

Legislation

BOL Meeting Minutes - Published Draft



Committee Chair: Colin Smith

800 Michaelian Office Bldg.
148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor
White Plains, NY 10601
www.westchesterlegislators.com

Monday, June 3, 2024

1:00 PM

Committee Room

CALL TO ORDER

Please note: Meetings of the Board of Legislators and its committees are held at the Michaelian Office Building, 148 Martine Avenue, White Plains, New York, 10601, and remotely via the WebEx video conferencing system. Legislators may participate in person or via Webex. Members of the public may attend meetings in person at any of its locations, or view it online on the Westchester County Legislature's website: <https://westchestercountyny.legistar.com/> This website also provides links to materials for all matters to be discussed at a given meeting.

Legislator Emiljana Ulaj will be participating remotely from 520 White Plains Road, Tarrytown, NY 10591.

Legislator Colin Smith will be participating remotely from 1132 Main Street, Suite 1, Peekskill, NY 10566.

Legislator David Imamura will be participating remotely from 81 Main Street, White Plains, NY 10601.

With a quorum present, Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

Others in Attendance: BOL: Legislators: Jewel Williams Johnson, Catherine Parker, and Erika Pierce; Committee Coordinator Jill Axelrod, Marcello Figueroa, Lisa Hochman; Law Dept.: John Nonna and Justin Adin

Present: Legislator Smith, Legislator Boykin, Legislator Nolan, Legislator Tubiolo, Legislator Woodson-Samuels, Legislator Cunzio and Legislator Gashi

Remote: Legislator Ulaj and Legislator Imamura

MINUTES APPROVAL

Wednesday, May 29, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

On motion of Legislator Woodson-Samuels, seconded by Legislator Gashi, the minutes were approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Legislator Smith, Legislator Boykin, Legislator Nolan, Legislator Tubiolo, Legislator Ulaj, Legislator Woodson-Samuels, Legislator Cunzio, Legislator Imamura and Legislator Gashi

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Guests: Law Dept.: County Attorney John Nonna and Assistant Chief Deputy County Attorney Justin Adin

1. [RES-2024-110](#) **PH - Amending Chapter 107 of the Laws of Westchester County to modify the length of terms for Legislator**

Mr. Adin said this legislation will modify the term length for County legislators from two years to four years. He noted that the County previously amended its laws to conform with State law moving elections to an even year cycle, and the County law is set to go in effect when the State law goes in effect because there are pending legal challenges to the State law. He noted that the proposed law changes County law to enact four year terms and also changes County law as it would exist if the State law goes into effect to provide that there would be a three-year transitional term under the State law and four year terms thereafter.

Mr. Adin said this legislation changes the language on term limits because the current law provides for six consecutive two-year terms, and since there will no longer be two year terms, the new law limits it to twelve consecutive years to accommodate both two and four year terms. He noted that the legislation permits completion of a term if a legislator would reach twelve consecutive years in the middle of a four-year term.

Mr. Adin noted that the State law provides for an even year cycle by shortening a single term by one year so that the subsequent election will be on an even year cycle, but the shortened term does not count towards term limits unless a local jurisdiction chooses to count it. He said that this law will provide that the three-year term would count toward term limits if the State law goes into effect.

Mr. Adin noted that the law will be subject to a mandatory referendum. Legislator Cunzio asked if there is a plan to educate voters about the proposed changes prior to the referendum. Mr. Nonna suggested reaching out to organizations like the League of Women Voters for support.

Legislator Barr suggested create an FAQ document to provide clear information to voters about the proposed changes to four-year terms.

Legislators Woodson Samuels said that we need to emphasize that other counties in the State already have four-year terms for County legislators, and highlight the efficiency and other benefits of longer terms.

Chair Smith said it is important to clarify that they are not changing the length of time legislators can serve consecutively, and that term limits already exist at the executive and legislative branches of the County level.

On motion of Legislator Nolan, seconded by Legislator Woodson-Samuels, the above item was signed by committee and referred to Board of Legislators. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Legislator Smith, Legislator Boykin, Legislator Nolan, Legislator Tubiolo, Legislator Ulaj, Legislator Woodson-Samuels, Legislator Cunzio, Legislator Imamura and Legislator Gashi

2. [2024-307](#) **Legislators Boykin and Cunzio - LL - Amending Chapter 107 of the**

**Laws of Westchester County to modify the length of terms for WC
Legislator**

See discussion of Item #1 above.

On motion of Legislator Nolan, seconded by Legislator Woodson-Samuels, the above item was signed by committee and referred to Board of Legislators. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Legislator Smith, Legislator Boykin, Legislator Nolan, Legislator Tubiolo, Legislator Ulaj, Legislator Woodson-Samuels, Legislator Cunzio, Legislator Imamura and Legislator Gashi

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Legislator Cunzio, seconded by Legislator Woodson-Samuels, the Committee adjourned at 1:45 p.m. by the following vote:

Aye: Legislator Smith, Legislator Boykin, Legislator Nolan, Legislator Tubiolo, Legislator Ulaj, Legislator Woodson-Samuels, Legislator Cunzio, Legislator Imamura and Legislator Gashi

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