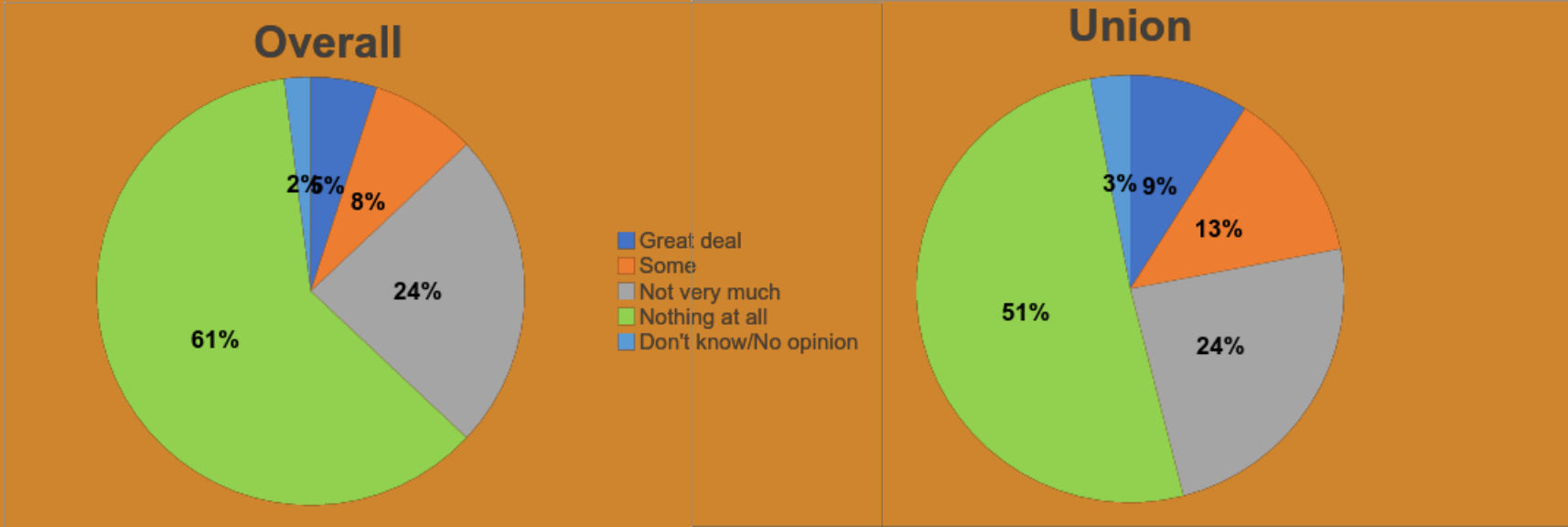


New York State Constitutional Convention



Would you say you've heard a great deal, some, not very much or nothing at all?



SOURCE: Siena College Research Institute, 4-17

Why should we care about the Constitution?

LABOR ISSUES

Public Employees

- Diminishment of pensions prohibited
- Civil Service Protections

All Workers, Private Sector

- Workers' Compensation & Worksite Safety - Very strongly worded
- Right to Collectively Bargain

Building Trades

- Public Works & Prevailing rate

BROADER ISSUES

Environmental

- Forever wild protections in the Adirondacks

Education

- The right to sound basic education

Social Welfare

- Duty of the state to take care for the needy

Methods of Amendment

Article XIX of the New York State Constitution provides 2 methods for amendment:

1. Proposed by the Senate or Assembly
 1. Passed by two successive separately elected Legislatures
 2. Ratified by the Electorate

1. Constitutional Convention
 1. Automatic ballot question every 20 years
 2. Ballot question directed by the Legislature

A simple question?

"Shall there be a convention to revise the constitution and amend the same?"

Article XIX, Section 2

Timeline



- The question is submitted to the voters.
- Delegates Elected to the Convention at the General Election.
- Delegates Convene on the First Tuesday of April.
- Amendments submitted to the voters. (2019 or later)
- Approved Amendments take effect in January of the following year.

