

Proposed Local Law Number 12 Of 2023

County Of Ulster

A Local Law Amending The Ulster County Charter, (Local Law No. 2 Of 2006), And Amending The Administrative Code For the County Of Ulster, (Local Law No. 10 Of 2008), To Modify The Term Of The Chair Of The Legislature

BE IT ENACTED, by the County Legislature of the County of Ulster, New York, as follows:

SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT.

Ulster County Legislators are currently elected in odd years, for a 24-month term to begin on January 1 of the next even numbered year following each election.

Procedure as currently structured allows for the Chair of the Legislature to hold a one-year term. In January of odd numbered years, there is no substantive legislative business being conducted due to having to elect a chair mid-term. Legislative Standing Committees must therefore be reconstituted and reappointed, causing an unnecessary lag in the conduction of County business. As legislators are paid for 24 months of work, the conduction of business should remain continuous and streamlined throughout the entire term.

The Ulster County Legislature finds that changing the term of the Chair of the Legislature to a two-year term, to coincide with the legislative body's term, will allow committees to continue working in January of odd numbered years without interruption. Adopting this law shall provide a more efficient governmental working process that best serves the interests of the residents, taxpayers and visitors of Ulster County.

SECTION 2. Section C-17 B. of the Ulster County Charter and Section A2-12 B. of the Administrative Code are amended to read as follows:

Section C-17 B. and Section A2-12 B.: Organizational meeting.

~~At this organizational meeting, the members of the Legislature shall select a Chairman at the call of the Clerk of the Legislature in each year.~~ **DURING THE FIRST ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING FOR EACH NEW COUNTY LEGISLATURE, THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE SHALL ELECT A CHAIR AT THE CALL OF THE CLERK OF THE**

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LEGISLATURE. THE CHAIR SHALL SERVE FOR THE DURATION OF THE CHAIR'S TERM AS LEGISLATOR. THE REMOVAL OF THE CHAIR SHALL BE BY A MOTION FROM THE FLOOR DURING A MEETING OF THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE BY A FAVORABLE VOTE OF AT LEAST TWO THIRDS OF THE WHOLE NUMBER OF THE LEGISLATURE. The Chair~~man~~ shall appoint members of the County Legislature to serve on such committees as are provided by the rules of such Legislature. The Clerk of the County Legislature shall preside at all meetings of the Legislature until such time as a Chair~~man~~ has been designated by election or appointment. The failure to elect a Chair~~man~~ or appoint committee members shall not prevent the County Legislature from transacting its ordinary business.

SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY

In the event that any portion of this local law is found to be invalid, such finding will not have any effect on either the remaining portions or applications of this local law or any provisions of the Ulster County Charter, which shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the New York State Secretary of State, and shall apply to Organizational Meeting of the Ulster County Legislature in 2024, and every subsequent Organizational Meeting for each new elected legislative body.