

**JUNE 2, 2026 SESSION**

**LOCAL LAWS**

- a. **A LOCAL LAW TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF VULNERABLE ROAD USERS IN ONONDAGA COUNTY (Sponsored by Mr. Brown, Ms. Denton, Ms. Hernandez)**
  
- b. **A LOCAL LAW AMENDING SECTION 205 OF THE ONONDAGA COUNTY CHARTER REGARDING VACANCIES IN THE ONONDAGA COUNTY LEGISLATURE (Sponsored by Mr. Eriksen, Ms. Hernandez)**
  
- c. **A LOCAL LAW AMENDING THE ONONDAGA COUNTY CHARTER TO IMPOSE A TERM LIMIT ON THE OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE (Sponsored by Ms. Hernandez)**
  
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- e. **A LOCAL LAW TO PROHIBIT DEMONSTRATING WITHIN TEN (10) FEET OF ANOTHER PERSON ENTERING OR LEAVING A PLACE OF RELIGIOUS WORSHIP AND NOT WITHIN THIRTY-FIVE (35) FEET OF AN ENTRANCE THERETO (Sponsored by Mr. Burtis)**

LOCAL LAW NO. \_\_\_\_ – 2026

A LOCAL LAW TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF VULNERABLE ROAD USERS IN  
ONONDAGA COUNTY

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

Section 1. Title.

This local law shall be known as the “Cyclist Yielding and Clearance Lane for Everyone Safety Act” and referred to as the “Onondaga CYCLE Safety Act.”

Section 2. Purpose.

The County of Onondaga has a responsibility to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its residents. This Legislature finds many Onondaga County residents use our roadways for walking, running, bicycling and recognizes these bicyclists, pedestrians, and other vulnerable road users often need to share roadways with motor vehicles out of necessity. This Legislature acknowledges these users are susceptible to the actions of motor vehicle operators who can pose a threat to their health and safety. Therefore, this Legislature finds it necessary to establish a minimum passing distance for motor vehicles approaching or passing vulnerable road users, and to penalize those who disregard their safety.

Section 3. Definitions.

As used in this local law, the following term shall have the meanings indicated:

A. “Vulnerable Road User” (“VRU”) shall mean any of the following:

1. A pedestrian, including:
  - a. An individual walking or jogging on or along a roadway.
  - b. An individual in a wheelchair, or other device designed for and used by a person whose mobility is limited by one or more conditions or functional impairments;
  - c. An individual with a service animal, including the animal itself;
  - d. An individual waiting to board, or just having disembarked, any bus, shuttle, taxicab, ride share, or bicycle share;
  - e. Any other individuals existing upon a roadway and outside of any vehicles;
2. Any individual(s) on a bicycle, e-bicycle, motor-assisted bicycle, or other nonmotorized modes of transportation such as roller skates, rollerblades, roller skis, skateboard, longboard, or unicycle;
3. Any rider of a horse or other animal, including the animal itself;
4. An individual who is not in or on a motor vehicle, streetcar or other motor vehicle running only upon rails, motorized snow vehicle, traction engine, farm tractor, self-propelled instrument of husbandry, or roadbuilding machine;

Section 4. Minimum Passing Distance Required.

The operator of a motor vehicle approaching or overtaking a VRU on the same side of the road, shall pass only to the left of a VRU and shall provide not less than three (3) feet of distance around a VRU.

Section 5. Compliance with Other Laws.

Motor vehicle operators shall comply with this local law to the extent practicable and permitted pursuant to other applicable law, including but not limited to, New York Vehicle and Traffic Law §§ 1122-a, 1124, 1125, and 1126.

This local law shall not apply on roads with clearly-marked usable bicycle lanes, as defined by New York Vehicle and Traffic Law § 102-a.

Section 6. Enforcement.

This local law may be enforced by all duly authorized law enforcement entities within Onondaga County, including but not limited to: Onondaga County Sheriff's Department, Syracuse Police Department, town and village police departments, and university departments of public safety.

Section 7. Penalties.

Any person committing an offense of Section 4 shall be guilty of a violation and subject to a fine not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) for a first offense, five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for a second offense, and one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) for a third and any subsequent offense(s). This section does not preclude an individual from being charged with, convicted of, or punished for any other violation(s) of law.

Section 8. Applicability.

This local law shall apply to all actions occurring on or after the effective date.

Section 9. Severability.

If any section, subdivision, clause, paragraph, sentence, or part of this law, or the application thereof, shall be rendered by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, and shall be confined in its operation to the section, subdivision, clause, paragraph, sentence, or part of this law, or the application thereof, specific to the controversy in which such court order or judgment is rendered.

Section 10. SEQRA Compliance.

This County Legislature determines that this local law constitutes a Type II action pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act, and that no further action thereunder is required.

Section 11. Effective Date.

This local law shall be filed pursuant to the provisions of Municipal Home Rule Law, and shall take effect ninety (90) days after filing with the Secretary of State.

