

LOCAL LAW NO. 14 - 2025

AMENDING THE ONONDAGA COUNTY CHARTER AND ADMINISTRATIVE CODE TO INCREASE THE TERM OF OFFICE OF ONONDAGA COUNTY LEGISLATORS FROM TWO YEARS TO FOUR YEARS AND TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF TERMS THAT A PERSON IS ELIGIBLE TO SERVE AS COUNTY LEGISLATOR TO THREE CONSECUTIVE FOUR-YEAR TERMS

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE OF THE COUNTY OF ONONDAGA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Findings. This Legislature deems it important to change the term of Onondaga County Legislators from a two-year term to a four-year term, and to implement a term limit of three consecutive four-year terms, thereby requiring amendments to the Onondaga County Charter and Administrative Code. Extending the term of office for County Legislators to four years comports with the four-year terms of all countywide elected officials and permits such elected representatives to focus more of their time and attention on the needs of their constituents and county governance. Limiting the total number of terms that an official can serve ensures consistent turnover and encourages new individuals to seek elective office, while allowing for valuable tenured experience on the Onondaga County Legislature.

Section 2. Amendments.

(a) Term Lengths:

Section 202 of the Onondaga County Charter, entitled COUNTY LEGISLATORS; QUALIFICATIONS; TERM, is hereby amended such that the following language shall be added at the end of the third paragraph thereof:

Provided, however, that commencing with the first general election for Onondaga County Legislators held after January 1, 2026, the term of office of members of the County Legislature shall be four years. Elections for the County Legislators shall be conducted at general elections every fourth year thereafter.

Section 2.01 of the Onondaga County Administrative Code is hereby amended such that the following language shall be added after the second sentence of the fourth paragraph thereof:

Provided, however, that commencing with the first general election for Onondaga County Legislators held after January 1, 2026, each Legislator shall be elected at a general year election for a term of four years commencing the first day of January next following election.

Section 203 of the Onondaga County Charter, entitled ORGANIZATION; OFFICERS; COMMITTEES, is hereby amended to add the following seventh and final paragraph thereto:

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Onondaga County Charter, commencing with the first general election for Onondaga County Legislators held after January 1, 2026, said organizational meeting shall be held every fourth year.

Section 2.07 of the Onondaga County Administrative Code is hereby amended to add the following second and final paragraph thereto:

Provided, however, that commencing with the first general election for Onondaga County Legislators held after January 1, 2026, said organizational meeting shall be held every fourth year.

Section 2.09 of the Onondaga County Administrative Code is hereby amended to add the following second and final paragraph thereto:

Provided, however, that commencing with the first general election for Onondaga County Legislators held after January 1, 2026, the Chairperson of the County Legislature shall serve for a term of four years or until a successor shall be elected.

Matters in italics are new.

(b) Term Limits:

Section 202 of the Onondaga County Charter is hereby further amended to add the following fourth and final paragraph thereto:

Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in this Charter or Administrative Code, commencing with the first general election for Onondaga County Legislators held after January 1, 2026, no person shall be eligible to be elected to or serve as a member of the County Legislature for more than three (3) consecutive four-year terms. Years served prior to the first day of January next following the first general election for Onondaga County Legislators held after January 1, 2026 shall not be counted in calculating the number of consecutive terms a County Legislator has served. Service for a partial term as a County Legislator shall not be counted in calculating the three consecutive four-year terms.

Matters in italics are new.

Section 3. Proposition. The form of the proposition to be submitted to the electors of Onondaga County at the next general election occurring November 4, 2025 shall be as follows:

(a) Descriptive Title.

INCREASING COUNTY LEGISLATOR TERMS TO FOUR YEARS WITH A THREE CONSECUTIVE FOUR-YEAR TERM LIMIT

(b) Ballot Proposal Text Summary.

Increasing County Legislator terms from two to four years and imposing term limits of three consecutive four-year terms, effective the first general election for Legislators held after January 1, 2026.

(c) Voting.

Voting “Yes” increases County Legislator terms from two to four years and imposes term limits of three consecutive terms. Voting “No” leaves terms unchanged without term limits.

Section 4. Severability. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part of this Charter and Code Amendment shall be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which the judgment shall

have been rendered.

Section 5. Effective Date. This Charter and Code Amendment shall be submitted to the electors of Onondaga County at the next general election occurring November 4, 2025 pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law Sections 33 and 34, and Onondaga County Charter Section 2202, and shall take effect immediately upon approval of the electors of Onondaga County.

ADOPTED 8/1/2025



I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of the legislation duly adopted by the County Legislature of Onondaga County on the 1st day of August 2025.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Jm", is written over a horizontal line.

Clerk, County Legislature