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STATE OF NEW YORK
SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF ONONDAGA

DUSTIN CZARNY, as Democratic Commissioner of the Onondaga County Board of Elections,

Petitioner,

vs.

KEVIN RYAN, as Republican Commissioner of the Onondaga County Board of Elections,

Respondent.

VERIFIED PETITION

Index No. _____

For an Order, pursuant to Article 78 of the CPLR, compelling Respondent to place Certified Local Law No. ___-2026, entitled "Amending the Onondaga County Charter to Impose a Term Limit on the Office of County Executive and Comptroller," as a proposition on the official ballots to be used at the next general election to be held November 3, 2026.

Petitioner, DUSTIN CZARNY, as Democratic Commissioner of the Onondaga County Board of Elections, by and through his attorneys, Smith, Sovik, Kendrick & Sugnet, P.C., as and for a Verified Petition against Respondent, KEVIN RYAN, as Republican Commissioner of the Onondaga County Board of Elections, in accordance with CPLR Article 78, respectfully alleges and states the following:

1. In this case, Respondent, KEVIN RYAN, has acted unreasonably and beyond the scope of his *ministerial* (non-discretionary) role as Republican

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Commissioner of the Onondaga County Board of Elections, in refusing to place Local Law No. ___-2026, entitled "Amending the Onondaga County Charter to Impose a Term Limit on the Office of County Executive and Comptroller" (hereinafter referred to simply as "Local Law"), on the ballot for the November 3, 2026 general election.

2. Notably, Respondent came to the determination not to include the Local Law on the ballot through an act of personal discretion and political motivation, even though nothing in Election Law § 4-108 permits a board of elections commissioner to act in a discretionary or arbitrary manner.

3. Further, and even more notably, Respondent came to the determination to keep the Local Law off the ballot despite the fact the law was passed by the County Legislature, was approved by the County Executive, and was transmitted to the Board of Elections in accordance with requirements of Election Law § 4-108.

4. When the requirements of Election Law § 4-108 are satisfied, a board of elections is to perform its ministerial duty of placing the proposal, proposition, or referendum on the ballot for the upcoming election. Nothing in the law allows a commissioner to exercise his discretion, judgment or potential bias regarding whether to place a proposal, proposition, or referendum on the ballot.

5. For these reasons, Petitioner respectfully requests that this Court issue an Order compelling Respondent to place the Local Law on the official ballot to be used at the next general election to be held November 3, 2026.

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6. Time is of the essence as to this issue, because the Onondaga County Board of Elections ("Board") must comply with the following deadlines in connection with the November 3, 2026 general election:

- September 10, 2026
  - Pursuant to Election Law § 4-114. **Determination of candidates and questions; county board of elections**,

    "The county board of elections, *not later than the fifty-fourth day* before the day of a primary or general election, […], shall determine […] the questions that shall appear on the ballot within the jurisdiction of that board of elections." (*Emphasis* added).
- September 18, 2026
  - Pursuant to Election Law § 10-108. **Military voters; distribution of ballots to**,

    "(1)(a) Ballots for military voters shall be mailed or otherwise distributed by the board of elections, […], as soon as practicable but in any event *not later than forty-six days* before a primary or general election […]." (*Emphasis* added).
  - Pursuant to Election Law § 11-204. **Processing of applications by board of elections**,

    > (4) If the board of elections shall determine that the applicant making the application provided for in this section is qualified to receive and vote a special federal ballot, it shall, as soon as practicable after it shall have

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> so determined, or *not later than forty-six days* before each general or primary election or special election in which such applicant is qualified to vote, or three days after receipt of such an application, whichever is later, mail to him or her at the residence address outside the United States shown in his or her application, a special federal ballot […]. (*Emphasis* added).

PARTIES, JURISDICTION, VENUE

7. Petitioner, DUSTIN CZARNY, is the Democratic Commissioner of the Onondaga County Board of Elections.

8. Respondent, KEVIN RYAN, is the Republican Commissioner of the Onondaga County Board of Elections.

9. This Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to CPLR Article 3 and CPLR Article 78.

10. Onondaga County is an appropriate venue for this proceeding pursuant to CPLR 506 and CPLR 7804.

EXHIBIT LIST

11. The following Exhibits are attached to this Verified Petition:

Exhibit "1" Transmittal of Certified Local Law No. ___-2026 (Term Limits on the Offices of County Executive and County Comptroller) Pursuant to Election Law § 4-108(1)(b);

Exhibit "2" Original, adopted Local Law No. ___-2026, as certified by the Clerk of the Onondaga County Legislature;

Exhibit "3" Report of the Onondaga County Executive Ryan McMahon, confirming Mr. McMahon's approval of Local Law No. ___-2026;

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Exhibit "4" Affirmation of Petitioner Dustin Czarny;

Exhibit "4-A" Email Chain titled "Public Hearing – Term Limit on CE & Comptroller", with attachments, including County Executive McMahon's purported veto;

Exhibit "4-B" Email Chain titled "Official Transmittal of Certified Local Law No. ___-2026 (Term Limits) – Electronic and Hand Delivery to Follow;

Exhibit "5" Certified copy of Local Law No. ___-2026, as certified by the Clerk of the Onondaga County Legislature, in accordance with Election Law § 4-108(1)(c); and

Exhibit "6" Abstract of Proposition Number [X]: Term Limits for County Executive and County Comptroller.

Exhibit "7" Affirmation Of Hassina K. Adams, Clerk Onondaga County Legislature

BACKGROUND

12. This proceeding arises out of the following circumstances surrounding the Local Law.

13. On July 7, 2026, the Local Law was duly passed and adopted by the Onondaga County Legislature. Exhs. **"1"** and **"2"**.

14. Soon thereafter, the Local Law was presented to Onondaga County Executive Ryan McMahon ("County Executive McMahon") for his approval, in accordance with County Charter § 210. Exh. **"1"**.

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15. On July 15, 2026, at 9:00 A.M., the County Executive held a public hearing in the Conference Room of the Office of the County Executive to consider the approval of the Local Law, pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law § 20(5). Exh. **"3"**.

16. Following the public hearing, County Executive McMahon signed a document titled "Report of the County Executive," approving the adoption of the Local Law. *Id.* Exh. **"3".**

17. On July 15, 2026, at 11:38 A.M., the County Executive communicated his approval of the Local Law to the County Legislature. That is, July A. Fougnier, Executive Secretary and Assistant FOIL RAO with the Onondaga County Department of Law, forwarded an email to Hassina K. Adams, Clerk of the Onondaga County Legislature, containing an electronic copy of the signed document *approving* the Local Law, along with the report and minutes of the public hearing regarding same. Exhs. **"1" & "7"**.