LOCAL LAW NO. \_\_\_\_ - 2026

A LOCAL LAW AMENDING SECTION 205 OF THE ONONDAGA COUNTY CHARTER  
REGARDING VACANCIES IN THE ONONDAGA COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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

Section 1. Purpose and Intent

The purpose of this local law is to amend the Onondaga County Charter to change how vacancies in the County Legislature are filled. This amendment gives the County Legislature the power to appoint a replacement, who will then serve until the next possible election, when voters will choose who fills the seat for the rest of the term.

Section 2. Amendments.

- (a) Section 205 of the Onondaga County Charter, entitled VACANCIES, is hereby amended to read as follows:

§ 205. Vacancies.

“A vacancy in the county legislature shall be filled by appointment by the County Legislature. Such appointment shall require a majority vote of the County Legislature.

The person so appointed shall possess all the qualifications required of members of the county legislature as set forth in this Charter, and shall serve until the next general election after such vacancy occurs. At such election, the vacancy shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Any vacancy in any committee of the county legislature shall be filled by appointment by the permanent chairman of said county legislature.”

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

- (a) Descriptive Title.

MODIFYING THE PROCESS FOR FILLING VACANCIES IN THE ONONDAGA  
COUNTY LEGISLATURE

- (b) Ballot Proposal Text Summary: “Removes the County Executive’s sole authority to fill a vacancy on the Legislature, and designates the Legislature, through a majority vote, as the appointing authority.”

(c) Voting.

Voting “Yes” designates the Legislature as the appointing authority to fill vacancies on the Legislature.

Voting “No” keeps in place the County Executive’s authority to fill vacancies on the Legislature.

Section 4. Severability.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part of this Charter 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 local law shall be submitted to the electors of Onondaga County at the next general election occurring in November 2026, pursuant to the applicable provisions of Municipal Home Rule Law and the Onondaga County Charter, and shall effect immediately upon approval of the electors of Onondaga County.

LOCAL LAW NO. \_\_\_ - 2026

AMENDING THE ONONDAGA COUNTY CHARTER TO IMPOSE A TERM LIMIT ON THE  
OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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

Section 1. Purpose.

The purpose of this Local Law is to amend the Onondaga County Charter to establish a limit on the number of consecutive terms an individual may serve as County Executive.

Section 2. Amendment to Section 301 of the Onondaga County Charter.

Section 301 of the Onondaga County Charter, entitled “THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE; ELECTION; TERM; QUALIFICATIONS,” is hereby amended to add the following final paragraphs thereto:

Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in this Charter or Administrative Code, commencing with the first general election for County Executive held after January 1, 2027, no person shall be eligible to be elected to or serve as County Executive 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 County Executive held after January 1, 2027, shall not be counted in calculating the number of consecutive terms a County Executive has served. Service for a partial term as County Executive shall not be counted in calculating the three consecutive four-year terms.

Section 3. Proposition.

The form of the proposition to be submitted to the electors of Onondaga County at the next general election shall be as follows:

(a) Descriptive Title:

IMPOSING TERM LIMITS ON THE OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

(b) Ballot Proposal Text Summary: “Imposing a limit of three (3) consecutive four-year terms on the office of County Executive, effective the first general election after January 1, 2027.”

(c) Voting:

Voting “Yes” imposes term limits of three consecutive four-year terms.

Voting “No” leaves the office without term limits.

Section 4. Severability.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part of this Local Law 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.

Section 5.       Effective Date.

This Local Law shall be submitted to the electors of Onondaga County at the next general election occurring in November 2026, pursuant to the applicable provisions of Municipal Home Rule Law and the Onondaga County Charter, and shall take effect immediately upon approval of the electors of Onondaga County.

LOCAL LAW NO. \_\_\_\_ – 2026

AMENDING SECTION 207 OF THE ONONDAGA COUNTY CHARTER AND SECTION 2.17 OF THE ONONDAGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE TO REVISE THE ONONDAGA COUNTY REAPPORTIONMENT COMMISSION TO ENSURE A FAIR AND OBJECTIVE PROCESS BY WHICH THE ONONDAGA COUNTY LEGISLATURE DISTRICTS ARE REAPPORTIONED

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

Section 1. Purpose and Intent

The purpose of this Local Law is to ensure an objective, fair, and transparent reapportionment process by establishing an independent Reapportionment Commission. This local law amends the County Charter consistent with this intention of creating an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission.

Section 2. Amendment of Section 207 of the Onondaga County Charter

- (a) Section 207 of the Onondaga County Charter is hereby amended to replace and add the following language:

Section 207. Change In Districts.

(a) Definitions

For purposes of Section 207 of the Onondaga County Charter, the following terms shall have the meanings set forth in this subsection:

Commission means the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission.

Commission staff shall be staff hired by the Commission and shall not include any staff of the Onondaga County Legislature.

Controlling person means an officer, director, manager, principal, or shareholder or member owning at least ten percent (10%) ownership of a legal entity.

Day means a calendar day, except that if the final day of a period within which an act is to be performed is a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday in which the County of Onondaga's offices are closed, the period is extended to the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday in which the County's offices are closed, in accordance with applicable New York State law.

Spouse means one's licensed marriage spouse, common law spouse, or recognized domestic partner.

