

County of Albany

Harold L. Joyce
Albany County Office Building
112 State Street - Albany, NY 12207



Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

6:30 PM

**Harold L. Joyce Albany County Office Building
Cahill Room - First Floor**

Rules Review and Legislative Modernization Committee

PREVIOUS BUSINESS:

1. APPROVING PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES
2. PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. "N" FOR 2024: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, AMENDING THE ALBANY COUNTY CHARTER AND LOCAL LAW NO. 8 FOR 1993 AS AMENDED
3. AMENDING VARIOUS RESOLUTIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVISING THE COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN BOARDS
4. AMENDING THE ALBANY COUNTY LEGISLATIVE RULES OF ORDER FOR THE PURPOSES OF COMMITTEE CONSOLIDATION AND REFORM
5. LOCAL LAW NO. "N" FOR 2024: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, AMENDING THE ALBANY COUNTY CHARTER AND LOCAL LAW NO. 8 FOR 1993 AS AMENDED
6. LOCAL LAW NO. "R" FOR 2024: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, AMENDING THE ALBANY COUNTY CHARTER AND LOCAL LAW NO. 8 FOR 1993 AS AMENDED TO INCORPORATE CERTAIN UNITS OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT

County of Albany

*Harold L. Joyce
Albany County Office Building
112 State Street - Albany, NY 12207*



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

6:00 PM

**Harold L. Joyce Albany County Office Building
Room 730**

Rules Review and Legislative Modernization Committee

PREVIOUS BUSINESS:

Present: Victoria Plotsky, Wanda F. Willingham, Jeffrey D. Kuhn,
Lynne Lekakis, Mark E. Grimm, Frank A. Mauriello, Dustin
M. Reidy and Danielle Gillespie

Excused: David B. Mayo

1. APPROVING PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made that the previous meeting minutes be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

2. REQUIRING PROGRAMMATIC INFORMATION IN REQUESTS FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION AND CODIFYING EXISTING PRACTICES

A motion was made to move the proposal forward with a negative recommendation. The motion passed 6-2 with Grimm and Mauriello opposed.

3. PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. "N" FOR 2024: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, AMENDING THE ALBANY COUNTY CHARTER AND LOCAL LAW NO. 8 FOR 1993 AS AMENDED

This proposal was tabled at the request of the Sponsor.

4. LOCAL LAW NO. "N" FOR 2024: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, AMENDING THE ALBANY COUNTY CHARTER AND LOCAL LAW NO. 8 FOR 1993 AS AMENDED

This Local Law was tabled at the request of the Sponsor.

5. LOCAL LAW NO. "R" FOR 2024: A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, AMENDING THE ALBANY COUNTY CHARTER AND LOCAL LAW NO. 8 FOR 1993 AS AMENDED TO INCORPORATE CERTAIN UNITS OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT

This Local Law was tabled at the request of the Sponsor.

CURRENT BUSINESS:

6. REQUIRING ADVANCED NOTICE OF ACTS OF THE LEGISLATURE

A motion was made to move the proposal forward with a negative recommendation. The motion passed 6-2 with Grimm and Mauriello opposed.

**7. AMENDING VARIOUS RESOLUTIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF
REVISING THE COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN BOARDS**

This proposal was tabled at the request of the Sponsor.

**8. AMENDING THE ALBANY COUNTY LEGISLATIVE RULES OF ORDER
FOR THE PURPOSES OF COMMITTEE CONSOLIDATION AND
REFORM**

This proposal was tabled at the request of the Sponsor.

RESOLUTION NO. 576

**PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. “N” FOR 2024 A
LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, AMENDING THE
ALBANY COUNTY CHARTER AND LOCAL LAW NO. 8 FOR 1993 AS
AMENDED**

Introduced: 9/9/24

By Cunningham:

RESOLVED, By the County Legislature of the County of Albany that a public hearing on proposed Local Law No. “N” for 2024, “A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, AMENDING THE ALBANY COUNTY CHARTER AND LOCAL LAW NO. 8 FOR 1993 AS AMENDED” to be held by the Albany County Legislature at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, October 29, 2024, with participation information to be made available on the Albany County website, and the Clerk of the County Legislature is directed to cause notice of such hearing to be published containing the necessary information in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

*Referred to Law and Rules Review and Legislative Modernization Committees
– 9/9/24*

