

A Resolution urging Governor Hochul to veto pending legislation impacting local elections

RESOLUTION #2023-_____

Whereas, towns, counties, and cities in Upstate New York, including the Town of Enfield, 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 such elections in odd-numbered years accords local races a place of elevated public attention, permitting voters to focus on local governance in those elections and not be distracted by more prominent contests for state or federal office, races generally held in even-numbered years; 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, county, and village legislative and administrative offices, including all Town of Enfield offices, to even-numbered years, beginning in 2025; and

Whereas, New York Governor Kathy Hochul holds the power to veto these bills when they are presented for her signature; and

Whereas, this Town Board finds the State Legislature's rationale for altering the year of these local elections unconvincing, and believes that moving local elections to even-numbered years would subordinate local governance in the voter's mind and bury these races from public attention; and

Whereas, this Town Board believes that the State Legislature in adopting these bills has subordinated Good Government concerns to partisan considerations; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Enfield Town Board hereby urges New York Governor Kathy Hochul to **veto** Senate Bill S3505B and/or Assembly Bill A4282B when they are presented for her signature; and be it further

Resolved, that the Clerk is directed to forward copies of this Resolution to the following: the Hon. Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York; the Hon. Lea Webb, New York State Senator; the Hon. Dr. Anna Kelles, New York State Assemblymember; and the clerk of the Tompkins County Council of Governments.

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