

Wayne Post

Voters say 'no' to constitutional convention

By News partner, News10NBC

Posted at 6:27 AM

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The proposition failed big time across the state and in Monroe County. The unions were particularly concerned that a convention could open up a can of worms and significantly change the pension system and their rights to organize. They had been making phone calls, going door-to-door and putting up signs for months.

“There’s a lot of labor rights enshrined in the constitution, the rights to organize and form a union, and collectively bargain for better wages and benefits, democratically-elected unions, so that’s what we’re all about,” says Dan Maloney, president of Rochester Labor Federation. “It’s a core principle of unionism enshrined in the constitution and we wanted to leave that sleeping dog lie.”

“I don’t think anyone is really surprised it’s been voted down,” says James Paulino, Goldberg Segalla Law Firm. “In theory, it’s a great idea. In practice, people don’t want to turn that power over so I don’t think anyone is particularly surprised and just as with the other conventions that did not pass, the legislature still has the ability to propose amendments on the ballot.”

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