18. Spencer Berg, Deputy Clerk of the Onondaga County Legislature, confirmed the Clerk's receipt of the County Executive's approval of the Local Law by sending a confirming email at 11:50 A.M., to Fougnier. *Id.*

19. At 11:57 A.M., the Office of the Onondaga County Legislature received a second email from Ms. Fougnier with a purported veto of the Local Law attached. *Id.*

20. Sometime later, the Office of the Onondaga County Legislature received two manila envelopes, hand-delivered at the same time. *Id.*

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21. The first envelope opened by Clerk Adams contained the County Executive's signed approval of the Local Law, along with the minutes of the public hearing and the sign-in sheet of speakers. *Id.*

22. The second envelope opened by Clerk Adams, contained the County Executive's purported veto of the Local law. *Id.*

23. Because the County Executive's unequivocal approval of the Local Law was received by the Clerk of the County Legislature before the subsequent purported veto, the approval was *deemed operative and controlling*. As such, the purported veto that was subsequently received was a legal nullity. Exh. **"1"**.

24. On July 17, 2026, pursuant to Election Law § 4-108(1)(b), Clerk Adams emailed and personally delivered transmittal of the Local Law to the Onondaga County Board of Elections for its placement on the ballot. Exhs. **"1"** and **"4"**.

25. Both Petitioner and Respondent, as the Democratic and Republican Election Commissioners, received the transmittal from Clerk Adams. Exh. **"4"**.

26. Although the Local Law was legitimately passed by the County Legislature, approved by the County Executive, and properly transmitted to the Board of Elections for placement on the ballot, Respondent announced he would be sending an email rejecting the transmittal. *Id.*

27. Petitioner announced he would be sending an email accepting the transmittal, given that it was timely and in satisfaction of Election Law § 4-108. *Id.*

28. Respondent and Petitioner sent their respective emails. *Id.*

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29. Under the applicable law, the Commissioners of the Board of Elections are duty-bound to place the Local Law on the ballot, regardless of their personal beliefs or political wishes.

30. Now, Petitioner brings this timely proceeding to respectfully request an Order from this Court compelling Respondent to place Certified Local Law No. ___-2026, entitled "Amending the Onondaga County Charter to Impose a Term Limit on the Office of County Executive and Comptroller," as a proposition on the official ballot to be used at the next general election to be held on November 3, 2026.

LEGAL STANDARD

31. CPLR Article 78 allows for a proceeding to be brought against an officer, to challenge his action. Questions that may be raised under Article 78 are:

> 1. whether the body or officer failed to perform a duty enjoined upon it by law; or
>
> […]
>
> 3. whether a determination was made in violation of lawful procedure, was affected by an error of law or was arbitrary and capricious or an abuse of discretion, including abuse of discretion as to the measure or mode of penalty or discipline imposed[…].

CPLR 7803.

32. It is hornbook law that a mandamus to compel can be used to compel a purely ministerial act, like the one in question here. *See Eck v. Mayor and Trustees of Vil. of Attica*, 28 A.D.3d 1195, 1196 (4th Dept 2006). "Under CPLR 7803 (1), the petitioner 'must have a clear legal right to the relief demanded and there must exist a corresponding nondiscretionary duty on the part of the administrative agency to

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grant that relief.'" *Id.* The duty in question here, whether to place the Local Law proposition on the ballot, is clearly a ministerial, nondiscretionary duty.

33. Public Officers Law § 73(1)(d) provides that a ministerial act is "an administrative act carried out in a prescribed manner not allowing for substantial personal discretion." The Second Restatement of Torts specifies that "[m]inisterial acts are those done by officers and employees who are required to carry out the orders of others or to administer the law with little choice as to when, where, how or under what circumstances their acts are to be done." Restatement (Second) of Torts § 895D (1979). Examples of ministerial acts include **"the preparation of ballots**, the registration of voters, the recording of documents and filing of papers, [etc]." *Id.* (**emphasis** added). Without question, "the duties of the Commissioners of the Board of Elections are **strictly ministerial**." *Lenihan v. Blackwell*, 209 A.D.2d 1048, 1049 (4th Dept 1994) (referencing *Matter of Lindgren,* 232 N.Y. 59; *Matter of Lucariello v Commissioners of Chautauqua County Bd. of Elections,* 148 A.D.2d 1012, 1012-1013, *lv denied* 73 N.Y.2d 707) (**emphasis** added).

34. Because the act of putting the Local Law on the ballot is purely ministerial, this Court may compel the Respondent to place the Local Law on the ballot.

ARGUMENT

I. THE OFFICE OF THE ONONDAGA COUNTY LEGISLATURE PROPERLY DEEMED THE SUBJECT LOCAL LAW ADOPTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ONONDAGA COUNTY CHARTER § 210

35. The Onondaga County Charter § 210 ("Charter § 210") states:

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> The county executive shall have power, within ten (10) days after its passage, to veto any local law passed by the county legislature. A duplicate of every local law shall be certified by the clerk of the county legislature and filed by the said clerk with the county executive within (5) days after its passage. **If the county executive approves it, he shall sign it and return it to such clerk and it shall be deemed to be adopted.** If he vetoes it, he shall return it to such clerk and must set forth his written objections thereto and the clerk shall present the same with such objections to the county legislature at its next regular or special meeting and such objections shall be entered in its Journal. The county legislature within forty-five (45) days after its return to the clerk may by a two-thirds vote of the whole number of its members, override such veto. Only one vote shall be had to override such veto which vote shall be taken by roll call and entered in the Journal. If within ten (10) days after its passage the county executive shall not return it either approved or vetoed to the clerk, it shall be deemed to be adopted with like effect as if he had approved and signed it.

Charter § 210 speaks for itself and demonstrates, unequivocally, the merits of Petitioner's claim, e.g., once the County Executive approved the Local Law, ***signed it and returned it to the Clerk of the County Legislature, it was deemed adopted***. Indeed, § 210 also shows that once the County Executive transmitted the executed approval of the Local Law, he fulfilled his role, and further handling of the law was transferred back to the County Legislature. Charter § 210 states that "[i]f the county executive approves [a local law], he shall sign it and return it to such clerk and it shall be deemed to be adopted." Thus, the Local Law was deemed adopted and became irrefutably effective at the exact moment the operative document was received by the Clerk of the County Legislature. The County Executive's attempted "veto" seven minutes later, at 11:57 A.M., therefore, was without legal effect.

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II. RESPONDENT SHOULD BE COMPELLED TO PERFORM HIS MINISTERIAL DUTIES UNDER ELECTION LAW § 4-108

36. Election Law § 4-108 outlines the certification process of proposed amendments and questions that are to be submitted to a vote. More specifically, Election Law § 4-108(1)(b) provides:

> Whenever any proposal, proposition or referendum as provided by law is to be submitted to a vote of the people of a county, city, town, village or special district, at an election conducted by the board of elections, the clerk of such political subdivision, at least three months prior to the general election at which such proposal, proposition or referendum is to be submitted, shall transmit to each board of elections a certified copy of the text of such proposal, proposition or referendum and a statement of the form in which it is to be submitted. If a special election is to be held, such transmittal shall also give the date of such election.