Substantial Neglect of Duty means that an individual has disregarded a manifest duty prescribed by this section intentionally, knowingly, or negligently. Missing half or more of the meetings in a three-month period constitutes a substantial neglect of duty.

Panel means the Applicant Review Panel established pursuant to Section 207(d)(4) of this Article.

(b) Procedure for Establishment of an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission

Not later than February 15 of a year ending in two (2) preceding each redistricting cycle, the Onondaga County Legislature shall authorize by resolution and/or local law an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission made up of qualified electors who reside within the County to reconsider the boundaries of County Legislature districts. In 2032 and each year following the year in which the national census is taken under the direction of Congress at the beginning of each decade, the Commission shall adjust the boundary lines of the seventeen (17) single-member districts in conformance with the standards and process set forth in this section. The Commission shall be fully established no later than February 15 in each year ending in the number two (2).

The Commission shall not draw district lines at any other time, except if the districts must be redrawn because of: a judicial decision invalidating the then-existing district plan, in whole or in part; a change in the number of single-member districts made to the County Charter; or the date of County Legislature elections being moved. If the date of County Legislature elections is moved, the dates in this section shall be adjusted to ensure the Commission has sufficient time to draw the lines prior to the election date.

The Commission, in its discretion, may adopt and publish internal rules of procedure consistent with federal, state, and local law.

(c) Membership

(1) Number of Members

The Commission shall consist of fifteen (15) members.

(2) Allocation by Voter Enrollment

The fifteen (15) members shall be apportioned among the three (3) largest voter enrollment groups in Onondaga County, determined by enrollment status as reflected in the most recent official voter enrollment report published by the New York State Board of Elections as of February 1 of the year in which appointments to the Commission are made. For purposes of this section, “voter enrollment

groups” shall include each political party and voters not enrolled in any political party.

### (3) Proportional Representation

Seats on the Commission shall be allocated to each of the three (3) largest voter enrollment groups in proportion to each group’s share of the total number of registered voters in the County.

### (4) Method of Allocation

The number of seats allocated to each voter enrollment group shall be determined by multiplying the total number of Commission seats by that group’s share of the total number of registered voters in the County and rounding to the nearest whole number. If rounding does not result in a total of fifteen (15) seats, the remaining seat or seats shall be assigned to the voter enrollment group or groups with the largest fractional remainder until all seats are allocated.

### (5) Tie-Breaking

In the event of a tie in determining the three (3) largest voter enrollment groups, or in assigning any remaining seat or seats under Section 207(c)(4) of the Onondaga County Charter, the tie shall be resolved in favor of the group with the greater number of registered voters. If a tie still exists, the tie shall be resolved by lot at a public meeting.

### (6) Minimum Representation

Each of the three (3) largest voter enrollment groups shall be allocated no fewer than three (3) members.

### (7) Geographic Representation (Required Minimums)

The number of members allocated to each geographic region, as defined in Section 207(c)(8) of the Onondaga County Charter, shall be determined based on the share of registered voters residing in each region relative to the total number of registered voters in the County. The allocation shall be calculated by multiplying eight (8) by each region’s share of the total number of registered voters in the County. Each resulting figure shall be rounded to the nearest whole number. If rounding does not result in a total of eight (8) seats, the remaining seat or seats shall be assigned to the region or regions with the largest fractional remainder until all eight (8) seats are allocated.

### (8) Definition of Regions

For purposes of this section, the regions of Onondaga County shall consist of the following municipalities. No municipality shall be divided between regions.

(i) North Region

Town of Clay  
Town of Cicero  
Town of Lysander  
Town of Salina

(ii) West Region

Town of Camillus  
Town of Geddes  
Town of Van Buren  
Town of Elbridge

(iii) East Region

Town of DeWitt  
Town of Manlius

(iv) South Region

Town of Onondaga  
Town of Marcellus  
Town of Skaneateles  
Town of Spafford  
Town of Fabius  
Town of Pompey  
Town of Tully  
Town of Otisco  
Town of LaFayette

Villages shall be deemed included within the towns in which they are located.

(v) City of Syracuse

(9) Recalculation

In the event population changes reflected in a subsequent federal decennial census materially alter the proportional distribution, allocations shall be recalculated in accordance with this section.

(10) Requirements for Membership

Each Commission member shall be a voter who:

- (i) has been continuously registered to vote in Onondaga County for at least five (5) years immediately preceding appointment; and
- (ii) has voted in at least three (3) of the last five (5) general elections immediately preceding application.

(11) Term

The term of office of each member shall expire upon the appointment of the first member of the succeeding Commission. Each member shall be entitled to serve such member's term in office during good behavior and shall not be removed therefrom except for cause, and then only pursuant to Section 207(c)(14) of the Onondaga County Charter.

(12) Compensation

Members of the Panel and the Commission shall not be compensated for their service. However, members of the Panel and the Commission are eligible for reimbursement of reasonable and necessary personal expenses incurred in connection with their duties. Funding for the Commission shall be provided in accordance with Section 207(d)(8) of the Onondaga County Charter.

(13) Quorum and Voting

Nine (9) members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum. No official action shall be taken by the Commission except upon the affirmative vote of not fewer than ten (10) of its members. Members present shall not defeat quorum by abstention or failure to vote.