LOCAL LAW NO. N FOR 2024

A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, AMENDING THE ALBANY COUNTY CHARTER AND LOCAL LAW NO. 8 FOR 1993 AS AMENDED TO PROVIDE FOR AN OFFICE OF MEDICAL EXAMINER

Introduced: 9/9/24

By Cunningham, Willingham:

PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 10 AND 33 OF THE MUNICIPAL HOME RULE LAW, COUNTY LAW SECTION 400 AND SECTION 2702 OF THE ALBANY COUNTY CHARTER:

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the County of Albany as follows:

SECTION I. Legislative Intent:

In 2012, a Charter Review Commission was formed by this Honorable Body to determine what, if any, changes could be made to the then decade's old charter. The Commission met routinely over the course of a year and published recommended changes to the Charter, many of which sought to streamline processes or modernize the County's operations. To date, many of the proposed changes have been adopted, but a various substantive changes have evaded adoption. One major proposal by the Charter Review Commission was to replace the County's four, part-time Coroners with a single full-time Medical Examiner. This change would modernize death investigations in the County, a change that many other counties have adopted over the years.

[A second major proposal from the Charter Review Commission is to expand the governance of the Board of Contract Administration. The Board's authority was established in 1993, and provided oversight of contracts less than \$100,000. The Charter Review Commission suggested increasing that amount based on inflation, which would have been \$155,000 at the time of the Charter Review Commission's proposal. Today, that amount, adjusted for inflation, is approximately \$215,000. The recommendation of the Charter Review Commission should be adopted to reflect the fact that the Board of Contract Administration is operating in 2024, and not 1993.

Finally, part of the recommendations of the Charter Review Commission was to incorporate various departments into the Charter, departments that were absent (or not yet in existence) in the original document. These proposed changes do just that, with the Division of Information Services and the newly retitled Department of Parks and Recreation.]

SECTION II. [Article 5 of the Albany County Charter is hereby amended to create the following sections:

Section 504: Information Services.

There shall be within the Department of Management and Budget an independent Division of Information Services headed by a Chief Information Officer. The Chief Information Officer shall be appointed by the County Executive, subject to confirmation by the County Legislature as provided in Section 302(c) of this Charter, and serve at the pleasure of the County Executive. The Chief Information Officer and staff shall be charged with providing information, technology and computer systems services in support of the county's departments and administrative units. The Chief Information Officer shall perform such other and related duties as shall be required or delegated to her by the County Executive or the County Legislature.

SECTION III. Article 13 of the Albany County Charter is hereby amended as follows:

Section 1301: Board of Contract Administration; powers and duties.

For the purpose of simplifying, clarifying and centralizing the approval process for contracts, there is hereby established a Board of Contract Administration. The Board shall be composed of the County Executive, the Chairperson of the County Legislature and the County Clerk. The Board of Contract Administration is empowered to approve contracts for execution by the County Executive in amounts of not less than twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000), and, not more than [one] two hundred fifteen thousand dollars (\$[100]215,000), or such higher amount as may be established by local law. The Board shall report [periodically] quarterly to the County Legislature, detailing the contracts approved by it.

Section 1302: Other contract approvals.

The County Executive shall be empowered to approve and execute contracts in an amount less than twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000). The County Legislature shall be empowered to approve contracts for execution by the County Executive in amounts over [one] two hundred fifteen thousand dollars (\$[100]215,000), in addition to those mentioned in Section 204(m) of this Charter. The County Executive shall not, through change orders, amendments, renewals, or any other method or device, exceed such twenty thousand dollar (\$20,000) limit with respect to any vendor or subject matter, without approval of the County Legislature.

Section 1303: Annual Adjusted Amount

The dollar amounts set forth above in sections 1301 and 1302 of this Article shall be adjusted annually on the first day of January each year by the Consumer Price Index ("CPI") to keep pace with inflation. The County's Department of Management and Budget shall sue the annual CPI data for adjustment. The annual adjusted dollar amount shall be provided to the Clerk of the Legislature by the Commissioner of Management and Budget upon it being determined.

SECTION IV.] Article 19 of the Albany County Charter is hereby repealed entirely.

