

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: "Modifying the process for filling vacancies in the Onondaga County Legislature to replace appointment by the County Executive with appointment by the County Legislature through a majority vote, with such vacancies to be filled by election at the next general election for the remainder of the term."

(c) Voting.

Voting “Yes” replaces appointment solely by the County Executive with appointment by the County Legislature through a majority vote, with the seat then being up for election in the next possible election year to fill legislative vacancies.

Voting “No” leaves the current appointment process in place.

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.