

TO: BOARD OF LEGISLATORS  
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

Your Committee has considered “A LOCAL LAW amending Chapters 107 and 110 of the Laws of Westchester County to Require Truthful Disclosure by Candidates for Elective Office.”

Your Committee agrees that, following recent high profile misrepresentations of personal experience and qualifications among those seeking higher office, additional measures are necessary in order to ensure that members of the public can be confident that their elected officials have the experience that they profess to have obtained. Thus, the proposed Local Law would require candidates for County Legislator and County Executive to complete a Candidate Disclosure Form that provides biographical information, including the candidate’s educational, military, and employment histories. The Candidate Disclosure Form will also require the candidate to certify that the information contained in the form is true and correct. This form shall be open for public inspection, except for the month and day of the candidate’s date of birth, the names of the candidate’s minor children, and any information that is mandatorily required to be withheld under state or federal law.

Your Committee concurs that these legal changes will not place an onerous burden on candidates, and that these changes will allow the public to hold more confidence in the skills and personal expertise which these candidates have worked to obtain throughout their career or life experiences.

Further, in an ongoing effort to update the county charter, your Committee believes that language currently requiring that candidates for County Executive be 'free holders' in the county for 5 years prior to candidacy greatly limits the pool of applicants in current times and is an anachronism. Your Committee believes that residing in the county for 5 years is a sufficient qualification, without the need to own property.

Your Committee is informed that the proposed legislation 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 12, 2023, which is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Legislators. Your Committee concurs in this conclusion.

In light of all of the foregoing, your Committee recommends the adoption of this Local Law.

Dated: 2023  
White Plains, New York

COMMITTEE ON

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_ - 2023**

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. \_\_\_\_ - 2023, entitled "A LOCAL LAW amending Chapters 107 and 110 of the Laws of Westchester County to Require Truthful Disclosure by Candidates for Elective Office." The public hearing will be held at \_\_.m. on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023 in the Chambers of the Board of Legislators, 8th 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.