Article 9: Department of Health is hereby amended by adding the following subsections:

Section 905: Office of Medical Examiner; Appointment; Qualifications

- (a) There shall be an Office of Medical Examiner, a division of the Albany County Department of Health. The Office shall be headed by a Chief Medical Examiner who shall be appointed by the County Executive for a six-year term, subject to confirmation by the County Legislature. At the time of their appointment, and throughout their appointment, the Medical Examiner shall be and remain duly licensed and entitled to practice medicine in the State of New York and shall have an expertise in forensic pathology and such other qualifications for the responsibilities of the Office as determined by the Commissioner of Health. Notwithstanding the provisions of Public Officer's Law Section 38 and County Law Section 400, if the Office of Chief Medical Examiner becomes vacant other than by expiration of term, the vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the County Executive for a five-year term, subject to confirmation by the County Legislature.
- (b) The Chief Medical Examiner, within the appropriations made therefor, shall appoint a Chief Deputy Medical Examiner, who shall also be a physician licensed to practice medicine in the State of New York. In addition to such other duties as may be assigned by the Chief Medical Examiner, the Chief Deputy Medical Examiner shall possess the powers and perform the duties of the Medical Examiner during his absence or inability to act.
- (c) The Chief Medical Examiner, within the appropriations made therefor, may, in conformity with the rules and regulations applicable to the civil service, appoint such forensic investigators and deputy medical examiners as may be authorized by the County Legislature. Forensic investigators and deputy medical examiners shall assist the Chief Medical Examiner in the conduct of investigations and the discharge of his other duties and responsibilities; shall conduct tests and examinations and furnish forensic, medical, investigative and technical services; and shall possess such qualifications and perform such other duties as may be determined by the Chief Medical Examiner.

[SECTION VI. Article 20 of the Albany County Charter is hereby repealed entirely and replaced as follows:

Article 20: Parks and Recreation.

There shall be a Parks and Recreation Department which shall be responsible for providing recreation programs and opportunities for the Albany County community that develops fundamental social, emotional, physical, and cognitive skills that promote a higher quality of life. The department head shall be the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation. The Commissioner of Parks and Recreation shall be appointed by the County Executive, subject to confirmation by the County Legislature as provided in Section 302(c) of this Charter, and serve at the pleasure of the County

Executive. The Commissioner of Parks and Recreation shall perform such other and related duties as shall be required or delegated to her by the County Executive or the County Legislature.]

SECTION [V]III. SEQRA Compliance

This County Legislature determines that this local law constitutes a “Type II action” pursuant to the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), and that no further action under SEQRA is required

SECTION IV[III]. Effective Date.

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing in the office of the Secretary of State if it is approved by a affirmative vote of the qualified electors of the County of Albany voting upon a proposition for its approval at the next general election in conformity with the provisions of Section 34 of the New York Municipal Home Rule Law and Section 2702 of the Albany County Charter.

LOCAL LAW NO. FOR 2024

A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, AMENDING THE ALBANY COUNTY CHARTER AND LOCAL LAW NO. 8 FOR 1993 AS AMENDED TO PROVIDE FOR AN OFFICE OF MEDICAL EXAMINER

Introduced: 9/9/24

By Cunningham, Willingham:

PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 10 AND 33 OF THE MUNICIPAL HOME RULE LAW, COUNTY LAW SECTION 400 AND SECTION 2702 OF THE ALBANY COUNTY CHARTER:

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the County of Albany as follows:

SECTION I. Legislative Intent:

In 2012, a Charter Review Commission was formed by this Honorable Body to determine what, if any, changes could be made to the then decade's old charter. The Commission met routinely over the course of a year and published recommended changes to the Charter, many of which sought to streamline processes or modernize the County's operations. To date, many of the proposed changes have been adopted, but a various substantive changes have evaded adoption. One major proposal by the Charter Review Commission was to replace the County's four, part-time Coroners with a single full-time Medical Examiner. This change would modernize death investigations in the County, a change that many other counties have adopted over the years.

SECTION II

Article 19 of the Albany County Charter is hereby repealed entirely.

Article 9: Department of Health is hereby amended by adding the following subsections:

Section 905: Office of Medical Examiner; Appointment; Qualifications

- (a) There shall be an Office of Medical Examiner, a division of the Albany County Department of Health. The Office shall be headed by a Chief Medical Examiner who shall be appointed by the County Executive for a six-year term, subject to confirmation by the County Legislature. At the time of their appointment, and throughout their appointment, the Medical Examiner shall be and remain duly licensed and entitled to practice medicine in the State of New York and shall have an expertise in forensic pathology and such other qualifications for the responsibilities of the Office as determined by the Commissioner of Health. Notwithstanding the provisions of Public Officer's Law Section 38 and County Law Section 400, if the Office of Chief Medical Examiner becomes vacant other

than by expiration of term, the vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the County Executive for a five-year term, subject to confirmation by the County Legislature.

