

1 **2023 NYSAC Fall Seminar**
2 **Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs**
3 **Resolution #1**

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5 **Resolution Encouraging Governor Kathy Hochul to Veto Legislation**
6 **Requiring that Local Elections be held in Even-Numbered Years**

7
8 **WHEREAS**, the vast majority of New York State’s local government elections are
9 currently held in odd-numbered years; and

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11 **WHEREAS**, odd-year election cycles allow for local issues to be debated and discussed
12 in the local sphere so that voters and community members have an opportunity to learn
13 about and voice their concerns about these community-based issues through a local
14 democratic process; and

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16 **WHEREAS**, the New York State Senate and Assembly this year passed legislation,
17 A.4282-B (Paulin)/S.3505-B (Skoufis), requiring that local elections held outside of New
18 York City shall be held in even-numbered years; and

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20 **WHEREAS**, this requirement would apply to the elections of any county or town
21 official, with the exception of constitutionally elected officers like county clerks, district
22 attorneys, and sheriffs; and

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24 **WHEREAS**, holding local elections during gubernatorial and presidential election
25 years, there will be less of an opportunity for local issues to be discussed and debated, as
26 statewide and national issues will consume most of the election cycle news; and

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28 **WHEREAS**, the intent of this legislation is to increase voter turnout in local elections
29 as, traditionally, in even number years have higher rates due to the interest in federal
30 and statewide elections; and

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32 **WHEREAS**, by moving some but not all local elections, those that remain in odd
33 number years (including, but not limited to, city, village, county constitutional officers,
34 judges, and school board members), there will be less, not more, awareness of these
35 elections that remain and, therefore, will result in lower turnout; and

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37 **WHEREAS**, regardless of increased or decreased turnout, the legislation violates
38 constitutionally protected home rule powers by preempting county charters, local laws,
39 local referenda, and forcing short-term changes to the term of an elected official; and

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41 **WHEREAS**, this legislation also runs counter to the spirit of home rule authority,
42 which allows counties and local governments the ability to adopt provisions relating to
43 their "affairs or government"; and

1 **WHEREAS**, our statutes, as they have evolved, now allow counties considerable
2 latitude to choose the structure of local government which is best tailored to serve
3 particular community needs; and

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5 **WHEREAS**, the narrow scope of this bill, which only impacts county executives,
6 county legislators, county board of supervisors, and town officials, usurps the home rule
7 authority of local governments to establish a governance structure that is best suited for
8 their community.

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10 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
11 Counties (NYSAC) hereby calls on Governor Hochul to veto A.4282-B (Paulin)/S.3505-
12 B (Skoufis), which would require local elections to be held in even-numbered years; and

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14 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC suggests the Governor and State Legislature
15 allow counties to put this proposal on the ballot to allow local voters the opportunity to
16 choose when their local elections should be held; and

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18 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of
19 New York State and encourage them to enact similar resolutions; and

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21 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to
22 the Governor, the New York State Legislature and all others deemed necessary and
23 proper.