



[www.DivideNY.org](http://www.DivideNY.org)

## 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.
- Unfunded mandates legislated by the State of New York consume a large portion of the budget of [Your] County.
- Many counties in Upstate NY have lost population.
- We are losing our young people to other states because there are no jobs for them once they get their education. As a result, this is producing a significantly older population.
- Unnecessary regulations are restricting people's rights and driving businesses from Upstate.
- The New Amsterdam regional government would have the power to repeal these unnecessary regulations and bad laws that are killing Upstate.

**We need your help to make this happen. Please sign-the petition our web site [www.divideny.org](http://www.divideny.org).**

## Slide B

**Our secession plan calls** for establishing a more republican form of government than the strange form of democracy that NYS currently has that allows Downstate to rule Upstate, which destroys good-paying jobs and only occasionally allows Upstate to block things that Downstate wishes to enact. **We would partition NYS into three autonomous regions: the New Amsterdam Region (upstate), the New York Region (downstate), and the Montauk Region (NYC suburbs).**

The token state government, which is necessary to comply with the US Constitution, would have about the same power as the Queen of England! Because we are forming regions and not creating a new state or moving counties between states, Congress can be legally bypassed. While the approval of both Congress and the state legislature is needed to divide NY into two states, an amendment to the 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 that a new state would require, the autonomous regions plan, with a token state government, is more likely to succeed.

This Amendment creates fully autonomous regions. Since we are forming autonomous regions and 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 ensure that each has enough income to support itself, plus local governments and school districts are being freed from the many unfunded mandates that force local property taxes to be among the highest in the nation. The token state government is kept small by limiting its taxing power to a three (3) percent sales tax, with all other taxing power transferred to the regions.



## Slide C

The token state laws are limited to those related to the executive branch (for the state only), Indian affairs, legislative branch (for the state only), the National Guard, retirement issues & Social Security, state administrative procedures & state finance (for the state only), civil service (state employees only), the Court of Appeals, the State Court of Claims, state judicial conduct. All of the remaining laws, which cover about 3/4 of the current ones, become the 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.

Regional senators from all regions will also serve as New York State senators, and regional assemblypersons from all regions will also serve as the New York State assemblypersons, with their votes weighted by the size of their respective districts. The regular sessions for regional legislatures are limited to January, February, and March. The 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, and the state fiscal year is from May 1 to April 30.



## Slide D

Each region shall have an elected regional governor, regional lieutenant-governor, and regional secretary of state. The regional governor appoints most officials including the regional Department of Education commissioner, and the regional secretary of state appoints the regional Attorney General and the regional Department of Motor Vehicles commissioner. The token state government will keep an elected governor, lieutenant-governor, and comptroller.

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.

Most of the powers of the NYS Court of Appeals are transferred to each newly created regional superior court, which has the final say on the ruling of its regional laws. Felonies can only be enacted under regional law, and judicial departments are adjusted so they do not cross regional boundaries.



## Slide E

The reason that the existing school funding formula does not work is that it covers both large downstate and smaller upstate districts. In addition, unfunded mandates cause NYS schools to cost much more to run than neighboring states, even as teachers are paid about the same. The mandates also include some non-educational related things. The regional legislatures would be required to review all unfunded mandates, and any that they wish to keep must be reapproved by a 3/5 vote of the regional legislature every 10 years. Each region will then design its own school funding formula.



## Slide F

There are TWO methods (see below) to amend the NY State Constitution to divide the state into three autonomous regions 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 Constitutional Convention. If the Convention is approved, delegates are elected 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 November 2017**; the next time the Convention vote will be held is November 2037, *so we are going with option #2.*
- 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 adopts the home-rule resolution found on this web page (<https://www.divideny.org/sample-email-town.html>)** their **assemblyperson and NYS senator are obliged to co-sponsor Bill (amendment)** If we can get more co-sponsors, there is a chance it could be passed. If the upstate economy continues to decline Downstate will have to supply more money to support Upstate, and that should increase support for the split.



## Slide G

You can help by contacting your local elected officials and ask them to adopt a home-rule resolution supporting autonomous regions. n NYS under the home rule clause, NYS Senators and Assembly(wo)men are obliged to co-sponsor a bill if a municipality in their district passes a home rule resolution, then the clerk sends a copy of the resolution, AND the bill numbers to their NY State legislators by certified US mail.

**Note bill numbers change in January of odd numbered years so will be different in January 2023. See our website [www.divideny.org](http://www.divideny.org) for updated bill numbers.**

### SAMPLE HOME RULE RESOLUTION FOR COUNTIES

WHEREAS, the liberties, happiness and well-being of the citizens of [Your] County are often adversely affected by the laws, rules, regulations and edicts set forth by the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, unfunded mandates legislated by the State of New York consume a large portion of the budget of [Your] County, regardless of their effectiveness in [Your] County, which has led to higher taxes; and

It is THEREFORE RESOLVED that the \_\_\_\_\_[supervisors/legislators]\_\_ of \_ [county name]\_\_ County have adopted this home-rule resolution and request that our NYS legislators support an amendment (bill numbers 2021-22 A04446/S4541) to the New York State Constitution to divide and partition our state into the Autonomous Regions of New Amsterdam, Montauk, and New York, with only a token state government.

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### SAMPLE HOME RULE RESOLUTION FOR CITIES, TOWNS OR VILLAGES

WHEREAS, the excessive amount of bureaucracy and regulations has stifled economic growth and impedes small business start-ups, expansion, and growth, thus adversely affecting the economic viability of many businesses in our [city, town, or village]; and

It is THEREFORE RESOLVED that the [board/council] of the [City/Town/Village] of \_\_\_[city/town/village name] \_\_\_in the \_ [county name]\_\_ County have adopted this home-rule resolution and request that our NYS legislators support an amendment (bill numbers 2021-22 A04446/S4541) to the New York State Constitution to divide and partition our state into the Autonomous Regions of New Amsterdam, Montauk, and New York, with only a token state government.

Slide H

Also contact your state assemblyperson and NYS senator and ask them to co-sponsor the bill.

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You can find your assemblyperson's office/phone/email at <http://www.assembly.state.ny.us>.

**Please ask your Assemblyperson to co-sponsor 2021-22 [A04446](#).**

You can find your NYS senator's office/phone/email at <http://www.nysenate.gov/senators>.

**Please ask your NYS senator to co-sponsor 2021-22 [S4541](#).**

## Questions?



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