37. The formatting requirements in which a proposal, proposition, or referendum is to be transmitted to the Board are outlined in Election Law §§ 4-108(1)(c)-(2). Once transmittal is completed consistent with the Election Law, the Commissioners have **a legal duty** to place the proposition on the ballot.

38. Nothing in Election Law § 4-108 permits a board of elections commissioner to act in an arbitrary or discretionary manner. Rather, when the requirements of Election Law § 4-108 are satisfied by the relevant clerk, here the Clerk of the Onondaga County Legislature, the Board is to act in accordance with its ministerial role and place the proposal, proposition, or referendum on the ballot for the upcoming election.

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39. In the subject circumstances, Clerk Adams transmitted the Local Law to the Board of Election in accordance with requirements of Election Law § 4-108. Exh. **"1"**.

40. *First*, pursuant to Election Law § 4-108(1)(b), Clerk Adams transmitted a certified copy of the Local Law via email and personal delivery to the Board of Elections more than three months prior to the November 3, 2026 general election. Exhs. **"1"** and **"5"**.

41. *Second*, pursuant to prior practice of the County Legislature's Office, an abstract of the proposition was prepared as a courtesy and transmitted to the Board for its use or reference. Exh. **"6"**; *see also* Election Law § 4-108(1)(d).

42. *Third*, the form of the proposition consisting of the (1) descriptive title, (2) text summary of the ballot proposal, and (3) statement of the meaning of a YES or NO vote, fully satisfied the requirements of Election Law § 4-108(2). Exhs. **"2"** and **"5"**.

43. Furthermore, Clerk Adams' transmittal of the certified Local Law included a request that the Board assign the subject proposition a number, as required by Election Law § 4-108(2). Exh. **"1"**.

44. Given that Clerk Adams acted within her official capacity as Clerk of the Onondaga County Legislature and the transmittal of the certified Local Law was done to full satisfaction of the relevant subsections of Election Law § 4-108, which Respondent does not and cannot dispute, the Board was, and is, required to act in furtherance of Election Law § 4-108. That is to say, the Board was, and is, obligated

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to assign a number to the proposition and subsequently place the proposition on the official ballot of the November 3, 2026 general election.

45. The Board's role, and thus each Election Commissioner's role, in assigning a number and placing the proposition on the ballot is purely ministerial, not discretionary.

46. For Respondent to refuse to place the proposition on the ballot based on his sole and arbitrary discretion is improper and beyond the scope of Respondent's ministerial role as Republican Commissioner of the Board.

47. The undisputed facts demonstrate that (1) pursuant to Charter § 120, the County Legislature's Office acted appropriately in deeming the Local Law adopted, and (2) pursuant to Election Law § 4-108, the County Legislature's Office properly and timely transmitted the adopted Local Law to the Board, requiring the Board to place the proposition on the November 3, 2026 ballot without argument or hesitation.

48. Section 895D of the Second Restatement of Torts states that "[m]inisterial acts[, such as the preparation of ballots,] are those done by officers and employees who are required to carry out the orders of others or to administer the law **with little choice as to** when, where, how or **under what circumstances their acts are to be done**." (**Emphasis** added). Respondent cannot inject his personal beliefs into his role and duties; he is to simply do as directed by others and the law.

49. "The duties of the Commissioners of the Board of Elections are **strictly ministerial**." *Lenihan*, 209 A.D.2d at 1049 (**emphasis** added). As Republican

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Commissioner of the Board, Respondent is simply required to perform his ministerial duty of placing the properly transmitted, adopted Local Law on the ballot, as part of the general election ballot preparations. Disputes and arguments about what may or may not have happened regarding the Local Law after it was passed by the County Legislature, unequivocally approved by the County Executive, and transmitted to the Board for placement on the ballot have no bearing on Respondent's legal obligation to place the Local Law on the ballot.

50. Under the present circumstances, Respondent, just like Petitioner, should only be concerned with whether or not the transmittal of the adopted Local Law by the County Legislature's Office to the Board fully complied with Election Law § 4-108. Any personal discretion or political motivation must be set aside because they have no bearing on the Respondent's limited and ministerial role.

51. For Respondent, as Republican Commissioner of the Board, to ignore the County Executive's clear and unequivocal approval of the Local Law, in light of a subsequent purported veto by said Republican County Executive, can only be seen as a politically convenient act to silence the voice of the people of Onondaga County.

52. The Local Law was passed, approved and properly transmitted to the Board of Elections. The issue of terms limits for the offices of County Executive and County Comptroller must now go to the people of Onondaga County for a vote, and the Respondent should not be permitted to thwart that process.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner, DUSTIN CZARNY, as Democratic Commissioner of the Onondaga County Board of Elections, respectfully requests an Order

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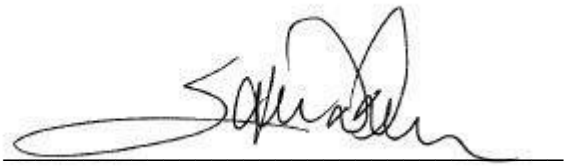
compelling Respondent to place Certified Local Law No. ___-2026, entitled "Amending the Onondaga County Charter to Impose a Term Limit on the Office of County Executive and Comptroller," as a proposition the official ballot to be used at the next general election to be held November 3, 2026, along with such further relief as this Court deems fair, justice, and equitable pursuant to Article 78 of the CPLR.

DATED: August 5, 2026

SMITH, SOVIK, KENDRICK & SUGNET, P.C.



By: _____
Steven W. Williams, Esq.
Kinga Fenikowska, Esq.
Attorneys for Petitioner
DUSTIN CZARNY, AS DEMOCRATIC COMMISSIONER OF THE ONONDAGA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
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VERIFICATION

STATE OF NEW YORK)
COUNTY OF ONONDAGA) ss:

DUSTIN CZARNY, being duly sworn, deposes and says that the deponent is the Petitioner in the within action; that deponent has read the foregoing Petition and know the contents thereof; that the same is true to the deponent's own knowledge, except as to the matters therein stated to be alleged on information and belief, and that as to those matters, the deponent believe it to be true.

_____
DUSTIN CZARNY

Sworn to & subscribed before me
this _____ day of August, 2026.

_____
Notary Public

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EXHIBIT 1

EXHIBIT 1

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Onondaga County Legislature

HASSINA K. ADAMS
Clerk

NICOLE WATTS
Chairwoman

SPENCER BERG
Deputy Clerk

July 17, 2026

Onondaga County Board of Elections
Attn: Commissioner Dustin M. Czarny and
Commissioner Kevin P. Ryan
1000 Erie Boulevard West
Syracuse, New York 13204

Re: Transmittal of Certified Local Law No. ___-2026 (Term Limits for the Offices of County Executive and County Comptroller) Pursuant to Election Law § 4-108(1)(b)

Dear Commissioner Czarny and Commissioner Ryan:

Election Law § 4-108(1)(b) directs the clerk of the political subdivision to transmit to the board of elections a certified copy of the text of any proposal, proposition, or referendum to be submitted to the electorate. I write in my official capacity as Clerk of the Onondaga County Legislature, and on behalf of the Legislature, so empowered and directed, to transmit the enclosed materials regarding Local Law No. ___-2026, entitled "Amending the Onondaga County Charter to Impose a Term Limit on the Office of County Executive and Comptroller" (the "Local Law"), which is to be submitted to the electors of Onondaga County as a proposition at the next general election, occurring November 3, 2026. This letter constitutes the official transmittal of the Local Law to the Board of Elections for that purpose.

