



PRESS RELEASE
November 5, 2025

Voters Approve Amendment to Article 14 of the NYS Constitution for Mt. Van Hoevenberg Winter Olympic Sports Complex

*Protect the Adirondacks is pleased that voters approved the
Article 14 Constitutional Amendment for Mt. Van Hoevenberg*

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The constitutional amendment approved by the voters brings the Mount Van Hoevenberg Winter Olympic Sports Complex into alignment with Article 14 of the Constitution, limits future development there, and requires the State to purchase an additional 2,500 acres of land for the Adirondack Forest Preserve.

“The passage of Proposal 1 amending Article 14 is important because it ensures that the Nordic skiing and biathlon facilities already at the Mount Van Hoevenberg Winter Olympic Sports Complex are properly authorized by the Constitution, and it restricts the future use of that property to no more than 323 acres. In addition, 2,500 acres of new land will now be added to the Forest Preserve,” said Claudia Braymer, Executive Director of Protect the Adirondacks, Inc. (PROTECT). “We thank the Legislative sponsors, Senator Pete Harckham and former Assemblyman Billy Jones, as well as the voters of New York State for providing approval and clarity for the activities at Mt. Van Hoevenberg by adding this new provision to Article 14 of the Constitution.”

As required by the Constitution, the resolution proposing an amendment to Article 14 of the New York State Constitution, the famed “Forever Wild” provision, for the Mount Van Hoevenberg Winter Sports Complex near Lake Placid, passed in two successive legislative sessions. The resolution sponsored by Senator Pete Harckham and Assemblymember Billy Jones (S.5227/A.7454) passed in 2023 during the 2023-2024 Legislative session and again in 2025 during the 2025-2026 Legislative session. In addition, enabling legislation (S.8047/A.3628) also passed the Legislature in 2025.

The proposed constitutional amendment authorizes the State to use up to 323 acres of the 1,039 acres in the Mount Van Hoevenberg Winter Sports Complex for the construction,

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operation and maintenance of a complex for Nordic skiing and biathlon training, competition and world class events, as well as necessary facilities such as access roads, parking lots, offices, lodges and snowmaking equipment. The enabling legislation specifies the types of facilities not allowed, including hotels, swimming pools, and zip lines. In exchange, the State must acquire for incorporation into the Forest Preserve at least 2500 acres of forest land in the Adirondack Park.

The Mount Van Hoevenberg complex is a state-owned and operated facility managed by the Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA) and is located on the constitutionally protected Forest Preserve. The lands occupied by the complex are classified as “Intensive Use” by the Adirondack Park Agency. The complex also includes adjoining lands owned by the Town of North Elba; the Town-owned lands are not subject to the constitutional amendment. The complex includes the Olympic bobsled and luge track, cross-country skiing and biathlon trails, and associated facilities.

More background information is available here:

<https://www.protectadks.org/vote-yes-on-constitutional-amendment-for-the-mount-van-hoevenberg-winter-sports-complex/>

Protect the Adirondacks

Protect the Adirondacks is an IRS-approved non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and stewardship of the 6-million-acre Adirondack Park. Our mission is to protect the Adirondack Park’s wild character for current and future generations. PROTECT pursues this mission through a combination of advocacy, grassroots organizing, independent public oversight, research, water quality monitoring, education, and legal action. Protect the Adirondacks was formed in 2009 as the result of a merger between two long-standing environmental conservation groups in the Adirondack Park, the Resident’s Committee to Protect the Adirondacks (est. 1991) and the Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks (est. 1901).

Protect the Adirondacks is managed by a 21-member Board of Directors of Adirondack leaders with expertise in environmental law, local government, Adirondack environmental and cultural history, state agency management, and small business. Protect the Adirondacks maintains an office in a 100% energy efficient, solar-and wind-powered office in Johnsburg in the central Adirondacks. For more information see www.protectadks.org and @ProtectAdkPark.

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