

LOCAL LAW NO. ____ - 2026

AMENDING THE ONONDAGA COUNTY CHARTER AND ONONDAGA COUNTY
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE TO ESTABLISH TERM LIMITS FOR THE OFFICE OF THE
ONONDAGA COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND THE OFFICE OF THE ONONDAGA COUNTY
COMPTROLLER

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

Section 1. Purpose.

To amend the Onondaga County Charter and the Administrative Code to limit the number of consecutive terms that a person may serve as County Executive, and to limit the number of consecutive terms that a person may serve as County Comptroller.

A local law establishing term limits for the offices of the Onondaga County Executive and the Onondaga County Comptroller was passed by a majority vote of the Onondaga County Legislature at the July 7, 2026 session. The County Executive held a duly noticed public hearing on July 15, 2026 prior to deciding on the local law. The County Executive is of the opinion that the local law was vetoed. The majority of the County Legislature are of the opinion that the local law was approved. These positions are central to the dispute that has been in litigation. The County Executive and the County Legislature were poised to intervene in that litigation. In an effort to advance the best interests of the County and to resolve the dispute, the parties to that lawsuit, the County Executive, and the County Legislature agreed by a Stipulation in which this Local Law is introduced, voted on by the County Legislature, and presented to the County Executive, to render the prior local law supplanted by this Local Law.

Section 2. Onondaga County Charter Amendments.

- (a) The Onondaga County Charter, being Local Law No. 1 of 1961, as amended, hereby is further amended to add the following final paragraph to Section 301:

Section 301. THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE; ELECTION; TERM; QUALIFICATIONS.

Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in this Charter or the Administrative Code, no person shall serve as County Executive for more than three (3) consecutive four-year terms. Years served prior to January 1, 2031 shall not be counted in calculating the number of consecutive terms the County Executive has served. Service for a partial term for County Executive shall not be counted in calculating the three (3) consecutive four-year terms.

Matters in italics are new, to be added.

- (b) The Onondaga County Charter, being Local Law No. 1 of 1961, as amended, hereby is further amended to add the following final paragraph to Section 501:

Section 501. DEPARTMENT OF AUDIT AND CONTROL; COMPTROLLER; ELECTION;
AUDITOR'S ACT REPEALED.

Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in this Charter or the Administrative Code, no person shall serve as County Comptroller for more than three (3) consecutive four-year terms. Years served prior to January 1, 2031 shall not be counted in calculating the number of consecutive

terms the County Comptroller has served. Service for a partial term for County Comptroller shall not be counted in calculating the three (3) consecutive four-year terms.

Matters in italics are new, to be added.

Section 3. Onondaga County Charter Amendments.

- (a) The Onondaga County Charter, being Local Law No. 1 of 1961, as amended, hereby is further amended to add the following final paragraph to Section 301:

Section 301. THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE; ELECTION; TERM; QUALIFICATIONS.

Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in this Charter or the Administrative Code, no person shall serve as County Executive for more than four (4) consecutive four-year terms. Years served prior to January 1, 2031 shall not be counted in calculating the number of consecutive terms the County Executive has served. Service for a partial term for County Executive shall not be counted in calculating the four (4) consecutive four-year terms.

Matters in italics are new, to be added.

- (b) The Onondaga County Charter, being Local Law No. 1 of 1961, as amended, hereby is further amended to add the following final paragraph to Section 501:

Section 501. DEPARTMENT OF AUDIT AND CONTROL; COMPTROLLER; ELECTION; AUDITOR'S ACT REPEALED.

Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in this Charter or the Administrative Code, no person shall serve as County Comptroller for more than four (4) consecutive four-year terms. Years served prior to January 1, 2031 shall not be counted in calculating the number of consecutive terms the County Comptroller has served. Service for a partial term for County Comptroller shall not be counted in calculating the four (4) consecutive four-year terms.

Matters in italics are new, to be added.

Section 4. Onondaga County Administrative Code Amendment.

The Onondaga County Administrative Code, being Local Law No. 1 of 1975, as amended, is hereby further amended to add the following final sentence to the end of the first paragraph of Section 5.01:

Section 5.01. DEPARTMENT OF AUDIT AND CONTROL; COMPTROLLER; ELECTION; TERM; QUALIFICATIONS.

The Comptroller shall serve subject to the conditions and for the term prescribed in Section 501 of the Charter.

Matters in italics are new, to be added.

Section 5. Submission to Electors.

This Local Law shall be submitted for the approval of the electors of Onondaga County at the November 2026 general election, in accordance with applicable law.

There shall be two propositions, as set forth herein, to be voted upon at such election. Such propositions shall be separately and consecutively numbered.

Section 6. Proposition 1.

The form of the proposition to be submitted to the electors of Onondaga County shall be as follows:

(a) Descriptive Title:

ESTABLISHING THREE CONSECUTIVE FOUR-YEAR TERM LIMITS FOR COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND COUNTY COMPTROLLER.

(b) Ballot Proposal Text Summary: “Establishing a term limit of three (3) consecutive four-year terms for the office of County Executive and the office of County Comptroller.”

(c) Voting: Voting “Yes” sets term limits of three consecutive four-year terms for the office of County Executive and the office of County Comptroller. Voting “No” leaves the offices without term limits.

Section 7. Proposition 2.

The form of the proposition to be submitted to the electors of Onondaga County shall be as follows:

(a) Descriptive Title:

ESTABLISHING FOUR CONSECUTIVE FOUR-YEAR TERM LIMITS FOR COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND COUNTY COMPTROLLER.

(b) Ballot Proposal Text Summary: “Establishing a term limit of four (4) consecutive four-year terms for the office of County Executive and the office of County Comptroller.”

(c) Voting: Voting “Yes” sets term limits of four consecutive four-year terms for the office of County Executive and the office of County Comptroller. Voting “No” leaves the offices without term limits.

Section 8. Repealer.

Provided that Proposition 1 and Proposition 2 each receive a majority vote of approval by the electors of Onondaga County at the general election, the proposition that receives the largest number of affirmative votes shall prevail.

If Proposition 1 prevails: Section 3 of this Local Law shall be automatically repealed without further action by the County Legislature and the County Executive.

If Proposition 2 prevails: Section 2 of this Local Law shall be automatically repealed without further action by the County Legislature and the County Executive.

Section 9. 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 effect, 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 10. Effective Date.

 This Local Law shall take effect upon filing pursuant to the provisions of Municipal Home Rule Law.