



Tompkins County Council of Governments

Governor Daniel D. Tompkins Building
Ithaca, NY 14850

Meeting: 09.28.2023 03:00 PM

ADOPTED

MOTION NO. 001-2023

A Resolution Urging Governor Hochul to Veto Pending Legislation (S3505B and A4282B) That Would Impact the Timing of Local Elections

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [9 TO 4]
MOVER:	Robert Lynch, Member, Town of Enfield
SECONDER:	Joe Wetmore, Member, Town of Lansing
AYES:	Gagnon, Howe, Hart, Brock, Hardaway, James, Lynch, Scheffler, Wetmore
NAYS:	Dan Lamb, Michael Murphy, Katelin Olson, Mark Witmer

WHEREAS, towns, counties, and cities in Upstate New York have long held local elections for legislative and administrative offices in odd-numbered years under the dictates of New York State law, and

WHEREAS, holding these town and county elections in odd-numbered years has benefited local elected officials, candidates for local office, and the constituents they serve, as they provide the opportunity for local candidates to convey their message to the voters in an election environment uncluttered by the more prominent, better-funded messaging from candidates for state or federal office, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Legislature in June 2023 adopted Senate Bill S3505B and Assembly Bill A4282B, bills that would transition local elections for most town and county legislative and administrative offices to even-numbered years, beginning in 2025, and

WHEREAS, this adopted legislation will soon be presented to New York Governor Kathy Hochul, for her signature or veto, and

WHEREAS, on June 20, 2023, the Tompkins County Legislature adopted by Resolution Number 2023-147, a Resolution that urged Governor Hochul to veto this pending legislation, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Council of Governments agrees with the rationale of the Tompkins County Legislature, as provided in its Resolution, that rationale being that to move local elections to even-numbered years would increase the workload of local boards of elections in even-numbered years; and require significantly larger paper ballots in even numbered years, a requirement that could impede the ability of voting machines to process said ballots, overwhelm the duties of poll workers, and slow the voting process at polling locations, and

WHEREAS, most importantly, as the Tompkins County Legislature stated, “These bills could significantly obscure the campaigns of candidates for local county and town offices, whose issues and positions would be eclipsed by higher-profile state and federal races”, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Tompkins County Council of Governments opposes the enactment of S3505B and A4282B and urges Governor Hochul to veto these bills,

RESOLVED, further, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to Governor Kathy Hochul, New York State Senators Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Lea Webb, New York State Assembly members Carl Heastie and Anna Kelles, the New York State Association of Counties, and the New York State Association of Towns.

SEQR ACTION: II-26