(14) Vacancies and Removal

(a) Removal. A Commission member may be removed by the Commission for: failure to satisfy the Requirements for Membership established in Section 207(c)(10) of the Onondaga County Charter; Conflict of Interest as described in Section 207(d)(2) of the Onondaga County Charter; substantial neglect of duty; gross misconduct in office; or inability to discharge duties. Removal shall require ten (10) affirmative votes of the Commission following written notice of the charges, a reasonable time to respond, and an opportunity to submit evidence at a public meeting of the Commission.

(b) Vacancies. Vacancies on the Commission shall be filled by the remaining members of the Commission within fifteen (15) days from the remaining applicant pool. Appointments shall require nine (9) affirmative votes from the remaining Commission members. For the purposes of filing of vacancies only,

notwithstanding other provisions to the contrary, the quorum and minimum affirmative votes required for appointments to fill vacancies on the Commission shall not be more than the number of remaining members of the Commission at the time of such vote.

#### (15) Post-Service Restrictions

Commission members shall be subject to post-service restrictions, including: a five (5) year prohibition on elective County office; and a three (3) year prohibition on appointed positions, paid consulting, or non-competitive contracts with the County. These restrictions apply to the member individually and to all entities for which the member is a controlling person. For purposes of this section, “paid consulting” means any compensated advisory or professional services arrangement with the County or any County agency, and “non-competitive contract” means any contract awarded without a formal competitive bidding process.

#### (16) Activity of the Commission

The Commission shall be inactive except as necessary to carry out its duties. The Commission’s duties shall include defending from challenge any certified redistricting plan approved by the Commission and adopted by the Legislature. Accordingly, the Commission shall remain active at least until the expiration of the time to timely challenge the final certified redistricting map approved by the Commission and adopted by the Legislature.

#### (17) Legal Standing

The Commission shall have Primary legal standing to defend any certified redistricting plan. The Commission shall retain independent legal counsel. The County Law Department may serve only upon request. Selection or removal of the Commission’s counsel shall require ten (10) affirmative votes by Commission members.

#### (18) Commission Roles

The Commission shall elect a Chair and Vice Chair from amongst the Commission’s members by affirmative vote of at least ten (10) members of the Commission. Said Commission Chair and Vice Chair shall be chosen from amongst the Commission’s members and shall not be members of the same political party. Both shall retain full voting rights.

#### (19) Staff and Legal Counsel

The Commission shall hire staff, legal counsel, and consultants as needed to support the Commission; provided, however, that compensation of such persons

shall be limited to the period in which the Commission is active. The Commission shall establish clear criteria for the hiring and removal of these individuals, communication protocols, and a code of conduct. The Commission shall apply the conflicts of interest listed in Section 207(d)(2) of the Onondaga County Charter to the hiring of staff, legal counsel, and consultants. The Commission shall require that at least one of the legal counsel hired by the Commission has demonstrated extensive experience and expertise in implementation and enforcement of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. § 1971 et seq.). The Commission shall ensure that sufficient demographic and statistical expertise is available to support its analysis under the Voting Rights Act and the redistricting criteria set forth in this section. Such expertise may be provided by a retained demographer, statistical expert, legal counsel with demonstrated demographic analysis capability, or any combination thereof, as the Commission deems appropriate. The Commission shall make hiring, removal, or contracting decisions on staff, legal counsel, and consultants by ten (10) or more affirmative votes.

#### (20) Employment Protection

Commission Members' regular employment shall not be terminated due to their membership on the Commission. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no employer shall discharge, threaten to discharge, intimidate, coerce, or retaliate against any employee by reason of such employee's membership on the Commission, work with the Commission, or attendance or scheduled attendance at any meeting of the Commission.

#### (d) Commission Selection Process

The Commission member selection process shall be designed and administered to ensure a fair, objective, and transparent process that results in a Commission reasonably representative of the demographic and geographic diversity of the County. The process shall be conducted as follows:

##### (1) Application Process

No later than June 1 in each year ending in the number one (1), the County of Onondaga Comptroller shall initiate and widely publicize an application process, open to all registered County of Onondaga voters who meet the requirements for membership on the Commission pursuant to Section 207(c)(10) of the Onondaga County Charter, in a manner that promotes a large, diverse (by race, ethnicity, gender, and geography) and qualified applicant pool. The Comptroller shall take all reasonable and necessary steps to ensure that the pool has the requisite numbers, diversity, and qualifications. This process shall remain open until August 31 in each year ending in the number one (1).

##### (2) Conflicts of Interest

The County of Onondaga Comptroller shall remove from the membership pool any person with conflicts of interest, including:

- i. Any person who, within the five (5) years immediately preceding the date of application, either the applicant or their spouse, shall have done any of the following: (i) been appointed to, elected to, or been a candidate for state, county or city office; (ii) served as an officer, employee, or paid consultant of a political party or of the campaign committee of a candidate for elective state, county or city office; (iii) been a registered state or local lobbyist; or (iv) contributed \$1,000 or more in aggregate to candidates for County of Onondaga elective office in the last County election.
- ii. Any person who, within the three (3) years immediately preceding the date of application, has been: a paid employee of the County of Onondaga; a person performing paid services under a professional or political contract to the County of Onondaga, to the Onondaga County Legislature, or to any member of the Onondaga County Legislature; a controlling person of any such consultant; or a spouse of any of the foregoing.

