

THE PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE

40 Gleneida Avenue  
Carmel, New York 10512  
(845) 808-1020 Fax (845) 808-1933

Paul E. Jonke *Chairman*  
Amy E. Sayegh *Deputy Chair*  
Diane Schonfeld *Clerk*  
Robert Firriolo *Counsel*



Nancy Montgomery Dist. 1  
William Gouldman Dist. 2  
Toni E. Addonizio Dist. 3  
Ginny Nacerino Dist. 4  
Greg E. Ellner Dist. 5  
Paul E. Jonke Dist. 6  
Joseph Castellano Dist. 7  
Amy E. Sayegh Dist. 8  
Erin L. Crowley Dist. 9

June 15, 2023

Honorable Kathleen C. Hochul  
New York State Governor  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

**RE: Request to Veto Bill A04282B/S3505B Regarding Local Elections**

Dear Governor Hochul:

I, Chairman Paul Jonke, along with the undersigned members of the Putnam County Legislature, write to respectfully request that you veto the above-referenced bill that would mandate that certain local elections be held only in even-numbered years. Such a law is unnecessary and constitutes unwelcome meddling in the affairs of Putnam County's government. It also interferes with our citizens' ability to determine for themselves how to best organize their county government.

Through enactment of the County Charter, the citizens of Putnam County have created a County Legislature comprised of nine members with staggered three-year terms. That is, Putnam County's voters elect three Legislators each year, or one-third of the entire Legislature.

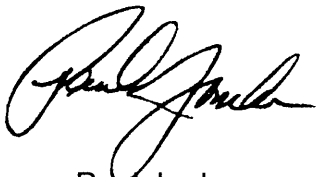
This current system is inherently democratic and fair, and it fosters good government. It encourages our citizens to be engaged in the political process by providing them an opportunity to vote for Legislators every year, and not just in either even-numbered or "off-year" elections. Having one-third of the Legislature up for election each year reflects the desire of our citizens to have an orderly system for elections that provides stability in government even while holding Legislative elections every year.

If enacted into law, the above-referenced bill would disrupt this orderly system, forcing Putnam County to change the terms of its Legislators, and forcing it to hold elections biennially instead of annually. This would negate the will of the citizens of Putnam County, who have chosen this system by enacting it in the Putnam County Charter.

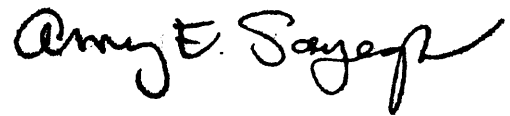
Putnam County's voters know what is best for Putnam County's government. This bill would take away our citizens' ability to control their most fundamental level of government – their local representation on the County Legislature. Our current system for elections works well and can be changed through the Charter revision process if so desired by the citizens of Putnam County.

In light of this serious attempt to intrude into the local affairs of New York State's counties – including Putnam County – we respectfully request that you veto A04282B/S3505B.

Sincerely,




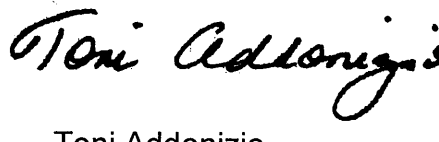
Paul Jonke  
Chairman  
Legislator, District #6



Amy Sayegh  
Deputy Chair  
Legislator, District #8



William Gouldman  
Legislator, District #2

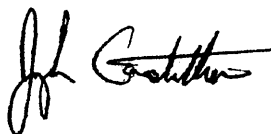


Toni Addonizio,  
Legislator, District #3

Ginny Nocerino  
Legislator, District #4



Greg Ellner  
Legislator, District #5



Joseph Castellano  
Legislator, District #7



Erin L. Crowley  
Legislator, District #9