- (b) The Chief Medical Examiner, within the appropriations made therefor, shall appoint a Chief Deputy Medical Examiner, who shall also be a physician licensed to practice medicine in the State of New York. In addition to such other duties as may be assigned by the Chief Medical Examiner, the Chief Deputy Medical Examiner shall possess the powers and perform the duties of the Medical Examiner during his absence or inability to act.
- (c) The Chief Medical Examiner, within the appropriations made therefor, may, in conformity with the rules and regulations applicable to the civil service, appoint such forensic investigators and deputy medical examiners as may be authorized by the County Legislature. Forensic investigators and deputy medical examiners shall assist the Chief Medical Examiner in the conduct of investigations and the discharge of his other duties and responsibilities; shall conduct tests and examinations and furnish forensic, medical, investigative and technical services; and shall possess such qualifications and perform such other duties as may be determined by the Chief Medical Examiner.

SECTION III. SEQRA Compliance

This County Legislature determines that this local law constitutes a “Type II action” pursuant to the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), and that no further action under SEQRA is required

SECTION IV. Effective Date.

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing in the office of the Secretary of State if it is approved by a affirmative vote of the qualified electors of the County of Albany voting upon a proposition for its approval at the next general election in conformity with the provisions of Section 34 of the New York Municipal Home Rule Law and Section 2702 of the Albany County Charter.

RESOLUTION NO. 93

AMENDING VARIOUS RESOLUTIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVISING THE COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN BOARDS

Introduced: 3/10/25

By: Mauriello

WHEREAS, Albany County has a large number of development corporations and other organizations with boards of directors or otherwise composed of boards, and

WHEREAS, Many boards and boards of directors are comprised, either partly or fully, by legislative appointees, though in many instances these boards do not include participation by appointees of the Minority Conference of the Albany County Legislature, and

WHEREAS, As of February 2025, the Minority Conference of the Albany County Legislature represents more than 70,000 Albany County residents, and

WHEREAS, A large number of Albany County boards and boards of directors already include an appointee by the Minority Leader of the Albany County Legislature, and

WHEREAS, Regardless of political party affiliation, the Minority Conference of the Albany County Legislature should be included in the determination of board memberships as it relates to the administration of Albany County, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By the Albany County Legislature that Section 346-5 of the Albany County Code is amended to read as follows:

§ 346-5 Board of Directors.

A. The Board of Directors shall consist of seven members to be appointed by the Albany County Legislature, one of which shall be on the recommendation of the Majority Leader of the County Legislature and one of which shall be on the recommendation of the Minority Leader of the County Legislature. Said members shall represent areas of interest or expertise, including, but not limited to: the building industry; architectural/planning and/or design industry; financial services; law enforcement; property management; municipal affairs; buildings and codes; real estate; building demolition industry; and historical renovation services.

B. All members of the Board shall be residents or have their primary place of business in the County of Albany, and said directors shall serve at the pleasure of the Legislature.

and, be it further

RESOLVED, That Section 320-2 of the Albany County Code is amended to read as follows:

§ 320-2 Composition.

The Committee shall be comprised of the County Superintendent of Highways, one member of the County Legislature designated by the Chair of the County Legislature, one member of the County Legislature designated by the Majority Leader of the County Legislature, one member of the County Legislature designated by the Minority Leader of the County Legislature, and [five] three members who shall be residents of the County, representing a cross-section of civic and business interests, and who shall be appointed by the Chair of the County Legislature. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as original appointments.

and, be it further

RESOLVED, That Section 320-19 of the Albany County Code is amended to read as follows:

§ 320-19 Establishment; purpose; members.

The Human Services Advisory Board authorized by Article 21 of the Albany County Charter is established for the purposes set forth in said Article 21 and the County Legislature shall appoint members to the Human Services Advisory Board from time to time, with said individuals to serve thereon at the pleasure of the County Legislature[.] provided, however, that one member shall serve on the recommendation of the Majority Leader of the County Legislature and one member shall serve on the recommendation of the Minority Leader of the County Legislature.

and, be it further

RESOLVED, That Section 320-21 of the Albany County Code is amended to read as follows:

§ 320-21 Increase in membership.

