <http://www.newamsterdamny.org/ask-your-county.html>

Questions?



**Divide NYS into one state,
with three completely autonomous regions.**