Past Convention Votes

1914: Vote to hold Constitutional Convention passes - 50.2% to 49.7% (0.5%)

1915 Convention: Voters reject 33 constitutional language changes and 5 amendments

1936: Vote to hold Constitutional Convention vote passes - 54.2% - 45.7% (8.5%)

1938 Convention: Voters Accept 6 amendments and reject 3 amendments

1957: Vote to hold a Constitutional Convention fails – 47.5% to 52.4% (4.9%)

1967: Vote to hold Constitutional Convention vote passes – 53.3% to 46.6% (6.7%)

1967 Convention: Voters reject major rewrite of the NYS Constitution

1977: Vote to hold a Constitutional Convention fails – 40.3% to 59.6% (19.3%)

1997: Vote to hold a Constitutional Convention fails – 37.0% to 62.9% (25.9%)

Delegate Selection

Delegate Allocation

- 3 Delegates to the Convention elected by the voters in each of the 63 Senate Districts (189)
- 15 At-Large Delegates elected by the voters statewide
- 204 Total Delegates.

Selection

- The general provisions of the election law would apply, unless the legislature amends and creates another methodology.

Convention Operations

- Compensation
 - Same rate as a Member of the Assembly
- Proceedings
 - Constitution contains few directives about the running of the Convention.
 - Electing officers, adoption of rules, and organizational decisions are left to those elected to serve as delegates.
 - The Convention determines when to adjourn and whether amendments will be submitted to the voters in parts or as one package.
 - However, submission cannot occur sooner than six weeks.

The Proponents Will Say

- Campaign finance reform
- Ban Outside Income
- Term limits
- Local autonomy
- Clean-up old language

The Wrong Solution

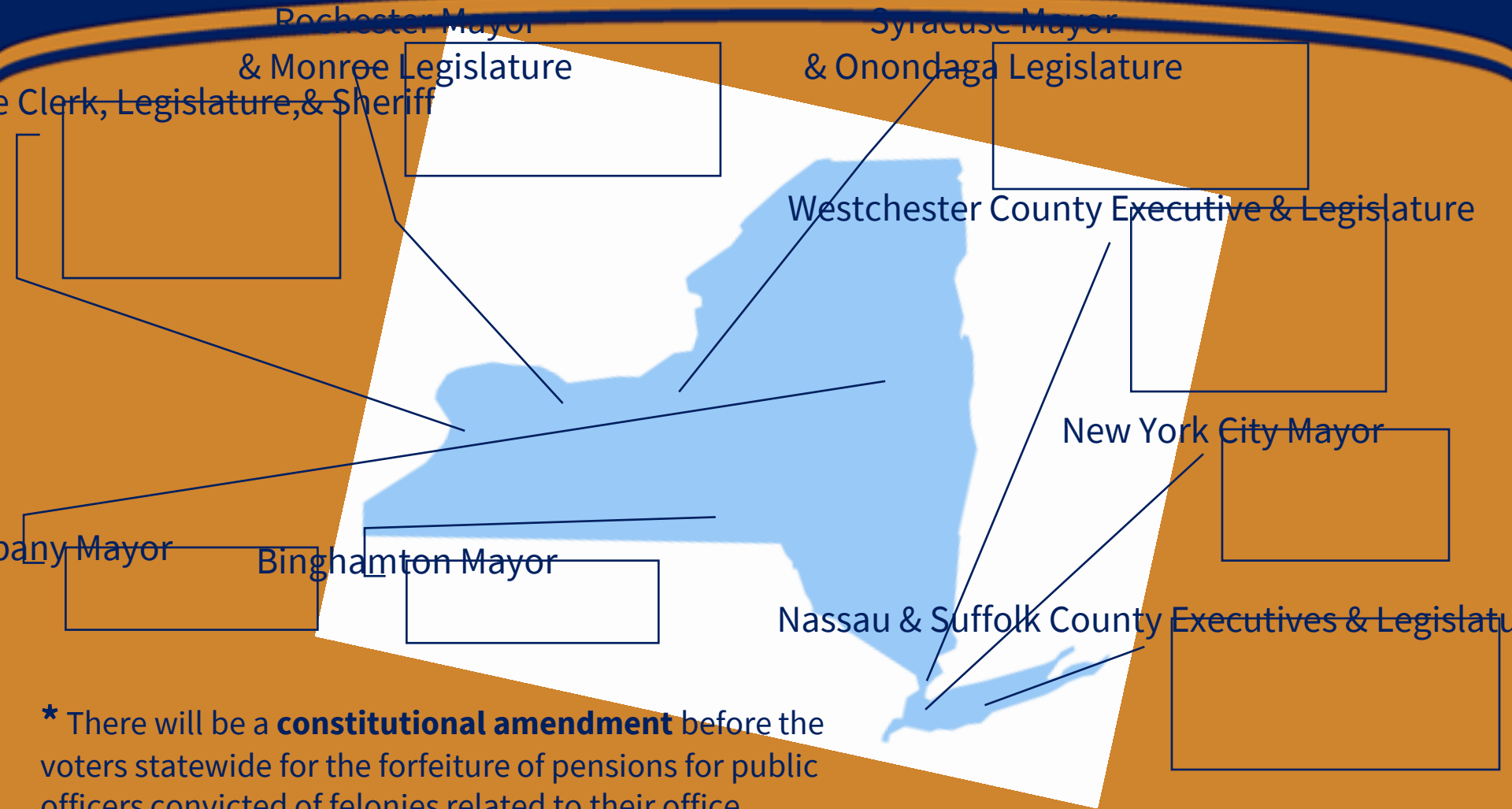
- Cost – 1997 Estimate - \$50 million
- No way to limit scope, duration
- Voting Rights Act
- Those likely to be elected will be politicians, insiders
- Major parties will control the process
- Constitutional amendments already possible through legislative process
- Could be all or nothing