The Legislature finds it is in the best interest of Albany County to expand the membership of the Albany County Industrial Development Agency to seven

members[.] provided, however, that one member shall serve on the recommendation of the Majority Leader of the County Legislature and one member shall serve on the recommendation of the Minority Leader of the County Legislature.

and, be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution shall take effect on January 1st, 2026, and shall be considered for the appointment of board members for all boards amended under this resolution beginning on that date, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the County Legislature is directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to the appropriate County Officials.

RESOLUTION NO. 94

AMENDING THE ALBANY COUNTY LEGISLATIVE RULES OF ORDER FOR THE PURPOSES OF COMMITTEE CONSOLIDATION AND REFORM

Introduced: 3/10/25

By: Burgdorf

WHEREAS, Rule 21 of the Albany County Legislative Rules of Order establishes the Standing Committees that meet from month to month to review and approve legislation before this body, and

WHEREAS, The County Legislature currently has ten Standing Committees; and

WHEREAS, As currently composed, the ten Standing Committees of the Albany County Legislature have overlap of policy areas while some Committees are underutilized due to the assignment of relevant issues to portfolios of other Committees; and

WHEREAS, At least one current Standing Committee historically has not met for a majority of the months of the year; and

WHEREAS, The current Standing Committee structure requires meeting time blocks of no more than a half hour, preventing robust discussion of important issues affecting Albany County residents; and

WHEREAS, Possible consolidation of Standing Committees should be accompanied by an increase to the membership of the Committees to as to ensure Albany County Legislators remain able to participate in the Committee process; and

WHEREAS, Consolidation of Standing Committees and reallocation of important policy areas to appropriate Committees will improve Committee workflow, and increase the amount of time for discussion and debate; and

WHEREAS, Rules 21 and 22 currently contain an inconsistency related to the appointment of individuals to Standing Committees, requiring a correction, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By the Albany County Legislature, that Rule 21 of the Legislative Rules of Order shall be amended to read as follows:

RULE 21 - STANDING COMMITTEES

The following standing committees, to consist of [nine] twelve members for each committee, including the Committee Chairperson for each committee, shall be appointed by the permanent Chairperson of the County Legislature from the membership of the County Legislature within twenty (20) days after said Chairperson's election, and a list thereof shall be filed with the Clerk of the Legislature, and each committee shall perform the duties as hereafter set forth. The Chairperson of the County Legislature shall appoint members of standing committees from the membership of the County Legislature as recommended by the majority and minority leaders. The number of majority members of each committee shall be in the same ratio as the majority members of the legislature are to the entire membership of the Legislature.

Within thirty (30) days of the listing of the committee assignments, each Committee Chairperson shall assign and officially list a time and a day for the regular monthly committee meetings; provided however that Committee Chairpersons may hold public hearings on any topic contained within the Duties of the Committee upon five (5) days notice. No Standing Committee of the Albany County Legislature shall meet on a civic holiday and consideration shall be given to avoid meeting on a religious holiday. The Committee Chairperson may cancel any meeting if there is no business for the Committee. In the event a member cannot attend a rescheduled regular meeting and to the extent it is legally permitted, such member may submit to the Chairperson a written statement of their opinion on business items which are on the Committee's agenda and those written opinions shall become part of the Committee's minutes.

Each and every Committee Chairperson shall, to the extent practicable, submit a copy of the Committee Agenda no later than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the scheduled Committee meeting. Every committee meeting shall be open to the public, however, this provision shall not preclude the right of the Chairperson to call for an executive session.

Vacancies on standing committees shall be filled by the Chairperson of the County Legislature from its membership. The majority leader and the minority leader shall be ex officio (non-voting) members of all committees.

STANDING COMMITTEES

1. Audit and Finance
 - a. Audit and Control
 - b. Budget
 - c. Investment

- d. Capital Program
- e. Taxation

Duties: All matters pertaining generally to County finances including the Department of Audit and Control, the Department of Management and Budget, appropriations included in the County Budget and Capital Program, and verification of assessment rolls, equalization rates, and the sale of delinquent tax properties.

The Departments of Audit and Control, Department of Consumer Affairs, Department of Management and Budget, the Real Property Tax Service Agency, and all departments involved in a capital project shall report to the standing committee on Audit and Finance.

