


February 1, 2024

TO: Hon. Vedat Gashi, Chair  
Hon. Jose Alvarado, Vice Chair  
Hon. Tyrae Woodson-Samuels, Majority Leader  
Hon. Margaret Cunzio, Minority Leader

FROM: George Latimer   
Westchester County Executive

RE: **Message Requesting Immediate Consideration: LOCAL LAW – Term Lengths and Timing of Elections for Westchester County Legislator and County Executive.**

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This will confirm my request that the Board of Legislators allow submission of the referenced communication to be submitted to the Board of Legislators February 5, 2024 Agenda.

Transmitted herewith for your consideration is a Local Law to modify the length of terms and the timing of elections for Westchester County Legislator and County Executive.

Therefore, since this communication is of the utmost importance, it is respectfully submitted that the County Board of Legislators accepts this submission for February 5, 2024 “blue sheet” calendar.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.



**George Latimer**  
**County Executive**

January 30, 2024

Westchester County Board of Legislators  
800 Michaelian Office Building  
148 Martine Avenue, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
White Plains, New York 10601

Dear Honorable Members of the Board:

Enclosed herewith for your consideration is "A LOCAL LAW amending Chapters 107 and 110 of the Laws of Westchester County to modify the length of terms and the timing of elections for Westchester County Legislator and County Executive."

Chapter 741 of the Laws of the State of New York (Chapter 741), signed by Governor Hochul on December 22, 2023, moves certain elections to even-numbered years. This includes elections for County Legislator and County Executive.

Chapter 741 takes effect on January 1, 2025, and impacts the County's 2025 election year. Consequently, amendments to the County law are required to conform our law to the requirements of Chapter 741, which moves elections for County Legislator and County Executive to even-numbered years.

In order to comply with Chapter 741 and realign the election schedules, this proposed Local Law will mandate that County Legislators elected in 2025 will serve for one year in 2026. Further, an additional election for County Legislator will then be held in 2026, when County Legislators will again serve two-year terms. The proposed Local Law also provides that the County Legislators' one-year term in 2026, pursuant to Chapter 741, will not be counted under the County's term limit requirements. In addition, pursuant to this proposed Local Law, the County Executive elected in 2025 will serve for three, rather than four, years. An additional election for County Executive will be held in 2028, and the County Executive will again serve four-year terms. The three-year term for County Executive from 2026 through 2028, in compliance with Chapter 741, will also not be counted under the County's current term limits law.

The requirements contained in this proposed County law will take effect by operation of State law, whether or not the County amends its laws. Therefore, in order to prevent confusion between the Chapter 741 and the current language of the County law, this proposed legislation will conform the County law to the mandates of Chapter 741. Therefore, I respectfully urge that your Honorable Board adopt the attached Local Law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Latimer".

GEORGE LATIMER  
County Executive  
Enclosure

TO: HONORABLE BOARD OF LEGISLATORS  
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

Your Committee is in receipt of “A LOCAL LAW amending Chapters 107 and 110 of the Laws of Westchester County to modify the length of terms and the timing of elections for Westchester County Legislator and County Executive.”

Your Committee is informed that bill A. 4282B/S. 3505B has been passed by the New York State Legislature and signed by Governor Hochul on December 22, 2023. Chapter 741 of the Laws of the State of New York (Chapter 741) moves certain elections to even-numbered years.

Your Committee is aware that the Chapter 741 takes effect on January 1, 2025, and impacts the County’s 2025 election year. Consequently, amendments to the County law are required to conform our law to the requirements of the Chapter 741 which moves elections for County Legislator and County Executive to even-numbered years.

Your Committee is advised that in order to comply with the Chapter 741 and realign the election schedules, this proposed Local Law will mandate that County Legislators elected in 2025 will serve for one year in 2026. Further, an additional election for County Legislator will then be held in 2026, where County Legislators will serve the requisite two-year term. The proposed Local Law also provides that the County Legislators’ one-year term in 2026, pursuant to Chapter 741 will not be counted under the County’s term limit requirements unless the County specifically passes a law to do so. In addition, pursuant to this proposed Local Law, the County Executive elected in 2025 will serve for three, rather than four years. An additional election for County Executive will be held in 2028, and the County Executive will again serve the requisite four-year term. The three-year term for County Executive from 2026 through 2028, in compliance with Chapter 741, will not be counted under the County’s current term limits law unless the County specifically passes a law to do so.

Your Committee is further advised that the requirements contained in this proposed County law will take effect by operation of State law, whether or not the County amends its laws. Therefore, in order to prevent confusion between the Chapter 741 and the current language of the County law, this proposed legislation will conform the County law to the mandates of Chapter 741.

Additionally, and as you know, your Honorable Board must comply with the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”). The proposed project does not meet the definition of an action under New York State Environmental Quality Review Act and its implementing regulations 6 NYCRR Part 617. Please refer to the memorandum from the Department of Planning dated January 8, 2024, which is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Legislators

The Committee, after careful consideration, recommends the adoption of this Local Law.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 2024

White Plains, New York

COMMITTEE ON

RESOLUTION NO. - 2024

RESOLVED, that this Board hold a public hearing pursuant to Section 209.141(4) of the Laws of Westchester County on Local Law Intro No. - 2024 entitled “A LOCAL LAW amending Chapters 107 and 110 of the Laws of Westchester County to modify the length of terms and the timing of elections for Westchester County Legislator and County Executive.” The public hearing will be held at \_\_\_ .m. on the day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024 in the Chambers of the Board of Legislators, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Michaelian Office Building, White Plains, New York. The Clerk of the Board shall cause notice of the time and date of such hearing to be published at least once in one or more newspapers published in the County of Westchester and selected by the Clerk of the Board for that purpose in the manner and time required by law.