### (3) Review and Publication of Qualified Applicants

No later than September 30 in each year ending in the number one (1), the County of Onondaga Comptroller shall have reviewed and removed individuals with conflicts of interest as defined in Section 207(d)(2) of the Onondaga County Charter or who fail to meet the qualifications prescribed in Section 207(c)(10) of the Onondaga County Charter, from among the applicant pool for the Commission, and shall publicize the names in the remaining applicant pool and provide copies of their applications to the Applicant Review Panel.

### (4) Applicant Review Panel and Selection of Initial Pool

There shall be an Applicant Review Panel consisting of four (4) members. One (1) member shall be appointed by the County Executive, one (1) member shall be appointed by the County Comptroller, one (1) member shall be appointed by the County Clerk, and one (1) member shall be appointed by the Chair of the Onondaga County Legislature. No later than November 14 in each year ending in the number one (1), the Applicant Review Panel shall, by the affirmative vote of at least three-fourths (3/4) of its whole number, select an applicant pool of one hundred (100) applicants from among the qualified applicants. If fewer than one hundred (100) qualified applicants are available, the Panel shall select all qualified applicants, provided that the Panel shall certify in writing the basis for such determination.

In selecting the pool of applicants, the Panel shall seek to ensure that the applicant pool is reasonably reflective of the geographic, demographic, and voter enrollment diversity of the County and includes applicants possessing relevant analytical skills, impartiality,

sound judgment, and the ability to evaluate redistricting matters in a fair and objective manner.

The Applicant Review Panel shall not communicate, directly or indirectly, with any elected member of the Onondaga County Legislature, Onondaga County Executive, Onondaga County Comptroller, Onondaga County Clerk, or their representatives regarding any matter related to the nomination process or any applicant prior to the presentation of the recommended applicant pool to the Legislature.

#### (5) Legislative Review of Applicant Pool

No later than November 15 in each year ending in the number one (1), the Applicant Review Panel shall submit its pool of one hundred (100) recommended applicants to the Onondaga County Legislature.

Any removal of an applicant by the Onondaga County Legislature shall be made only for cause, including but not limited to: conflicts of interest; failure to meet statutory qualifications; material misrepresentation or omission in the application; demonstrated bias or inability to serve impartially; prior conduct undermining public confidence; failure to comply with disclosure requirements; or any other substantial reason demonstrating inability to fulfill the duties of a Commission member.

Any removal for cause shall require the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the whole number of the Onondaga County Legislature. All removals shall be made in writing, publicly disclosed, and shall state the basis for such removal.

The total number of applicants removed by the Onondaga County Legislature shall not exceed thirty (30).

The Legislature shall complete all removals no later than November 21 in each year ending in the number one (1). No later than November 22 in each year ending in the number one (1), the Applicant Review Panel shall submit the pool of remaining applicants to the County of Onondaga Comptroller.

#### (6) Random Selection of Initial Eight Members

No later than November 25 in each year ending in the number one (1), the Applicant Review Panel shall conduct a public random selection process to draw eight (8) names from the remaining pool of applicants. Such individuals shall serve as the initial members of the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission.

The eight (8) members shall be selected by random draw from geographically defined subpools. The number of selections from each geographic area shall be determined based on the share of registered voters residing in each region relative to the total number of registered voters in the County, calculated by multiplying eight (8) by each region's share of total registered voters and rounding to the nearest whole number. If rounding does not

result in a total of eight (8) selections, the remaining selection or selections shall be assigned to the geographic area or areas with the largest fractional remainder.

Selections shall be made separately from each geographic subpool at a public meeting using a transparent and verifiable method. No selection shall be made in violation of the voter enrollment allocation requirements set forth in Section 207(c) of the Onondaga County Charter. Alternate selections shall be made as necessary to ensure compliance. In the event of a conflict between geographic allocation and voter enrollment allocation requirements, compliance with voter enrollment allocation requirements shall control.

#### (7) Selection of Remaining Seven Members

No later than January 15 in each year ending in the number two (2), the eight (8) randomly selected Commission members shall, by the affirmative vote of no fewer than five (5) members, select the remaining seven (7) members of the Commission from the remaining applicant pool. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, for purposes of initially filling the remaining seven members of the Commission, a simple majority of the then-appointed members of the Commission shall constitute quorum for such purposes only. Such selections shall comply with voter enrollment allocation and satisfy the geographic minimum requirements set forth in Section 207(c) of the Onondaga County Charter.

#### (8) Funding and resources

The Onondaga County Legislature shall appropriate the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) for the initial redistricting cycle conducted pursuant to this section to enable the Commission to carry out its duties and responsibilities under this section.

For each subsequent redistricting cycle, the minimum appropriation shall be adjusted for inflation based upon the percentage increase, if any, in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), as published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor statistics, or any successor index, measured from the year of the prior redistricting cycle appropriation.

