

# Proposed Local Law Number 5 Of 2024

## County Of Ulster

### **A Local Law Amending Section A27-2(B) Of The Administrative Code For The County Of Ulster (Local Law No. 10 Of 2008), To Ensure Proper Staffing Levels At The Ulster County Board Of Elections**

**BE IT ENACTED**, by the Legislature of the County of Ulster, as follows:

#### **SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT.**

The Ulster County Legislature recognizes the scope and complexity of operating the Ulster County Board of Elections has changed significantly due to the enactment of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), the implementation of the Federal Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act (MOVE ACT), and the carrying out of Early Voting before each election event, among numerous other recent election reforms. In some years, Presidential, Federal and State Local Primaries, and Special Elections, may require as many as three to four countywide election events, in addition to nine days of Early Voting prior to each.

The Election Commissioners' Association of the State of New York is currently working with the New York State Legislature to establish minimum staffing levels at local boards of elections across New York State, with consideration being given to employing two additional employees for every full allotment of twenty thousand active registered voters beyond forty thousand active registered voters.

The Ulster County Legislature believes it is important and beneficial to municipalities and the voting public that there be enough staffing at local boards of elections with a history of conducting Local, State and Federal Elections in an efficient and knowledgeable manner. Therefore, the purpose of this Local Law is to ensure proper awareness of required staffing levels with ample time to properly budget for and subsequently adopt appropriations reflecting such.

#### **SECTION 2. Section A27-2 Powers and duties (B) of the Administrative Code for the County of Ulster is hereby amended to read as follows:**

##### **B. Reports.**

**(1)** On or before January 31 of each year, the Commissioners of the Board of Elections shall make an annual report to the County Legislature and County Executive for the immediately preceding calendar year, covering generally the work of the Board. Such report shall conform to § 3-212 of Election Law of the State of New York.

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(2) On or before the first day of September in each year, the Commissioners of the Board of Elections shall make and file a report to the County Legislature and County Executive with the Commissioner's projected minimum staffing levels required for the next ensuing fiscal year. Such report shall contain all the information the Commissioners reasonably deem necessary to support their projected minimum required staffing levels but, at a minimum, shall include the anticipated number of countywide election events and the full allotment of active registered voters projected for the next ensuing fiscal year.

The Commissioners of the Board of Elections shall make such other reports at such times as may be required by the County Legislature, County Executive or any applicable law. Copies of all reports shall be filed with the Clerk of the County Legislature and the County Executive.

**SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY.**

In the event that any portion of this local law is found to be invalid, such finding will not have any effect on either the remaining portions or applications of this local law or any provisions of the Ulster County Administrative Code, which shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This Local Law shall become effective upon its filing with the Secretary of State.