Same old, same old

1967 Convention Delegate Breakdown:

- 67% of the delegates were lawyers.
- 25% were a legislator at one time.
- 15% served in the judicial system at one time.
- 50% served in a political party office at one time during their career.
- Speaker of the Assembly served as President of the Convention.

Races on the ballot in 2017

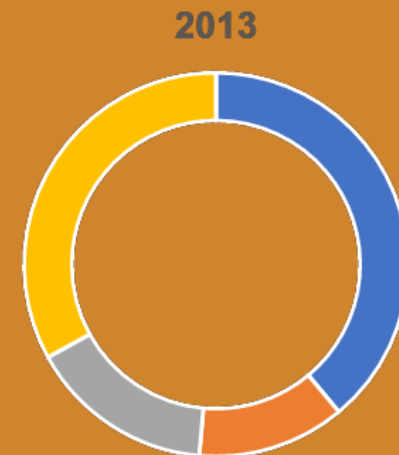
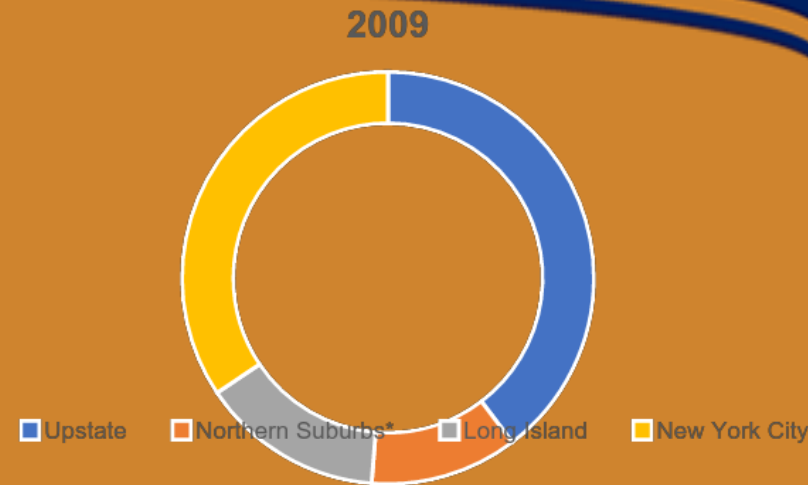


* There will be a **constitutional amendment** before the voters statewide for the forfeiture of pensions for public officers convicted of felonies related to their office.

