

UB meeting to focus on NYS Constitution referendum

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A Town Hall meeting addressing a 2017 referendum on the New York Constitutional Convention will take place at [SUNY Buffalo](#) Law School.

The event is scheduled for Tuesday, April 5, at 2 p.m.



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On Election Day, Nov. 7, 2017, New Yorkers will decide whether there should be a convention to revise and amend the state constitution. The state mandates it appear on the ballot every 20 years to give New York residents the opportunity for government reform.

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To help educate voters about the ramifications of a convention, the Town Hall meeting will bring together prominent experts on the government and constitution of New York state. They'll discuss the content and character of the federal and state constitutions, what a constitutional convention would look like and the issues at stake in reform.

Presenters will include: [Gerald Benjamin](#), associate vice president for regional engagement and director of the Benjamin Center for Public Policy Initiatives at SUNY New Paltz; [Christopher Bopst](#), chief legal and financial officer at Sam-Son Logistics in Buffalo; [Henrik Dullea](#), member of the board of trustees of the State University of New York; and [Peter Galie](#), professor emeritus and former chairman of the political science department at Canisius College in Buffalo.

According to [Michael Halberstam](#), associate professor of law and acting director of SUNY Buffalo Law School's Jaeckle Center for Law, Democracy, and Governance, a convention offers perhaps the only opportunity to pass meaningful legislative, campaign finance and redistricting reform, but there also could be much to lose for certain groups and entities.

The program is part of a multi-year educational program promoted to increase understanding and awareness of issues pertaining to the state constitution leading up to the 2017 referendum. It will be followed by a reception in the Cellino & Barnes Conference Center.

Those who attend are eligible for 2.5 CLE credits in professional practice.

Michael Petro is editor and reporter for the Buffalo Law Journal