- 2. Social Services
 - a. Social Services
 - b. Albany County Residential Health Care Facility
 - c. Department of Aging

Duties: All matters pertaining generally to public welfare and matters affecting the Social Services Department, Albany County Residential Health Care Facility, [except such matters relating to services to the elderly.] also all matters pertaining generally to public welfare and support of the elderly and all matters affecting the Department for Aging.

The Departments of Social Services, Aging, the Youth Bureau and the Albany County Residential Health Care Facility shall report to the standing committee on Social Services.

- 3. Health
 - a. Department of Health
 - b. Mental Health
 - c. Environmental Health

Duties: All matters pertaining generally to the County Health Department, County Board of Health, Sanitation Codes, Department of Mental Hygiene and Retardation Alcoholism Boards.

The Departments of Health and Mental Health and the County Coroners shall report to the standing committee on Health.

- 4. [Conservation, Sustainability and Green Initiatives] Environmental Conservation and Outdoors
 - a. Conservation and Improvement of County Resources
 - b. Cultural and Educational Affairs

- c. Department of Economic Development, Conservation and Planning
- d. Parks and Recreation
- e. Albany County Rail Trail

Duties: All matters pertaining generally to the improvement and advancement of the County, including walks, docks, marinas, parks and recreational facilities, preserves, beaches, erosion projects, and such other structures and facilities of the development, maintenance and management of parks and other recreational facilities, except those [having to do with highways and buildings] capital projects and agreements equaling a value greater than \$500,000 and also all matters pertaining generally to the Albany County Rail Trail excepting capital projects and agreements equaling a value greater than \$500,000, agriculture, Cooperative Extension Services, 4-H Clubs, the conservation of soil, forestry and wildlife and environmental matters.

The Departments of Economic Development, Conservation and Planning, Parks and Recreation, as well as the County Planning Board, all County agencies involved in cultural and educational affairs, the Cooperative Extension, the Soil and Water Conservation District and the Environmental Management Council shall report to the standing committee on Conservation, Sustainability and Green Initiatives.

- 5. Public Safety
 - a. Sheriff
 - b. Jail
 - c. Probation Office
 - d. Fire Coordinator
 - e. Civil Defense
 - f. Military Affairs

Duties: All matters pertaining generally to the operation of the Jail, Sheriff's Department and Probation Department and also all matters pertaining generally to the protection and well-being of the residents of the County.

The County Sheriff, Director of Probation, Fire Coordinator, the Office of Civil Defense and Natural Disaster and the Veterans Bureau shall report to the standing committee of Public Safety.

- 6. Personnel
 - a. Human Resources
 - b. Civil Service
 - c. County Officers

Duties: All matters pertaining generally to Human Resources, Civil Service affairs and the creation, organization and/or re-organization of County departments and offices as required.

The Department of Human Resources, including the Divisions of Employee Relations, Personnel Services, Affirmative Action, and Civil Service shall report to the standing committee on Personnel.

7. Law
 - a. Service Relationship
 - b. Department of Law
 - c. Public Defender's Office
 - d. District Attorney's Office
 - e. County Clerk
 - f. Board of Elections
 - g. Public Access
 - h. City and Towns
 - i. County Rules
 - j. Agency, Department and Inter-Governmental Coordination
 - k. Clerk of the Legislature

Duties: All matters pertaining generally to contracts with public corporations and authorities, County law and its structure, operation and maintenance of the offices of Public Defender, District Attorney and County Attorney and also all matters pertaining generally to printing, recording, maintaining, storing and accessibility to County records and matters relating to election accounts.

The District Attorney, the Public Defender, the Commissioner of Jurors, the Clerk of the Courts, the Board of Elections, the Department of Law, the Rape Crisis Center and all court officials under the jurisdiction of the County, the Public Access Officer, the County Clerk and the Clerk of the Legislature shall report to the standing committee of Law.

8. [Multimodal Transit and Pedestrian Access
 - a. Albany International Airport
 - b. Albany County Rail Trail
 - c. Traffic Safety Board
 - d. Capital District Transportation Authority

Duties: All matters pertaining generally to Albany International Airport, Albany County Rail Trail, Capital District Transportation Authority, Capital Region Transportation Council and transit oriented development in the County. The Committee shall review items related to the promotion of public transportation,

walkability of communities, and ensuring development provides accessibility for all with adherence to the Americans with Disabilities Act.