The 2017 Electorate

	2009	2013
Upstate	1,307,020	1,275,200
Northern Suburbs*	381,720	408,128
Long Island	471,586	510,252
New York City	1,133,327	1,081,688
Total	3,293,653	3,275,268

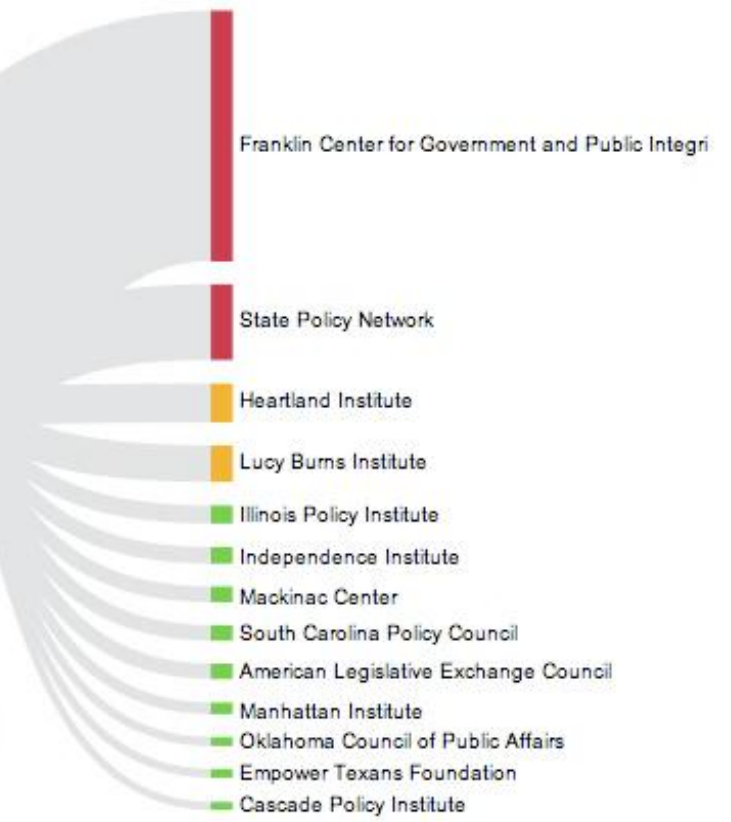
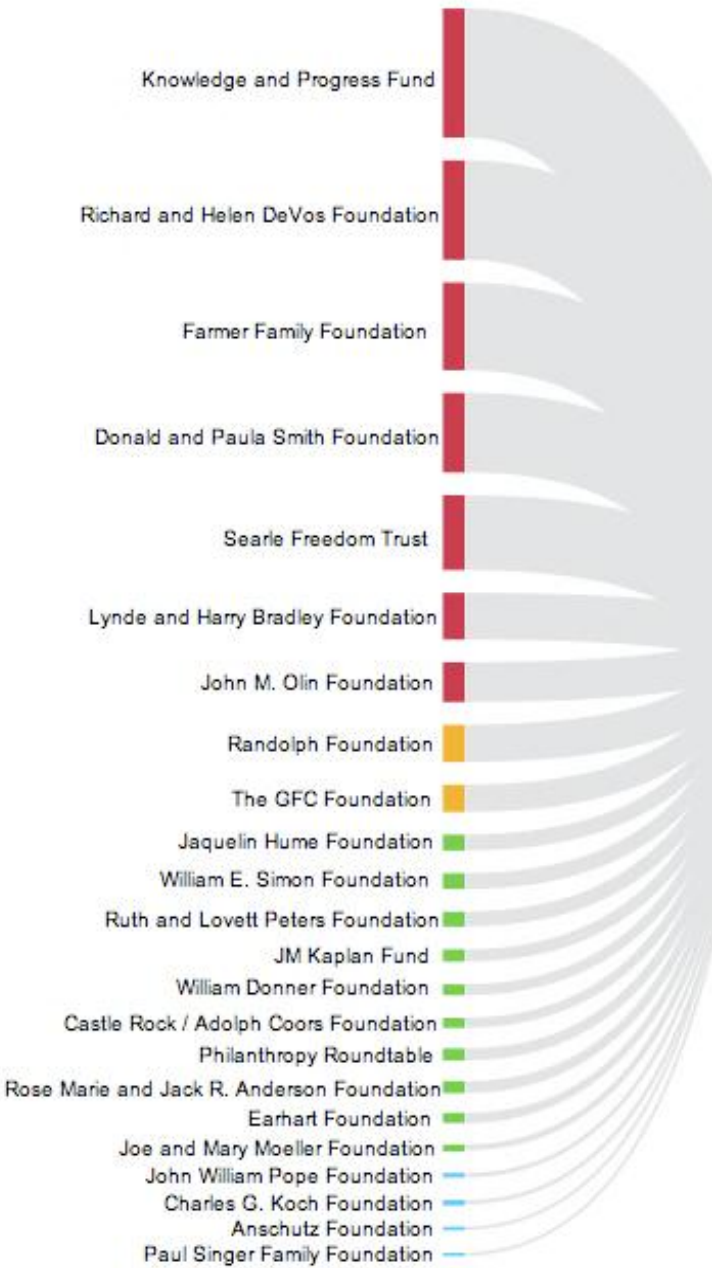
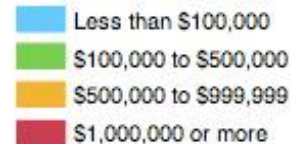
* Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Westchester



