

# Proposed Local Law Number 15 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), In Relation To The Periodic Compensation Review Committee And Various Provisions Regarding Elected Officials**

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

#### **SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT.**

The Ulster County Legislature finds that the Ulster County Charter and the Administrative Code should be amended to provide greater equity, fairness and citizen participation within Ulster County government.

#### **SECTION 2. Article XXXIV Periodic Compensation Review Committee, of the Ulster County Charter and the Administrative Code are hereby repealed, and shall be replaced with the following language:**

Article XXXIV Periodic Compensation Review Committee

(PICK OPTION FROM BELOW, A OR A1)

A. Salaries of Ulster County elected officers shall be set as follows: sliding-scale compensation, providing a minimum living wage to the wealthiest and a maximum of the median area income for the poorest, all adjusted for family size. For Ulster County Legislators, assume a 30-hour workweek. For all other Ulster County elected officials, assume a 60-hour workweek.

A1. Salaries of Ulster County elected officers shall be set by equaling the Area Mean Income (AMI) adjusted for family size; For Ulster County Legislators, assume a 30-hour workweek to earn 75 percent of adjusted AMI adjusted for family size.

B Ulster County Legislators shall not increase their own salaries, but rather shall require referendum at the next general election after a new salary amount shall be proposed by local law.

#### **SECTION 3. Section C-26 Appointment of department heads, of the Ulster County Charter and Section A3-5 Appointment of department heads . of the Administrative Code are hereby amended to repeal and replace letter G:**

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A. Except as otherwise provided in the Charter, the County Executive shall appoint, to serve at his or her pleasure during his or her term of service, or for such term as may be specified in the Charter, the head of every department or other administrative unit not administered by an elective official.

B. The appointment by the County Executive of the head of each department or other administrative unit shall, unless otherwise specified in the Charter, be subject to the confirmation by the County Legislature by vote of a majority of the whole number of members elected to that body, taken at a regular or special meeting pursuant to § C-15 of the Charter.

C. All appointments, whether or not subject to confirmation of the County Legislature, shall be in writing, signed by the County Executive, and filed in the office of the Clerk of the County Legislature within 10 days after the date of appointment. Except as otherwise provided in the Charter, no such appointee shall hold office beyond the term of the County Executive by whom the appointment was made. Unless removed, an appointee shall continue to serve until his or her successor is appointed and has qualified, or until an interim appointment is made.

D. Upon confirmation by the County Legislature and qualifying for the office, an appointee to a position of head of a department or other administrative unit shall enter upon the duties of that position.

E. The County Executive may designate a qualified person to serve temporarily or on an interim basis as the head of a department or administrative unit until an appointment is made pursuant to the Charter.

F. All other officers and employees of each department or other administrative unit shall be appointed by the head of that department or administrative unit, unless otherwise provided by the Charter.

~~G. The County Executive may appoint one person as head of two or more departments or other administrative units or may serve himself or herself as the head of one or more administrative units or departments, subject to all requirements in the Charter and/or law as to qualifications.~~

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**G. The County Executive shall not appoint himself/herself/themselves as the head of any administrative unit or department.**

**SECTION 4. Sections C-8 of the Ulster County Charter and Section A2-2 of the Administrative Code; Section C-24 of the Ulster County Charter and Section A3-3 of the Administrative Code; Section C-56 of the Ulster County Charter and Section A9-1 of the Administrative Code; Section C-81 of the Ulster County Charter and Section A19-1 of the Administrative Code; Section C-83 of the Ulster County Charter and Section A20-1 of the Administrative Code; and Section C-87 of the Ulster County Charter and Section A21-1 of the Administrative Code are hereby amended to add a new section to each to read as follows:**

Any county elected officer seeking a different elective government office at whatever level must “resign to run.”

**SECTION 5. Mandatory Referendum Question: The question that shall be submitted to the voters is as follows:**

“Shall the amendments to the Ulster County Charter approved as Proposed Local Law #15 of 2023, abolishing the Periodic Review Compensation Committee to create more equity in pay for elected officials, disallowing the same individual to be head of multiple County departments, and requiring all Ulster County elected officials who seek to run for different elective government office to resign from their current position, be adopted and become part of the Ulster County Charter?”

**SECTION 6. 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 and Ulster County Administrative Code, which shall remain in full force and effect.

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**SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law Section 23, this Local Law shall not become operative unless and until this Local Law is approved by the duly qualified voters of Ulster County in a manner prescribed by law at the general election on November 5, 2024, and thereafter filed with the Secretary of State.