Such funds may be used by the Commission for staffing, retaining a demographer, maintaining records and documentation of the redistricting process, obtaining legal counsel and representation, defending the Commission and its adopted plans in any administrative or judicial proceeding, conducting public outreach and hearings, and such other professional or administrative services as may be reasonably necessary to fulfill the purposes of this section.

Funds appropriated pursuant to this section shall remain available to the Commission until completion of the Commission's duties for the applicable redistricting cycle, including through the final resolution of any timely-filed administrative or judicial challenge to an adopted redistricting plan.

(e) Redistricting Criteria

The Commission shall establish the boundaries of the Onondaga County Legislature districts in a plan using the following criteria, applied in the following order of priority:

1. Districts shall comply with the United States Constitution. Each County Legislator shall represent reasonably equal population with other districts, except where deviation is required to comply with the federal Voting Rights Act or is otherwise allowable by law.
2. Districts shall comply with the federal Voting Rights Act (42 U.S.C. § 1971 et seq.) and any other requirement of federal or state law.
3. Districts shall be geographically contiguous.
4. The geographic integrity of any local neighborhood or local community of interest shall be respected in a manner that minimizes their division to the extent possible without violating the requirements of any of the preceding criteria. A community of interest is a contiguous population that shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation. Communities of interest shall not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.
5. To the extent practicable, district boundaries shall be drawn to encourage geographical compactness such that nearby areas of population are not bypassed for more distant populations.
6. To the extent practicable, district boundaries shall be drawn using the boundaries of existing election precincts.
7. To the extent practicable, district boundaries shall be drawn using geographically identifiable boundaries.
8. The place of residence of any incumbent or potential political candidate shall not be considered in the creation of a plan or any district.

Lower-priority criteria shall not be used to justify population deviations from higher-priority criteria unless the Commission makes written findings that the deviation is necessary to satisfy a higher-priority federal or state requirement. The Commission shall prepare and publish, for each draft and final plan, a report containing: the total population count for each district; a target deviation and overall maximum deviation between districts; documentation of any deviations; a determination of whether such deviations are within the target or maximum; and an explanation of why any deviation is necessary and appropriate.

The Commission shall document whether partisan data was used in the creation of any map, when it was used, and, if used, the reason, purpose, and manner of such use. There is a presumption against the use of partisan data except to the extent necessary to test for compliance with higher-priority legal requirements. The final report shall include a narrative explaining how the plan satisfies the redistricting criteria without reference to incumbency or partisan advantage.

(f) Responsibilities of the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission

The Commission shall:

- conduct an open, transparent, and publicly accessible process enabling full public consideration of and comment upon the drawing of district lines;
- draw district lines in accordance with the redistricting criteria specified in this section;
- maintain complete and accurate records of all proceedings, deliberations, data, submissions, draft maps, final maps, communications, and materials considered or relied upon by the Commission during the redistricting process; and
- conduct itself with integrity, impartiality, and fairness.

The activities of the Commission shall be subject to all of the following requirements:

- The Commission shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and county requirements relating to open meetings, public records, and transparency.
- The records of the Commission and all data considered by the Commission shall constitute public records and shall be maintained and made available in a manner that ensures timely and widespread public access consistent with applicable law.
- All records shall be preserved and maintained in an organized manner sufficient to facilitate transparency, historical preservation, and production in the event of judicial review. The Commission shall designate a records custodian responsible for maintaining and preserving all official Commission records and for coordinating compliance with any lawful disclosure or court order. All records relating to a redistricting cycle shall be preserved for no fewer than ten (10) years following adoption of a final redistricting plan.
- Commission members and Commission staff shall not knowingly communicate with or receive communications regarding substantive redistricting matters from any person outside of a public meeting or hearing of the Commission. This paragraph shall not prohibit communications between Commission members, Commission staff, legal counsel, consultants retained by the Commission, or

administrative staff when otherwise permitted by applicable open meetings laws and necessary to carry out the duties of the Commission.

### Public Hearing Process and Preliminary Plan

The Commission shall establish and implement an open hearing process for public input and deliberation that shall be subject to public notice and promoted through an extensive outreach program to solicit broad public participation in the redistricting public review process. The hearing process shall begin with hearings to receive public input before the Commission votes and approves a preliminary redistricting plan. There shall be at least one such public hearing before the Commission votes on a preliminary redistricting plan in the City of Syracuse, and at least two additional hearings throughout the County outside of the City of Syracuse. These hearings shall be supplemented with all other appropriate activities to further increase opportunities for the public to observe and participate in the review process.

Following the Commission's vote approving the preliminary plan, at least three public hearings geographically dispersed within the City of Syracuse and throughout the County shall be held. The Commission shall display the approved preliminary plan for written public comment in a manner designed to achieve the widest public access reasonably possible. Written public comment shall be accepted for at least fourteen (14) days from the date of public display of the approved preliminary plan.

### Final Plan

The Commission shall then vote on a proposed final plan and hold three subsequent public hearings—one inside the City of Syracuse, one north of Interstate 90, and one south of Interstate 90—and accept at least five (5) days of written public comments. The Commission shall complete all hearings and adopt a final plan no later than November 1 in each year ending in the number two (2).

