

The New York State Constitution of 1846 came about as a result of a state constitutional convention held that same year. The third constitution ended feudal land ownership and reorganized the state judiciary, resulting in the abolition of the Court of Chancery. Equal suffrage for African-American men was rejected by voters in a separate referendum.

The text of the Constitution is engrossed on parchment folios, unbound. At the end are the signatures of the officers and delegates of the Convention. Also included are resolutions stipulating the form of ballots for adoption or rejection of the Constitution; that copies of the Constitution be disseminated to county clerks and be printed in local newspapers; that the Secretary of State certify the engrossed, or final, copy of the Constitution; and that an additional amendment regarding equal suffrage for African-American males be voted on in the next election.

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