

# Inter-County Association of Western New York

*Representing the Counties of Allegany, Cattaraugus, Cayuga, Chautauqua, Chemung, Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tompkins, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates.*

## RESOLUTION NO. 2023-15-IC

### RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO NEW YORK STATE'S LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL TO MANDATE ALL LOCAL BOARDS OF ELECTIONS TO HIRE ADDITIONAL FULL-TIME ELECTION STAFF

**Sponsored By:** Livingston County

**Moved By:** Donald Wester (Livingston)

**Seconded By:** Mark Rondinaro (Schuyler)

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to existing New York State Election Law Section 3-300, every board of elections has the power to appoint clerks, voting machine technicians, and other employees and, in doing so, must ensure equal representation of the major political parties in the locality. Every commissioner in each county, with the exception of commissioners in New York City, must also hire a deputy; and

**WHEREAS**, the New York State Senate recently passed a bill (S.644) amending Election Law Section 3-300 to mandate all local boards of elections to employ, at a minimum, four (4) full time employees in addition to the appointed commissioners. The bill goes on to require an additional two (2) employees for every full allotment of 20,000 active registered voters beyond 40,000 active registered voters; and

**WHEREAS**, the bill is now pending in the New York State Assembly (A.1258); and

**WHEREAS**, county boards of elections are responsible for managing all election operations. Despite the heavy lift and all of the changes in the law that came with it, using only its existing full-time staff supplemented with inspectors and technicians as needed, the office was able to execute its responsibilities with efficiency and a high level of integrity; and

**WHEREAS**, not all local boards of elections hold the same level of responsibility or operate in the same manner. Some boards of elections choose to assist local libraries and schools with their budget vote/board elections and some boards opt to administer village elections. Others may limit their responsibilities to just primaries, special elections, and general elections. Yet other boards elect to absorb all of these responsibilities plus additional duties like printing ballots. The number of full-time employees needed for a board of elections to fulfill its obligations is clearly dependent upon the nature and scope of responsibilities said board chooses to take on; and

**WHEREAS**, another factor significantly impacting the number of needed full-time staff is the number of active registered voters within a county. The larger the number of registered voters, the greater the work demand is on the local board of elections. Due to the number of registered voters varying among the counties, the various local boards of elections have divergent staffing needs; and

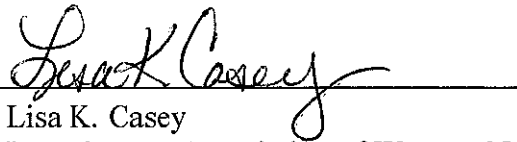
**WHEREAS**, the intent of the legislation is to ensure uniformity among all county boards of elections Safeguarding their ability to adequately handle the ever-changing Election Law and any resulting increases in voter volume. However, the legislation completely dismisses the uniqueness of each local board of elections. A one-size-fits-all approach to staffing will only result in an inefficient mandate that, in many instances, wastes tax payer dollars. Each county with the

assistance of its commissioners should be able to independently decide the needs and corresponding employee structure of its board of elections; now, therefore, be it

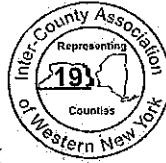
**RESOLVED**, that the Inter-County Association of Western New York does hereby strongly oppose Senate Bill S.644 and Assembly Bill A.1258. The legislation improperly assumes all local boards of elections have the same full-time staffing needs. It fails to adequately take into account the variation in each board of election's assumed and required responsibilities and the clear variation in the number of registered voters in each county; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of Inter-County Association of Western New York shall forward this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, Senator Pam Helming, Assemblywoman Marjorie Byrnes, the Inter County Association of Western New York, the New York State Association of Counties and all others deemed necessary and appropriate.

This is to Certify that I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Inter-County Association of Western New York, have compared the foregoing copy of resolution with the original resolution now on file in this office and which was duly adopted by the Association at a session held on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of April 2023 and that the same is a true copy of said original and of the whole thereof. In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the official seal of the Inter-County Association of Western New York dated April 21, 2023.



Lisa K. Casey  
Inter-County Association of Western New York



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2023-15-IC : 2ND Page