By November 1 in each year ending in the number two (2), the Commission shall adopt a final plan for the County of Onondaga specifically describing the district boundaries for each district of the Onondaga County Legislature. Upon adoption, the Commission shall certify the plan to the Onondaga County Legislature. Any redistricting plan adopted pursuant to this section shall be enacted by local law of the County Legislature no later than December 31 of each year ending in the number two (2).

Within thirty (30) days of receiving the certified plan, the County Legislature shall, by local law, either:

- approve and adopt the certified plan as submitted; or
- reject the certified plan by an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the whole number of its members and return the plan to the Commission with written findings identifying the specific redistricting criterion or criteria set forth in

Section 207(e) of the Onondaga County Charter with which the Legislature believes the certified plan does not comply. Failure to obtain the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the whole number of members of the Legislature shall constitute a rejection and require the preparation of said written findings.

The Legislature shall not amend, alter, or redraw the boundaries contained in the certified plan.

Upon receipt of a rejected plan and the written findings of the Legislature, the Commission shall reconsider the plan and, within fifteen (15) days, either:

- certify a revised plan to the Legislature; or
- reaffirm the original certified plan in writing, together with a response to the Legislature's findings.

Within fifteen (15) days of receiving a revised or reaffirmed plan from the Commission, the County Legislature shall vote, without amendment, to approve or reject the plan. Rejection at this stage shall require the affirmative vote of four-fifths (4/5) of the whole number of the Legislature. Failure to obtain the affirmative vote of at least four-fifths (4/5) of the whole number of members of the Legislature shall constitute a rejection.

Any local law adopting a redistricting plan pursuant to this section shall be subject to the approval or veto of the County Executive in the same manner as other local laws of the County Legislature; provided, however, that any veto by the County Executive shall be accompanied by written findings identifying the specific redistricting criterion or criteria set forth in Section 207(e) of the Onondaga County Charter with which the County Executive believes the plan does not comply. A veto by the County Executive may be overridden by an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the whole number of the County Legislature.

If the County Legislature rejects the revised or reaffirmed plan, fails to adopt a plan within the time periods established by this section, or fails to override a veto of the County Executive, the Commission shall petition the Supreme Court of the State of New York for an order adopting the revised or reaffirmed plan. The Commission shall submit to the court the plan and the complete record of its proceedings, including any written findings issued by the County Legislature or County Executive pursuant to this section. The court may adopt the plan if it finds that the plan substantially complies with the requirements of this section and applicable law, or may remand the matter to the Commission with instructions.

Any plan adopted pursuant to court order shall have the force and effect of law and shall apply to all subsequent elections for the Onondaga County Legislature until a new plan is adopted pursuant to this section.

Report

The Commission shall issue a report that explains the basis on which the Commission made its decisions in achieving compliance with the criteria listed above and shall include: definitions of the terms and standards used in drawing the final plan; identification of communities of interest recognized by the Commission and an explanation of how the proposed boundaries minimize division of those communities; a criterion-by-criterion compliance narrative; and written findings whenever a lower-priority criterion was subordinated to a higher-priority criterion, including a description of alternatives considered.

#### Failure to Adopt a Plan

If the Commission does not adopt a final plan by the dates in this section, the Law Department for the County of Onondaga shall immediately petition state court for an order prescribing the boundary lines of the single-member districts in accordance with the redistricting criteria and requirements set forth in this section. The plan prescribed by the court shall be used for all subsequent Onondaga County Legislature elections until a final plan is adopted by the Commission and County Legislature to replace it.

#### (g) Effective Date

The provisions of this section shall be effective upon the effective date of the Local Law by which this section was enacted.

#### Section 3. Amendment of Section 2.17 of the Onondaga County Administrative Code

(a) Section 2.17 of the Onondaga County Administrative Code is hereby repealed and replaced with the following paragraph:

“The Reapportionment Committee shall be appointed consistent with Section 207 of the Onondaga County Charter, and reapportionment shall be conducted consistent with Section 207 of the Onondaga County Charter.”

#### Section 4. Application

This Local Law shall apply to the initial reapportionment process conducted in 2027 pursuant to Section 9 of this Local Law, and to all subsequent decennial redistricting cycles commencing on and after January 1, 2031.

#### Section 5. Severability

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or part of this Local Law, or the application thereof to any person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity, or circumstance, shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision,

section, or part of this Local Law, or in its application to the person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity, or circumstance, directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or order shall be rendered.

#### Section 6. Preservation of Existing Charter Provisions

Except as specifically amended herein, Section 207 of the Onondaga County Charter, being Local Law No. 1 of 1961, as amended, shall remain in full force and effect.

#### Section 7. Effective Date

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon approval of the electors of Onondaga County.

#### Section 8. Submission to Electors

(a) This Local Law shall be submitted to the electors of Onondaga County at the next general election occurring on November 3, 2026.

(b) Proposition. The form of the proposition to be submitted to the electors of Onondaga County at the next general election shall be as follows:

i. Descriptive Title.