The Local Law was duly passed by the Onondaga County Legislature on July 7, 2026, and thereafter presented to the County Executive for approval in accordance with Onondaga County Charter § 210. On July 15, 2026, this office received, opened, and reviewed a signed document, transmitted both electronically and in hard copy by the County Executive's Office, approving the Local Law. Upon that approval and return of the Local Law to this office, the Local Law "shall be deemed to be adopted" within the meaning of Charter § 210. A copy of the County Executive's approval is enclosed as confirmation of adoption.

This office notes that the County Executive's Office has separately transmitted to the Board of Elections correspondence characterizing the Local Law as purportedly vetoed. The validity of that characterization is contested, and this office sets forth the following sequence of events for the Board's complete understanding of the record.

On July 15, 2026, this office received an email at 11:38 A.M. from Judy A. Fougnier, Executive Secretary and Assistant FOIL RAO with the Onondaga County Department of Law, transmitting an electronic copy of the County Executive's signed approval of the Local Law, together with the report and minutes of the public hearing held by the County Executive pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law § 20(5),

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documentation this office has consistently received from the County Executive's Office in connection with previously adopted local laws. The email stated that the "originals will be hand-delivered within a few minutes". The Deputy Clerk responded to that email at 11:50 A.M., confirming this office's receipt.

At 11:57 A.M., seven minutes after this office confirmed receipt of the approval, this office received a second email from the same sender transmitting a purported veto of the Local Law. Consistent with this office's standing practice of processing sequentially received documents in the order in which they arrive, and based on applicable law, this office treated the 11:38 A.M. approval as the operative document.

Subsequently, the County Executive's Office hand-delivered two manila envelopes at the same time. This office opened the envelopes in turn. The first envelope contained the minutes of the public hearing, together with the sign-in sheet of speakers who attended, and a signed report bearing a wet signature and stating, "I hereby approve the adoption of the aforesaid local law." The second envelope contained the County Executive's report setting forth a purported veto message.

For the reasons set forth in the enclosed memorandum of outside counsel, Underberg & Kessler LLP, the Local Law was deemed adopted upon receipt by the Clerk of the County Legislature of the County Executive's approval, pursuant to Charter § 210, and the County Executive's power to act further on the Local Law was thereafter exhausted. Whether considering the sequence of the email transmittals, in which the approval was sent at 11:38 A.M. and the purported veto was sent at 11:57 A.M., or the order in which the hand-delivered envelopes were opened, the County Executive's signed approval of the Local Law was received and opened by this office before the County Executive's purported veto communication was received, opened, or acted upon. The enclosed memorandum is provided so that the Board of Elections has the full record before it in evaluating this transmittal.

Upon receipt of a duly certified transmittal pursuant to Election Law § 4-108(1)(b), the Board's role in placing the referendum on the ballot is ministerial, not discretionary. The statute directs that a certified proposition 'shall' be submitted to the electorate, and this office respectfully submits the enclosed materials in satisfaction of that statutory requirement, and trusts the Board will proceed accordingly.

This transmittal is made not less than three months prior to the November 3, 2026 general election, consistent with the deadline established by Election Law § 4-108(1)(b).

Enclosed please find the following:

1. The original, adopted Local Law No. ___-2026, as certified by the Clerk of the Legislature;
2. A certified copy of the Local Law setting forth all new matter in italics, together with the explanatory legend required by Election Law § 4-108(1)(c), prepared in accordance with that subdivision;
3. Confirmation of the County Executive's approval of the Local Law pursuant to Onondaga County Charter § 210; and
4. An abstract of the proposition. We note that Election Law § 4-108(1)(d) directs that abstracts be prepared by the State Board of Elections in connection with statewide amendments, propositions, or questions submitted under § 4-108(1)(a). No comparable statutory duty appears to apply to a county-level proposition transmitted under § 4-108(1)(b). The enclosed abstract is therefore provided as a courtesy, consistent with this office's prior practice, for the Board's use or reference as it deems appropriate.
5. A memorandum of outside counsel, Underberg & Kessler LLP, addressing the validity and effective date of the Local Law's adoption.

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The statement of the form in which the proposition is to be submitted, comprising the descriptive title, ballot proposal text summary, and statement of the effect of a YES or NO vote, is set forth in Section 4 of the enclosed Local Law, and satisfies the word-count limitations of Election Law § 4-108(2).

As this proposition may appear on the ballot alongside other propositions or questions, we respectfully request that the Board assign the proposition number required by Election Law § 4-108(2), and advise this office of the number assigned at the Board's earliest convenience.

This transmittal, including the enclosed memorandum, is made in my official capacity as Clerk of the Onondaga County Legislature pursuant to Election Law § 4-108(1)(b). This office remains available to provide any further documentation or briefing the Board of Elections may require regarding the adoption and validity of the Local Law.

Should you require any additional information or documentation to process this transmittal, please do not hesitate to contact this office. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Hassina K. Adams, Clerk
Onondaga County Legislature

Enclosures: Five (5)

cc: Nicole Watts, Chairwoman (NicoleWatts@ongov.net)
Nodesia R. Hernandez (NodesiaHernandez@onondaga.gov)
Brian F. May, Minority Leader (BFMay6@yahoo.com)

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EXHIBIT 2

EXHIBIT 2

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LOCAL LAW NO. ___ - 2026

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

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 and Comptroller.

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. Amendment to Section 501 of the Onondaga County Charter.

Section 501 of the Onondaga County Charter, entitled "DEPARTMENT OF AUDIT AND CONTROL; COMPTROLLER; ELECTION; AUDITOR'S ACT REPEALED," 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 comptroller held after January 1, 2027, no person shall be eligible to be elected to or serve as comptroller 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 comptroller held after January 1, 2027, shall not be counted in calculating the number of consecutive terms a comptroller has served. Service for a partial term as comptroller shall not be counted in calculating the three consecutive four-year terms.

Section 4. 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:

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IMPOSING TERM LIMITS ON THE OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND COUNTY COMPTROLLER

(b) Ballot Proposal Text Summary: "Imposing a limit of three (3) consecutive four-year terms on the offices of County Executive and County Comptroller, 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 5. 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 6. 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.

ADOPTED: 7/7/2026

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 7th day of July 2026.