Koch Brothers Radical Right Donor Network



Contribution Size

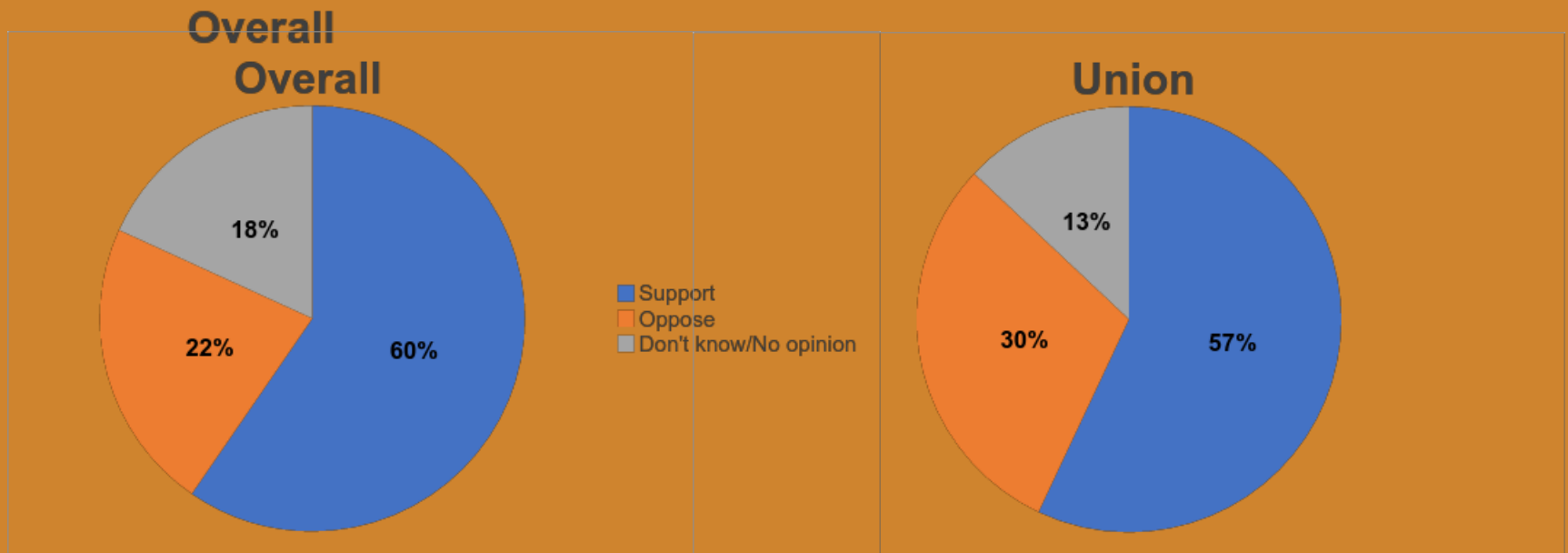


New Yorkers Against Corruption

- New Yorkers from across the political spectrum uniting in opposition
- Everyday hardworking New Yorkers v. Albany Insiders, politicians and special interests
- Comprehensive TV, radio, digital, field, and mail campaign all across the state



Do you support or oppose having a New York State Constitutional Convention...?



SOURCE: Siena College Research Institute, 4-17



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