“Creating an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission, Ensuring Fair Onondaga County Legislature District Maps”

ii. Ballot Proposal Text Summary: “Creates a new independent citizens commission to redraw Onondaga County legislative districts, promoting a fair, transparent, and representative redistricting process.”

(c) Voting

Voting “Yes” creates an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission as proposed by this local law and authorizes amending the Onondaga County Charter consistent therewith.

Voting “No” keeps the current redistricting process unchanged.

#### Section 9. Initial Implementation (2027)

Notwithstanding any provision of this Local Law to the contrary, an initial Commission shall be established in the year 2027 and shall follow, to the maximum extent practicable, the same dates, timelines, procedures, and requirements set forth in this Local Law for years ending in one (1) and two (2). All references in this Local Law to years ending in one (1) or two (2) shall, for purposes of the initial Commission established in 2027, be deemed to apply to the

corresponding dates and deadlines within the 2027 calendar year. Following completion of the initial Commission and adoption of a final reapportionment plan, all subsequent Commissions shall be established and conducted strictly in accordance with the timelines and procedures set forth in this Local Law.

#### Section 10. Effective Use of District Plan

Any reapportionment plan adopted pursuant to this Local Law shall take effect for the first regular election of members of the Onondaga County Legislature occurring after adoption of such plan and shall not apply to any election for which the candidate petitioning period has already commenced.

LOCAL LAW NO. \_\_\_\_\_ – 2026

A LOCAL LAW TO PROHIBIT DEMONSTRATING WITHIN TEN (10) FEET OF ANOTHER PERSON ENTERING OR LEAVING A PLACE OF RELIGIOUS WORSHIP AND NOT WITHIN THIRTY-FIVE (35) FEET OF AN ENTRANCE THERETO

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

Section 1. Title.

This local law shall be known as the Places of Worship Protection Act.

Section 2. Purpose.

The County of Onondaga finds that individuals have a right to practice their religion and to safely travel to and from religious institutions without physical obstruction, interference, intimidation, or risk of injury.

The County of Onondaga further finds that public safety and the right to religious freedom are threatened when demonstrators enter or remain in close proximity to individuals attempting to enter or leave places of religious worship.

Therefore, the primary purpose of this law is to protect public safety and the right to religious freedom by ensuring that demonstrators exercising their right to free speech be prohibited from demonstrating within thirty-five (35) feet of the entrance or driveway of a place of religious worship, and approaching, threatening, or blocking the path of any person within ten (10) feet while that person is entering or leaving a Place of Religious Worship.

Section 3. Definitions.

For the purposes of this law, the terms below are defined as follows:

- (1) “Driveway” shall mean an entry from a public street to any parking lot in which the Place of Religious Worship has an ownership, easement, leasehold, or other property right or interest.
- (2) “Entrance Area” shall mean any doorway, threshold, entryway, gate, ramp, or other point of ingress and/or egress to a Place of Religious Worship.
- (3) “Place of Religious Worship” shall mean any church, mosque, synagogue, temple, or other building or location primarily used for religious worship, religious education, or religious services.

Section 4. Prohibited Conduct.

After receiving a verbal, written, or other instruction, warning, or order from any police officer, as defined in New York Criminal Procedure Law Section 1.20, within Onondaga County:

- (1) It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly approach an individual within ten (10) feet, while that individual is entering or leaving a Place of Religious Worship and without such individual's expressed consent, for the purpose of demonstrating, picketing, protesting, distributing literature, displaying signs, engaging in oral advocacy, or other forms of expressive or symbolic conduct, whether conducted individually or in groups. This prohibition shall apply within one hundred (100) feet from the Entrance Area of any Place of Religious Worship beginning one (1) hour before the scheduled start of any religious service, community meeting, ceremony, or other congregational, educational, or organizational meeting or event, and ending one hour after the conclusion of any religious service, community meeting, ceremony, or other congregational, educational, or organizational meeting or event.
- (2) It shall be unlawful for any person to demonstrate, picket, protest, distribute literature, display signs, engage in oral advocacy, or other forms of expressive or symbolic conduct, whether conducted individually or in groups, within thirty-five (35) feet of the Entrance Area of Driveway of a Place of Religious Worship beginning one (1) hour before the scheduled start of any religious service, community meeting, ceremony, or other congregational, educational, or organizational meeting or event and ending one hour after the conclusion of any religious service, community meeting, ceremony, or other congregational, education, or organizational meeting or event.

Section 5. Penalties.

Any person who violates any provision of this law shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00), or imprisonment of not more than one year, or both.

Section 6. Severability.

If any section, subdivision, clause, paragraph, sentence, or part of this law, or the application thereof, shall be rendered by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, and shall be confined in its operation to the section, subdivision, clause, paragraph, sentence, or part of this law, or the application thereof, specific to the controversy in which such court order or judgment is rendered.

Section 7. SEQRA Determination.

This County Legislature determines that this local law constitutes a Type II action pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act, and that no further action thereunder is required.

Section 8. Effective Date.

This local law shall be filed pursuant to the provisions of Municipal Home Rule Law, and shall take effect immediately upon filing.