Clerk, County Legislature

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EXHIBIT 3

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County of Onondaga
Office of the County Executive

Brian J. Donnelly
Deputy County Executive

Cydney M. Johnson
Deputy County Executive
Physical Services

J. Ryan McMahon, II
County Executive

John H. Mulroy Civic Center, 14th Floor
421 Montgomery St. Syracuse, NY 13202
Phone: 315.435.3516
www.ongov.net

Ann Rooney
Deputy County Executive
Human Services

Robert M. Petrovich
Deputy County Executive
Economic Development & Planning

July 15, 2026

REPORT OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Pursuant to Article 3, Section 20, of the Municipal Home Rule Law, a public hearing was held on **July 15, 2026, at 9:00 AM** in the Conference Room of the Onondaga County Executive, Syracuse, New York, to consider the local law adopted **July 7, 2026,** entitled **"A LOCAL LAW AMENDING THE ONONDAGA COUNTY CHARTER TO IMPOSE A TERM LIMIT ON THE OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND COMPTROLLER".**

This Local Law was duly presented and the publication and posting of notice of public hearing were duly made according to law. Proof of such posting and publication is on file in the Office of the County Attorney.

I hereby approve the adoption of the aforesaid local law.

Respectfully submitted,

COUNTY OF ONONDAGA

By:

J. Ryan McMahon, II
County Executive

JRMcM

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Exhibit 4

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STATE OF NEW YORK
SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF ONONDAGA

DUSTIN CZARNY, as Democratic Commissioner of the Onondaga County Board of Elections,

Petitioner,

vs.

KEVIN RYAN, as Republican Commissioner of the Onondaga County Board of Elections,

Respondent.

AFFIDAVIT OF PETITIONER DUSTIN CZARNY

Index No. _____

STATE OF NEW YORK)
COUNTY OF ONONDAGA) ss:

DUSTIN CZARNY, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

1. I am the Petitioner in the above-captioned matter and the Democratic Commissioner of the Onondaga County Board of Elections ("Board").

2. On July 7, 2026, Local Law No. ___-2026, entitled "Amending the Onondaga County Charter to Impose a Term Limit on the Office of County Executive and Comptroller" ("Local Law"), was duly passed and adopted by the Onondaga County Legislature.

3. Soon thereafter, the Local Law was presented to Onondaga County Executive Ryan McMahon ("County Executive McMahon") for his approval or veto in accordance with Onondaga County Charter § 210.

4. On or about July 15, 2026, the Onondaga County Department of Law,

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on behalf of the County Executive, sent a document to the County Legislature that evidenced the County Executive's approval of the Local Law. *See* Exh. **"1"** of the Verified Petition. That approval document was personally signed by the County Executive, and it was transmitted to the County Legislature in hard copy form and by electronic means. A copy of that approval document is attached as Exhibit **"3"** to the Verified Petition.

5. In addition to the County Executive forwarding a signed document approving the Local Law on July 15, 2026, he also forwarded to the County Legislature the report and minutes stemming from a public hearing (that was held by the County Executive pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law § 20(5)) regarding the proposed Local Law. *See* Exh. **"1"** of the Verified Petition. The report forwarded by the County Executive stated, "I hereby approve the adoption of the aforesaid local law". *See* Exh. **"3"** of the Verified Petition. The Onondaga County Charter § 210 ("Charter § 210") states, "If the county executive approves it [a proposed law], he shall sign it and return it to such clerk and it shall be deemed to be adopted." Consequently, I am of the understanding the Local Law was formally adopted when the County Executive approved it and communicated that approval to the County Legislature.

6. Subsequently on July 15, 2026, the Onondaga County Department of Law forwarded an email to the County Legislature purporting to veto the Local Law that had been previously approved. *See* Exh. **"1"** of the Verified Petition. Because the law was already deemed adopted under the law, it is my

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understanding that this subsequent purported veto is a nullity.

7. On July 15, 2026, at or about 2:00 P.M., I was informed by Hassina K. Adams, Clerk of the Onondaga County Legislature ("County Legislative Clerk"), of the above detailed facts.

8. On July 15, 2026, at or about 4:30 P.M., I was notified that the Onondaga County Legislature intended to transmit the Local Law to the Board for placement on the ballot.

9. On July 16, 2026, at or about 3:21 P.M., I received an email from Judy A. Fougnier, Executive Secretary and Assistant FOIL RAO with the Onondaga County Department of Law, containing a copy of County Executive McMahon's purported veto. A copy of that email, with Ms. Fougnier's attachments including the purported veto, and subsequent chain of correspondence, is attached as Exhibit **"4-A"**.

10. On July 17, 2026, at or about 8:45 A.M., I replied to Ms. Fougnier – CC'ing Onondaga County Attorney Robert Durr, Respondent Kevin Ryan, as Republican Commissioner of the Onondaga County Board of Elections, and the County Legislative Clerk – letting them know that the Board had not yet received transmittal of the Local Law from the County Legislative Clerk, as is required by Election Law § 4-108. Exh. **"4-A"**.

11. In my email of July 17, 2026, I explained that the only person with authority to transmit the resolution to the Board for placement on the ballot is the County Legislative Clerk. Exh. **"4-A"**. Furthermore, I stated that, based on

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Election Law § 4-108, I had no choice as Election Commissioner but to accept a request from the County Legislative Clerk asking that the Local Law be placed on the ballot, if that request were to be timely made. Exh. **"4-A"**.

12. On July 17, 2026, at or about 9:46 A.M., Respondent replied to my email, stating that he would reject transmittal of the Local Law for placement on the ballot based on the County Executive's purported veto, even though the veto was delivered after the County Executive's unequivocal approval was served. Exh. **"4-A"**.

13. On July 17, 2026, at or about 12:00 P.M., County Legislative Clerk Adams called me, letting me know she intended to transmit the proposition to the Board by email and personal delivery.

14. On July 17, 2026, at or about 12:26 P.M., Respondent and I received an email from Ms. Adams with the proposition regarding the Local Law for placement on the ballot. A copy of that email, and subsequent chain of correspondence, is attached as Exhibit **"4-B"**.

15. Shortly thereafter, Ms. Adams personally delivered the proposition to the Board.

16. Respondent and I received and timestamped the physical transmittal of the proposition together at the Board's counter. At that time, Respondent stated he would be sending an email rejecting the transmittal of the Local Law, given that the purported veto message was not included in the transmittal materials. I indicated that I would be sending an email accepting it.

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17. On July 17, 2026, at or about 1:32 P.M., Respondent and I sent our respective emails. Exh. **"4-B"**. Respondent's email contained his rejection of the transmittal. My email contained my acceptance.

18. Respondent continues to rely on the existence of County Executive McMahon's purported and invalid veto as basis for his refusal to include the Local Law proposition on the ballot.

