New York State Library

Timeline

Outside Events	Year	Events Related to NYS Constitution
The Magna Carta established in England	**1215**	
Dutch West India Company Charter written	**1621**	
	1771	William Tryon appointed as the first Governor of New York
December 16, 1773 - Boston Tea Party	**1773**	
April 18, 1775 - Ride of Paul Revere	**1775**	
June 17, 1775 - Battle of Bunker Hill		
June 29, 1776 - First Virginia Constitution	**1776**	**June 30, 1776 -** Third Congress in New York City adjourns, avoiding an attack by the British.
		July 2, 1776 - The Third Congress meets in White Plains.
		July 9, 1776 - The Fourth Congress meets in White Plains and becomes the First Constitutional Convention. In Convention, New York delegates unanimously ratify the Declaration of Independence
		July 16, 1776 - The Convention resolves to prioritize matters of governing the state over creating a constitution. New York is declared a state separate from Great Britain.
August 27, 1776 - Battle of Long Island		**August 1, 1776 -** A committee of 13 men convenes separately from the convention to create the constitution.
September 15, 1776 - Battle of Harlem Heights		**Fall and Winter of 1776 -** The Convention and the committee meet in secret to avoid attack and capture by the British. They meet in White Plains, Harlem, King's Bridge, Odell's in Phillipp's Manor, Fishkill,
October 28, 1776 - Americans retreat from White Plains		

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		Poughkeepsie, and Kingston.
December 26, 1776- Washington crosses the Delaware		
	1777	**March 12, 1777 -** The constitutional committee makes their first report to the Convention by reading the new constitution.
October – November 1777 - Battle of Saratoga		**April 20, 1777 -** Birth date of New York State: The first constitution is adopted in Kingston, NY.
June 18, 1778 - The British return to New York	**1778**	
September 3, 1783 - Treaty of Paris signed	**1783**	
September 17, 1787 - US Constitution signed	**1787**	
	1821	**August 28, 1821-November 10, 1821 -** The Constitutional Convention of 1821 is held in Albany, NY.
	1822	**January 15-17, 1822 -** A special election is held and the people vote to accept the new Constitution.
		December 31, 1822 - The provisions of the new constitution take effect. Changes are submitted to the people for approval.
	1846	**June 1, 1846-October 9, 1846 -** The fourth Constitutional Convention was held in Albany, NY.
		November 3, 1846 - The Constitution is overwhelmingly approved by voters. It includes a clause saying, "in the year 1866 and in each twentieth year thereafter, and also at such time as the Legislature may provide the question 'Shall there be a Convention to revise the Constitution and amend the same?'"
	1866	The people vote in favor of holding a new Constitutional Convention
	1867	**June 4, 1867-February 28, 1868 -** The convention is held and a new Constitution proposed.
	1868	
	1886	The people vote in favor of holding another

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		convention. However, this does not happen for eight years, because the Governor and the Legislature cannot agree on the method of selecting delegates.
	1894	**May 8, 1894 - September 29, 1894 -** The Constitutional Convention is held in Albany, NY and voters approve it.
	1914	**April 7, 1914 -** A slim majority of voters approve a new convention.
	1915	**April 7, 1914- September 10, 1915 -** The Constitutional Convention is held in Albany, NY and proposes 33 changes in five amendments.
		November 1915 - The voters reject the proposed amendments, and in 1916, they reject the proposal to hold a new convention.
	1921	The Legislature passes an act creating the Judiciary Convention of 1921.
	1938	**April 5, 1938-August 26, 1938 -** Voters approve a measure for a new convention, and The Constitutional Convention of 1938 is held in Albany, NY.
		November 8, 1938 - Voters approve 58 proposals in nine separate parts. These become effective on January 1, 1939.
	1957	**November 1957 -** Voters reject a proposal for another convention, but during the next ten years, demand grew anyway. New Yorkers wanted to hold another convention to fix and simplify the constitution
	1967	**April 4, 1967 - September 26, 1967 -** 186 delegates meet for the last State Constitutional Convention held in New York State to date.
		November 7, 1967 - Voters rejected all proposals
	1977	**November 1977 -** Voters reject the proposal for another convention.
	1994	Governor Mario Cuomo appoints a Temporary State commission on Constitutional Revision to identify constitutional provisions in need of change.
	1997	Voters reject the proposal for another convention.

Outside Events	Year	Events Related to NYS Constitution
	2017	The next time New York residents will get another chance to decide to have another Constitutional Convention or not.