

RESOLUTION NO. 23-247

**RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR TO VETO A.04282B/ S.3505B TO  
MOVE LOCAL ELECTIONS TO EVEN NUMBERED YEARS**

**WHEREAS**, the Madison County Board of Supervisors believes that increasing the participation in the election process and reducing costs of government operations is good for our republic; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important for Local Elections to remain separate and apart from State and Federal Elections, so that thoughtful consideration can be given to the vitally important municipal offices being filled; and

**WHEREAS**, as this legislation is written, many even year elections will likely require front and back of ballots or multiple pages for a single voter to contemplate; and

**WHEREAS**, separating the elections affords voters more time and focus to better understand important local issues and provides candidates the appropriate platforms to explain their stance on issues without having to compete against national and state level campaigns; and

**WHEREAS**, moving local elections to even-numbered years would increase the cost of campaigns for local office, reducing the number of candidates willing to invest funds into their own campaign, because the cost of media will increase to compete with national and state level campaign advertisements, and

**WHEREAS**, this legislation has been proposed as a savings to municipalities, but fails to consolidate all local offices since it does not accompany a constitutional amendment to change the terms of constitutional positions; and

**WHEREAS**, since at least one election will be held in the odd numbered year, all Election Infrastructure will need to be in place, thereby removing any potential savings; and

**WHEREAS**, this legislation removes local control and places a new unfunded mandate on the Municipalities, this legislation, at the very least, should have been a local option; and

**WHEREAS**, the Madison County Board of Supervisors believes that this legislation usurps the Home Rule powers reserved by local governments and is protected by the Constitution of the State of New York; and

**WHEREAS**, local municipalities have had the ability to change their elections to even-number years for decades, and chose not to do so; and

**WHEREAS**, we believe that establishing the schedule of local elections is the right of the local government, and has been for more than 100 years; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed legislation circumvented the legislative committee process during this session, limiting public input and understanding of the impacts; and

**WHEREAS**, this legislation was passed with no public hearing, no engagement with local elections commissioners and other stakeholders, and opts out the largest municipality, New York City, from having to comply; and

**WHEREAS**, there has been no financial analysis or operational analysis of the impacts on local Boards of Elections; and

**WHEREAS**, the Madison County Board of Supervisors therefore wish to express their opposition to this unfunded mandate; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Madison County Board of Supervisors hereby urges Governor Hochul to utilize her veto authority on A.04282B (same as S.3505B), which will have dramatic and negative effects on the local election cycle; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors shall forward a certified copy of this Resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, New York State Legislative Representatives, the New York State Association of Counties and all others deemed necessary and proper. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Date: July 11, 2023

*Paul H. Walrod, Chairman*

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Paul H. Walrod, Chairman  
Government Operations Committee