9.] Public Works

- a. [Albany County Residential Health Care Facilities] Airport
- b. Albany County Courthouse
- c. Civic Center
- d. County Buildings
- e. Highways
- f. Large capital investments for Parks and Recreation
- g. Water Purification District
- h. General Services
- i. Large capital investments for the Albany County Rail Trail

Duties: All matters pertaining generally to the Civic Center, and to major construction/renovation projects at the Albany County Courthouse [or Albany County Residential Health Care Facility], and all matters pertaining generally to the charge and supervision of design, construction and alterations of County buildings, parking fields, drives, [walks, docks, marinas, parks and recreational facilities, preserves, beaches, erosion projects, and such other structures and facilities of the development, maintenance and management of parks and other recreational facilities,] capital projects and agreements for Parks and Recreation and the Albany County Rail Trail equaling a value greater than \$500,000, also matters pertaining to County facilities for drainage, flood control, sanitation, sewerage and land water supply[.] in addition to all matters generally to the Airport and mass transit in the County.

The Manager and appropriate personnel of the Civic Center, the Departments of General Services, Public Works, Buildings, [Parks and Recreation], and the Water Purification District, as well as the Director of the Airport, the Traffic Safety Board and all County agencies involved in transportation shall report to the standing committee on Public Works.

[10. Elder Care

- a. Department of Aging
- b. Albany County Residential Health Care Facilities

Duties: All matters pertaining generally to public welfare and support of the elderly and all matters affecting the Department for Aging and the Albany County Residential Health Care Facility except such matters not relating to services to the elderly.

The Department of Aging and the Albany County Residential Health Care Facility shall report to the standing committee on Elder Care.]

and, be it further

RESOLVED, By the Albany County Legislature, that Rule 22 of the Legislative Rules of Order shall be amended to read as follows:

RULE 22 - SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The County Legislature may from time to time create special committees, and any resolution creating such special committee shall specify the powers and duties of the committee and the number of its members. Special committee membership shall be determined in the same manner as standing committees as established in Rule 21. Any reference to Rule 22 with respect to the appointment of the members of standing committees shall be interpreted to mean the provisions of Rule 21. [Vacancies on standing and special committees shall be filled by the Chairperson of the County Legislature from its membership.] Vacancies on special committees shall be filled by the Chairperson of the County Legislature. [The majority leader and the minority leader shall be ex officio (non-voting) members of all committees. The Chairperson of the County Legislature shall appoint members of standing committees from the membership of the County Legislature as recommended by the majority and minority leaders. The number of majority members of each committee shall be in the same ratio as the majority members of the legislature are to the entire membership of the Legislature.] No meetings of any Special Committee of the Albany County Legislature shall be held on a civic holiday and consideration shall be given to avoid meeting on a religious holiday.

and, be it further

RESOLVED, By the Albany County Legislature, that Rule 39 of the Legislative Rules of Order shall be amended to read as follows:

RULE 39 - PUBLIC HEARINGS / MEETING TIMES

All public hearings or meetings of the body as a whole may not take place before 5:00 p.m. In the event that more than one public hearing is scheduled for the same night, the scheduled times shall be consecutive, with no more than a five minute delay between hearings. The Clerk shall take roll call and record the names of those members present and absent for the Public Hearing. The Public Hearing shall be livestreamed. All meetings of standing or special committees shall not take place before 5:00 p.m. unless agreed to by a majority of said standing or special committee members. Committee meetings shall be extended at least an additional thirty (30) minutes if any Committee member makes such request in writing upon receiving the Committee Agenda. No Public Hearing of the Albany County Legislature shall be held on a civic holiday and consideration shall be given to avoid meeting on a religious holiday.

and, be it further

RESOLVED, That this Resolution shall take effect on January 1st, 2026, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the County Legislature is directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to the appropriate County Officials.

LOCAL LAW NO. FOR 2024

A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, AMENDING THE ALBANY COUNTY CHARTER AND LOCAL LAW NO. 8 FOR 1993 AS AMENDED TO PROVIDE FOR AN OFFICE OF MEDICAL EXAMINER

Introduced: 9/9/24

By Cunningham, Willingham:

PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 10 AND 33 OF THE MUNICIPAL HOME RULE LAW, COUNTY LAW SECTION 400 AND SECTION 2702 OF THE ALBANY COUNTY CHARTER:

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the County of Albany as follows:

SECTION I. Legislative Intent:

In 2012, a Charter Review Commission was formed by this Honorable Body to determine what, if any, changes could be made to the then decade's old charter. The Commission met routinely over the course of a year and published recommended changes to the Charter, many of which sought to streamline processes or modernize the County's operations. To date, many of the proposed changes have been adopted, but a various substantive changes have evaded adoption. One major proposal by the Charter Review Commission was to replace the County's four, part-time Coroners with a single full-time Medical Examiner. This change would modernize death investigations in the County, a change that many other counties have adopted over the years.