19. Conversely, I have continued to assert that Election Law § 4-108 gives the Board, and thus both Commissioners, no option but to accept a timely transmittal, such as the one in the immediate circumstances. The law is clear that once a local law is passed by the legislature and approved by the County Executive, the Board must place it on the ballot, regardless of subsequent events. The Election Law guarantees the voters a right to be heard on the matter, and that right cannot be arbitrarily taken from them based on the political whims of an election commissioner.

20. Furthermore, there is no authority under Election Law § 4-108 for one commissioner to unilaterally reject a timely transmittal of a proposition.

21. As election commissioners, Respondent and I have no choice but to perform our ministerial duties as laid out by the Law. In short, our actions are controlled by the Law and not by political gamesmanship. We have a legal duty to place this proposition on the ballot so that the people's voice can be heard.

22. While I fully intend to act appropriately as Commissioner, Respondent has made it clear he will continue to exercise his personal discretion on this issue,

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which is beyond the scope of our ministerial role and the authority afforded to us by Election Law § 4-108.

Dustin Czarny

Sworn to & subscribed before me
this 5th day of August, 2026.

Notary Public

Kevin Zachary Rossetti
Notary Public, State of New York
Reg. No. 01RO0035834
Qualified in Onondaga County
Commission Expires April 7, 2029

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EXHIBIT 4-A

EXHIBIT 4-A

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[redacted]

From: Kevin Ryan <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, 17 July 2026 09:46:40
To: Dustin Czarny <[redacted]>; Judy Fougnier <[redacted]>
Cc: Robert Durr <[redacted]>; Hassina Adams <[redacted]>; Kevin Ryan <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Public Hearing - Term Limit on CE & Comptroller

Thank you for the clarification. To be clear, notwithstanding Commissioner's Czarny's comments, it is a matter of public record that the County Executive has vetoed this legislation and I do not believe that it is appropriate or allowable for this office to accept legislation for placement on the ballot for a referendum under these circumstances. I therefore do not believe that I can agree to its placement on the ballot absent a Court Order or a vote by the County Legislature to override the County Executive's veto.

Kevin P. Ryan
Commissioner of Elections (R)
Onondaga County Board of Elections
1000 Erie Boulevard West
Syracuse, New York 13204
[redacted]

From: Dustin Czarny <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2026 9:26 AM
To: Judy Fougnier <[redacted]>
Cc: Robert Durr <[redacted]>; Hassina Adams <[redacted]>; Kevin Ryan <[redacted]>
Subject: Re: Public Hearing - Term Limit on CE & Comptroller

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One correction. It is the prevailing view of the Democratic side of the Board of Elections. Sorry for the omission.

Dustin M. Czarny

Commissioner of Elections (D)

Onondaga County

[redacted]

www.onvote.net

From: Dustin Czarny <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2026 8:45 AM
To: Judy Fougnier <[redacted]>
Cc: Robert Durr <[redacted]>; Hassina Adams <[redacted]>; Kevin Ryan <[redacted]>
Subject: Re: Public Hearing - Term Limit on CE & Comptroller

Thank you for this information. However, I will remind you that the proper transmission regarding resolutions on the ballot would be from the Clerk of the Country legislature as accordance with NYS Election Law 4-108b as outlined here:

4–108. Certification of proposed constitutional amendments and questions 1. a. Whenever any proposed amendment to the constitution or other question provided by law to be submitted to a statewide vote shall be submitted to the people for their approval, the state board of elections at least three months prior to the general election at which such amendment, proposition or question is to be submitted, shall transmit to each county board of elections a certified copy of the text of each amendment, proposition or question and a statement of the form in which it is to be submitted.
b. Whenever any proposal, proposition or referendum as provided by law is to be submitted to a vote of the people of a county, city, town, village or special district, at an election conducted by the board of elections, the clerk of such political subdivision, at least three months prior to the general election at which such proposal, proposition or referendum is to be submitted, shall transmit to each board of elections a certified copy of the text of such proposal, proposition or referendum and a statement of the form in which it is to be submitted.

I have as of the writing of this email did not receive any such submission. However, if any submission from any clerk of any political subdivision is submitted to our office, my reading of Election Law, and the prevailing opinion of the NYS Board of Elections, as long as it is timely submitted it shall be placed on the ballot. Questions of legal adoption is a matter reserved for court proceedings and judicial review between the Executive and Legislature and it would be improper for the Board of Elections to render decisions on legality as that is not our role.

Thank you

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Dustin M. Czarny

Commissioner of Elections (D)

Onondaga County

[redacted]

www.onvote.net

From: Judy Fougnier <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2026 3:21 PM
To: Kevin Ryan <[redacted]>; Dustin Czarny <[redacted]>
Cc: Robert Durr <[redacted]>
Subject: Public Hearing - Term Limit on CE & Comptroller

Notice of Public Hearing.pdf Hearing Report.pdf Cover Ltr & Veto Message (7-15-26).pdf

Dear Kevin & Dustin,

Attached please find copies of the Notice of Public Hearing, Hearing Report and Cover Ltr w/Veto Message regarding yesterday's public hearing. Thank you. – Judy

Judy A. Fougnier
Executive Secretary and Assistant FOIL RAO
Onondaga County Department of Law
421 Montgomery Street, 10th Floor,
Syracuse, New York 13202
Tel: [redacted]
Fax: [redacted]
[redacted]

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This e-mail is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed and may contain confidential information belonging to the sender which is protected by the attorney-client privilege, caseworker-client privilege or other statutory prohibition against disclosure. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking of any action in reliance on the contents of this information is strictly prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please immediately notify us by telephone to arrange for the return of the document.

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CAUTION: THIS DOCUMENT HAS NOT YET BEEN REVIEWED BY THE COUNTY CLERK. (See below.)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON LOCAL LAW

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that there has been presented to the County Legislature of the County of Onondaga, New York, on **July 7, 2026,** a local law entitled **"A LOCAL LAW AMENDING THE ONONDAGA COUNTY CHARTER TO IMPOSE A TERM LIMIT ON THE OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND COMPTROLLER".**

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Onondaga County Executive will conduct a public hearing pursuant to law on the aforesaid local law at the County Executive's Conference Room, 14th Floor, John H. Mulroy Civic Center, 421 Montgomery Street, Syracuse, New York 13202, on **July 15, 2026, at 9:00 AM,** at which time all persons interested will be heard. A copy of the local law is on file in the Office of the Clerk of the Onondaga County Legislature.

DATED: July 8, 2026.

Judy A. Fougnier, Executive Secretary
Onondaga County Department of Law

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County of Onondaga
Office of the County Executive

Brian J. Donnelly
Deputy County Executive

Cydney M. Johnson
Deputy County Executive
Physical Services

J. Ryan McMahon, II
County Executive

John H. Mulroy Civic Center, 14th Floor
421 Montgomery St. Syracuse, NY 13202
Phone: 315.435.3516
www.ongov.net

Ann Rooney
Deputy County Executive
Human Services

Robert M. Petrovich
Deputy County Executive
Economic Development & Planning

PUBLIC HEARING
IN CONNECTION WITH
"A LOCAL LAW AMENDING THE ONONDAGA COUNTY CHARTER TO IMPOSE A TERM LIMIT ON THE OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND COMPTROLLER".

