

RESOLUTION NO. 168

**TITLE: URGING GOVERNOR HOCHUL TO VETO A.04282B/S.3505B
BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

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

WHEREAS, during the 2023 legislative session, Assemblymember Amy Paulin and State Senator James Skoufis reintroduced this legislation, which would move local elections to even-numbered years; and

WHEREAS, versions of this legislation were introduced in previous years and failed to reach the floor for a vote due to lack of support; and

WHEREAS, after the 2022 session concluded, the bill sponsor indicated that hearings would be held on the proposal through the Election Committee process; and

WHEREAS, no such hearings were held; and

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

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

WHEREAS, this legislation passed in the middle of the night on the last days of the legislative session, which is counter to the idea of an open and transparent government; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware County Board of Supervisors has many concerns with this bill, especially its diminishment of adequate attention to local issues and local voices; and

WHEREAS, by forcing local elections to compete against national and state-level campaigns, this legislation will decrease voters' attention to important local issues and deprive local candidates of appropriate platforms to explain their stance on issues; and

WHEREAS, moving local elections to even-numbered years would increase the cost of campaigns for local office due to advertising prices being driven up by demand from national and state level campaigns, thereby reducing the ability of local campaigns to get their messages out; and

WHEREAS, this legislation excludes elections to offices in New York City and all other cities and villages in New York State, as well as certain offices within all counties and towns, thereby negating any possible savings to local Boards of Election; and

WHEREAS, this legislation usurps Home Rule powers reserved by local governments and protected by the Constitution of the State of New York, raising questions of legality and constitutional authority; and

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

WHEREAS, establishing the schedule of local elections is the right of the local government, supported by more than a century of precedent; and

WHEREAS, the Assembly Bill sponsor indicated that she had not received any messages of support for this proposal from any of the 57 Counties and 933 Towns across New York State impacted by this legislation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Delaware County Board of Supervisors calls on Governor Hochul to strongly oppose this legislation and utilize her veto authority to reject this proposal; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Delaware County Board of Supervisors be, and hereby is, directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Senate Minority Leader Robert Ortt, Assembly Minority Leader William Barclay, Assembly Bill Sponsor Amy Paulin, Senate Bill Sponsor James Skoufis, Senator Peter Oberacker, and Assemblymen Brian Maher, Chris Tague, and Joe Angelino, as well as to any others deemed necessary and appropriate.

State of New York
County of Delaware

I, Penny A. Bishop, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of Delaware County, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by said Board on the 27th day of September 2023 and the whole thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Board at Delhi, New York, this 27th day of September 2023.


Clerk, Delaware County Board of Supervisors