

## Forums slated for NY vote on possible convention

By Chris McKenna / Times Herald-Record

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SUGAR LOAF - A public forum will be held on Sept. 26 for residents to hear opposing views and ask questions about an upcoming, statewide vote on whether to hold a convention at which delegates propose amendments to the state constitution.

The Orange County Citizens Foundation will hold the free event from 7-9 p.m. at its headquarters, the Seligmann Center at 23 White Oak Drive in Sugar Loaf.

Two speakers will deliver arguments for and against holding a convention, which will be decided by voters in a statewide referendum on Nov. 7.

Gerald Benjamin, a SUNY New Paltz political science professor and director of the university's Benjamin Center, will give an overview and convention history.

For more information or to RSVP, call 469-9459 or email Bonnie Neucall at

Benjamin also will participate in a debate on the option for a constitutional convention in Sullivan County next month.

That event will take place at 6 p.m. Oct. 11 at the Seelig Theater at SUNY Sullivan, 112 College Road in Loch Sheldrake.

New Yorkers get a chance every 20 years to demand a constitutional convention, but haven't done so since 1967.

With the latest opportunity approaching this November, good-government groups are pressing for a convention and public employee unions and others are campaigning against one.