July 15, 2026, at 9:00 AM
County Executive's Conference Room

The meeting was called to order. The Onondaga County Attorney confirmed that the Notice of Public Hearing and Certification of Posting are on file. All persons present had an opportunity to speak and be heard.

☐ After hearing no speakers, the public hearing was adjourned at _____.

☑ After hearing the speakers listed on the attached sheet, the public hearing was adjourned at 10:08.

Respectfully submitted,

COUNTY OF ONONDAGA

By: _____
Robert A. Durr
County Attorney

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Ann Rooney
Deputy County Executive
Human Services

Robert M. Petrovich
Deputy County Executive
Economic Development & Planning

July 15, 2026

Hassina Adams
Clerk of the Onondaga County Legislature
401 Montgomery Street, Room 407
Syracuse, New York, 13202

RE: Return of Proposed Local Laws

Dear Ms. Adams,

Enclosed with this letter, please find message related to the local law "Amending the Onondaga County Charter to Impose a Term Limit on the Office Of County Executive and Comptroller."

The message contains the justification for the veto. Thank you for your time and attention to these matters.

Respectfully,

J. Ryan McMahon II,
County Executive

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Ann Rooney
Deputy County Executive
Human Services

Robert M. Petrovich
Deputy County Executive
Economic Development & Planning

July 15, 2026

REPORT OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Pursuant to Article 3, Section 20, of the Municipal Home Rule Law, a public hearing was held on July 15, 2026, at 9:00 A.M. in the Offices of the Onondaga County Executive, Syracuse, New York, to consider the local law adopted July 7, 2026, entitled "AMENDING THE ONONDAGA COUNTY CHARTER TO IMPOSE A TERM LIMIT ON THE OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND COMPTROLLER."

After careful consideration, I am vetoing this Local Law because I do not believe it is in the best interests of the residents of Onondaga County.

The Local Law proposes a significant amendment to the Onondaga County Charter affecting eligibility to serve in two countywide elected offices. Measures that alter the qualifications for public office and the choices available to the electorate should be clearly drafted and considered only after a transparent legislative process that affords the public a meaningful opportunity to review and comment on the proposal.

The Local Law was advanced on an expedited timetable that did not provide adequate opportunity for meaningful public review or participation. There were two competing proposals, one for three terms and one for four terms. A motion to postpone the latter evidences the purely political nature of the Local Law.

In a time where political divisions seemingly rule the day, it is imperative that actions as significant as County Charter changes be thoughtfully reviewed, thoroughly discussed and supported by members of both parties. The local law calling for (4) four-year terms for County Executive and County Comptroller showed the greatest degree of bipartisan support and demonstrates there is a pathway forward.

Term limits are a matter of significant public policy, directly affecting the structure of representative government and the ability of voters to choose their elected

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officials. When there are competing proposals addressing such an important issue, the public should have the opportunity to address each option.

A proposal of this consequence warrants careful deliberation, multiple opportunities for public comment, and sufficient time for legislators and the public to evaluate its legal, practical, and policy implications. The abbreviated consideration of this measure did not satisfy those objectives.

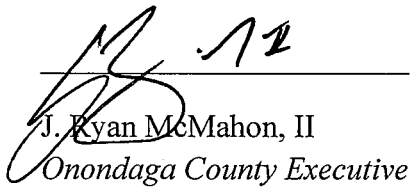
Additionally, the wording of the Local Law lacks clarity regarding its effective date and implementation. Where uncertainty exists regarding the operation or timing of a law that governs eligibility for public office, that uncertainty should be resolved before—not after—enactment.

Sound public policy requires that legislation of this nature be carefully drafted, thoroughly vetted, and clearly understood by those charged with administering it and by the voters whose electoral choices it affects. A deliberate legislative process promotes public confidence and helps avoid unnecessary disputes over interpretation and implementation.

For the foregoing reasons, I hereby veto this Local Law.

.

Respectfully submitted,



J. Ryan McMahon, II
Onondaga County Executive

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EXHIBIT 4-B

EXHIBIT 4-B

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CAUTION: THIS DOCUMENT HAS NOT YET BEEN REVIEWED BY THE COUNTY CLERK. (See below.)

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: Kevin Ryan <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, 17 July 2026 13:32:19
To: Hassina Adams <[redacted]>; Dustin Czarny <[redacted]>
Cc: Nicole Watts <[redacted]>; Nodesia Hernandez <[redacted]>; Brian May <[redacted]>; Spencer Berg <[redacted]>; [redacted]@underbergkessler.com <jzoghlin@underbergkessler.com>; Ryan McMahon <[redacted]>; Isabelle Harris <[redacted]>; Robert Durr <[redacted]>; Tim Burtis <[redacted]>; Kevin Ryan <K[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Official Transmittal of Certified Local Law No. ___-2026 (Term Limits) – Electronic and Hand Delivery to Follow

Ms. Adams – as I indicated to you when these documents were filed in our office, I am aware that the County Executive has conveyed a Veto Memorandum to the County Legislature and has done so within the time period prescribed by §210 of the Onondaga County Charter that was omitted from the documentation presented for filing. Accordingly, while these documents may have been accepted for filing as required by law, in light of the County Executive's veto of this legislation I will not agree to this question being placed on the ballot for a referendum in the general election to be held on November 3, 2026.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Kevin P. Ryan
Commissioner of Elections (R)
Onondaga County Board of Elections
1000 Erie Boulevard West
Syracuse, New York 13204
[redacted]

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CAUTION: THIS DOCUMENT HAS NOT YET BEEN REVIEWED BY THE COUNTY CLERK. (See below.)

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: Dustin Czarny <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, 17 July 2026 13:32:10
To: Hassina Adams <[redacted]>; Kevin Ryan <[redacted]>
Cc: Nicole Watts <[redacted]>; Nodesia Hernandez <[redacted]>; Brian May <[redacted]>; Spencer Berg <[redacted]>; <[redacted]>
Subject: Re: Official Transmittal of Certified Local Law No. ___-2026 (Term Limits) – Electronic and Hand Delivery to Follow

I have reviewed the email documentation and the physical forms dropped off in my office today. I believe this submission satisfies the requirements of Election Law § 4-108(1)(b) and I will accept this as proper. As such I have informed my counterpart that I wish this placed on the November 3rd Ballot.

Dustin M. Czarny

Commissioner of Elections (D)

Onondaga County

[redacted]

www.onvote.net

From: Hassina Adams <[redacted]v>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2026 1:21 PM
To: Dustin Czarny <[redacted]>; Kevin Ryan <[redacted]>
Cc: Nicole Watts <[redacted]>; Nodesia Hernandez <[redacted]>; Brian May <[redacted]>; Spencer Berg <[redacted]>; <[redacted]>
Subject: Re: Official Transmittal of Certified Local Law No. ___-2026 (Term Limits) – Electronic and Hand Delivery to Follow

Thank you. We will preserve this receipt for our records.

