

A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY  
 LEGISLATORS HARDWICK, RATH, & MORTON

Re: Limitation on the number of consecutive terms to be served by Erie County Legislators

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of this Honorable Body to promote good government for the benefit of all residents of Erie County; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no limit to how long an Erie County Legislator can be in office; and

WHEREAS, an unlimited number of terms for a county legislator can, arguably, lead to having elected officials who are out of touch with the constituency they are elected to represent; and

WHEREAS, limiting the number of consecutive terms a member can serve for can help ensure that members of the legislature are always appropriately representing the needs of the residents who elected them.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby requests that the County Attorney draft a local law that adds the following to section 202.2 as a new subsection "A":

- that no person shall serve as a County Legislator for more than ten (10) consecutive years;
- that the beginning of said services shall be calculated as of January 1, 2016, which are those beginning after the next election cycle in 2015;
- that this shall not retroactively apply to any of the past terms of office held by any current County Legislator and that application of these rules shall apply to all terms served after the next general election in 2015;
- that if a Legislator reaches the limit of ten (10) consecutive years of service in office, measured from on or after January 1, 2016, then the office shall be deemed vacant as of the last day of the complete term of the legislator;
- that any legislator who is appointed to a vacancy of the Erie County Legislature shall, for the purposes of this resolution, be deemed to have started his/her first term at either the previous general election or the next upcoming general election, whichever is closer to the date of his/her swearing in;

RESOLVED, that this must be approved by the voters through a referendum in the next possible general election and be enacted as a local law changing the Erie County Charter.

Fiscal Impact: None