

RESOLUTION URGING GOVERNOR HOCHUL TO VETO PENDING LEGISLATION (S3505B AND A4282B) THAT WOULD IMPACT THE TIMING OF LOCAL ELECTIONS

RESOLUTION 23-

RESOLUTION URGING GOVERNOR HOCHUL TO VETO PENDING LEGISLATION (S3505B AND A4282B) THAT WOULD IMPACT THE TIMING OF LOCAL ELECTIONS

WHEREAS, towns, counties, and cities in Upstate New York have long held local elections for legislative and administrative offices in odd-numbered years under the dictates of New York State law; and

WHEREAS, holding these town and county elections in odd-numbered years has benefited local elected officials, candidates for local office, and the constituents they serve, as they provide the opportunity for local candidates to convey their message to the voters in an election environment uncluttered by the more prominent, better-funded messaging from candidates for state or federal office; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Legislature in June 2023 adopted Senate Bill S3505B and Assembly Bill A4282B, bills that would transition local elections for most town and county legislative and administrative offices to even-numbered years, beginning in 2025; and

WHEREAS, this adopted legislation will soon be presented to New York Governor Kathy Hochul, for her signature or veto; and

WHEREAS, on June 20, 2023, the Tompkins County Legislature adopted by Resolution Number 2023-147, a Resolution that urged Governor Hochul to veto this pending legislation; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Lansing agrees with the rationale of the Tompkins County Legislature, as provided in its Resolution, that rationale being that to move local elections to even-numbered years would increase the workload of local boards of elections in even-numbered years; and require significantly larger paper ballots in even numbered years, a requirement that could impede the ability of voting machines to process said ballots, overwhelm the duties of poll workers, and slow the voting process at polling locations; and

WHEREAS, most importantly, as the Tompkins County Legislature stated, “These bills could significantly obscure the campaigns of candidates for local county and town offices, whose issues and positions would be eclipsed by higher-profile state and federal races”; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town of Lansing opposes the enactment of S3505B and A4282B and urges Governor Hochul to veto these bills; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be sent to Governor Kathy Hochul, New York State Senators Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Lea Webb, New York State Assembly members Carl Heastie and Anna Kelles, the New York State Association of Counties, and the New York State Association of Towns.

The question of the adoption of such proposed Resolution was duly motioned by Councilperson _____, duly seconded by Councilperson _____, and put to a roll call vote with the following results:

Councilperson Andra Benson –
Councilperson Bronwyn Losey –
Supervisor Edward LaVigne –

Councilperson Ruth Groff –
Councilperson Joseph Wetmore –

Accordingly, the foregoing Resolution was approved, carried, and duly adopted on August 16, 2023.