Kind regards,
Hassina K. Adams

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Clerk
Onondaga County
Legislature
o. [redacted]
@onondagalegislature

From: Dustin Czarny <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2026 12:42 PM
To: Hassina Adams <[redacted]>; Kevin Ryan <[redacted]>
Cc: Nicole Watts <[redacted]>; Nodesia Hernandez <[redacted]>; Brian May <[redacted]>; Spencer Berg <[redacted]>; <[redacted]>
Subject: Re: Official Transmittal of Certified Local Law No. ___-2026 (Term Limits) – Electronic and Hand Delivery to Follow

Here is the timestamped receipt of your submission.

Dustin M. Czarny

Commissioner of Elections (D)

Onondaga County

[redacted]

www.onvote.net

From: Hassina Adams <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2026 12:26 PM
To: Dustin Czarny <[redacted]>; Kevin Ryan <[redacted]>
Cc: Nicole Watts <[redacted]>; Nodesia Hernandez <[redacted]>; Brian May <[redacted]>; Spencer Berg <[redacted]>; <[redacted]>
Subject: Official Transmittal of Certified Local Law No. ___-2026 (Term Limits) – Electronic and Hand Delivery to Follow

Dear Commissioner Czarny and Commissioner Ryan:

Please find attached the official transmittal of Local Law No. ___-2026 (Term Limits for the Offices of County Executive and County Comptroller), sent pursuant to Election Law § 4-108(1)(b), along with the enclosures referenced in the accompanying cover letter.

In addition to this email, I will personally hand-deliver three sealed envelopes containing the same documents to your office today. This electronic transmittal and the hand delivery together constitute the official transmittal required under Election Law § 4-108(1)(b).

Please let me know if you have any questions in the meantime. I look forward to delivering the materials in person shortly.

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Kind regards,
Hassina K. Adams
Clerk
P. [redacted]

Onondaga County Legislature
401 Montgomery St.,
Courthouse Room #407
Syracuse, NY 13202
onondaga.gov/legislature

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EXHIBIT 5

EXHIBIT 5

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LOCAL LAW NO. ___ - 2026

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

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 and Comptroller.

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. Amendment to Section 501 of the Onondaga County Charter.

Section 501 of the Onondaga County Charter, entitled "DEPARTMENT OF AUDIT AND CONTROL; COMPTROLLER; ELECTION; AUDITOR'S ACT REPEALED," 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 comptroller held after January 1, 2027, no person shall be eligible to be elected to or serve as comptroller 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 comptroller held after January 1, 2027, shall not be counted in calculating the number of consecutive terms a comptroller has served. Service for a partial term as comptroller shall not be counted in calculating the three consecutive four-year terms.

Section 4. Proposition.

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

Explanation: Matter in italics is new to be added; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

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(a) Descriptive Title:

IMPOSING TERM LIMITS ON THE OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND COUNTY COMPTROLLER

(b) Ballot Proposal Text Summary: "Imposing a limit of three (3) consecutive four-year terms on the offices of County Executive and County Comptroller, 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 5. 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 6. 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.

ADOPTED: 7/7/2026

COUNTY LEGISLATURE ★ ONONDAGA COUNTY ★

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 7th day of July 2026.

Clerk, County Legislature

Explanation: Matter in italics is new to be added; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

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Exhibit 7

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STATE OF NEW YORK
SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF ONONDAGA

DUSTIN CZARNY, as Democratic Commissioner of the Onondaga County Board of Elections,

Petitioner,

vs.

KEVIN RYAN, as Republican Commissioner of the Onondaga County Board of Elections,

Respondent.

AFFIRMATION OF HASSINA K. ADAMS

Index No. _____

STATE OF NEW YORK)
COUNTY OF ONONDAGA) ss:

HASSINA K. ADAMS, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

1. I am the Clerk of the Onondaga Legislature, and I held that position throughout July of 2026.

2. On July 15, 2026, at 11:38 A.M., I received an email from the County Executive communicating his approval of Local Law No. ___-2026, entitled "Amending the Onondaga County Charter to Impose a Term Limit on the Office of County Executive and Comptroller" ("Local Law"). That is, I received an email from Judy A. Fougnier, Executive Secretary and Assistant FOIL RAO with the Onondaga County Department of Law, containing an electronic copy of a document

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personally signed by the County Executive wherein he approved the Local Law. The email was specifically directed to my email address as the Clerk of the County Legislature.

3. The aforementioned email was forwarded to me pursuant to The Onondaga County Charter § 210 ("Charter § 210"), which states, "If the county executive approves it [a proposed law], he shall sign it and return it to such clerk and it shall be deemed to be adopted." Consequently, I am of the understanding the Local Law was formally adopted when the County Executive approved it and forwarded his unequivocal approval to me as the Clerk of the County Legislature.

4. I affirm this 5th day of August, 2026, under the penalties of perjury under the laws of New York, which may include a fine or imprisonment, that the foregoing is true, and I understand that this document may be filed in an action or proceeding in a court of law.

Hassina K. Adams

EMILY ESSI BERSANI
Notary Public - State of New York
No. 04BE0023705
Qualified in Onondaga County
Commission Expires April 18, 2028

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EXHIBIT 6

EXHIBIT 6

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CAUTION: THIS DOCUMENT HAS NOT YET BEEN REVIEWED BY THE COUNTY CLERK. (See below.)

Onondaga County Legislature

HASSINA K. ADAMS
Clerk

NICOLE WATTS
Chairwoman

SPENCER BERG
Deputy Clerk

Abstract of Proposition Number [X]: Term Limits for County Executive and County Comptroller

Section 301 of the Onondaga County Charter currently sets no term limit for the Office of County Executive. The proposed amendment to Section 301 will impose term limits, restricting the total number of terms a County Executive may serve to three consecutive four-year terms.

Section 501 of the Onondaga County Charter currently sets no term limit for the Office of County Comptroller. The proposed amendment to Section 501 will impose term limits, restricting the total number of terms a County Comptroller may serve to three consecutive four-year terms.

Partial terms and years served prior to the first general election held after January 1, 2027 will not count toward term limits for either office. The amendments will be effective commencing with the first general election for County Executive and County Comptroller held after January 1, 2027.

This is a copy of a pleading filed electronically pursuant to New York State Courts Electronic Filing System (NYSCEF). (22 NYCRR §202.5-b(d)(3)(i)) which, at the time of its printout from the court system's electronic website, had not yet been reviewed and approved by the County Clerk. Because court rules (22 NYCRR §202.5[d]) authorize the County Clerk to reject filings for various reasons, readers should be aware that documents bearing this legend may not have been accepted for filing by the County Clerk.