[A second major proposal from the Charter Review Commission is to expand the governance of the Board of Contract Administration. The Board's authority was established in 1993, and provided oversight of contracts less than \$100,000. The Charter Review Commission suggested increasing that amount based on inflation, which would have been \$155,000 at the time of the Charter Review Commission's proposal. Today, that amount, adjusted for inflation, is approximately \$215,000. The recommendation of the Charter Review Commission should be adopted to reflect the fact that the Board of Contract Administration is operating in 2024, and not 1993.

Finally, part of the recommendations of the Charter Review Commission was to incorporate various departments into the Charter, departments that were absent (or not yet in existence) in the original document. These proposed changes do just that, with the Division of Information Services and the newly retitled Department of Parks and Recreation.]

SECTION II. [Article 5 of the Albany County Charter is hereby amended to create the following sections:

Section 504: Information Services.

There shall be within the Department of Management and Budget an independent Division of Information Services headed by a Chief Information Officer. The Chief Information Officer shall be appointed by the County Executive, subject to confirmation by the County Legislature as provided in Section 302(c) of this Charter, and serve at the pleasure of the County Executive. The Chief Information Officer and staff shall be charged with providing information, technology and computer systems services in support of the county's departments and administrative units. The Chief Information Officer shall perform such other and related duties as shall be required or delegated to her by the County Executive or the County Legislature.

SECTION III. Article 13 of the Albany County Charter is hereby amended as follows:

Section 1301: Board of Contract Administration; powers and duties.

For the purpose of simplifying, clarifying and centralizing the approval process for contracts, there is hereby established a Board of Contract Administration. The Board shall be composed of the County Executive, the Chairperson of the County Legislature and the County Clerk. The Board of Contract Administration is empowered to approve contracts for execution by the County Executive in amounts of not less than twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000), and, not more than [one] two hundred fifteen thousand dollars (\$[100]215,000), or such higher amount as may be established by local law. The Board shall report [periodically] quarterly to the County Legislature, detailing the contracts approved by it.

Section 1302: Other contract approvals.

The County Executive shall be empowered to approve and execute contracts in an amount less than twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000). The County Legislature shall be empowered to approve contracts for execution by the County Executive in amounts over [one] two hundred fifteen thousand dollars (\$[100]215,000), in addition to those mentioned in Section 204(m) of this Charter. The County Executive shall not, through change orders, amendments, renewals, or any other method or device, exceed such twenty thousand dollar (\$20,000) limit with respect to any vendor or subject matter, without approval of the County Legislature.

Section 1303: Annual Adjusted Amount

The dollar amounts set forth above in sections 1301 and 1302 of this Article shall be adjusted annually on the first day of January each year by the Consumer Price Index ("CPI") to keep pace with inflation. The County's Department of Management and Budget shall sue the annual CPI data for adjustment. The annual adjusted dollar amount shall be provided to the Clerk of the Legislature by the Commissioner of Management and Budget upon it being determined.

SECTION IV.] Article 19 of the Albany County Charter is hereby repealed entirely.

Article 9: Department of Health is hereby amended by adding the following subsections:

Section 905: Office of Medical Examiner; Appointment; Qualifications

- (a) There shall be an Office of Medical Examiner, a division of the Albany County Department of Health. The Office shall be headed by a Chief Medical Examiner who shall be appointed by the County Executive for a six-year term, subject to confirmation by the County Legislature. At the time of their appointment, and throughout their appointment, the Medical Examiner shall be and remain duly licensed and entitled to practice medicine in the State of New York and shall have an expertise in forensic pathology and such other qualifications for the responsibilities of the Office as determined by the Commissioner of Health. Notwithstanding the provisions of Public Officer's Law Section 38 and County Law Section 400, if the Office of Chief Medical Examiner becomes vacant other than by expiration of term, the vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the County Executive for a five-year term, subject to confirmation by the County Legislature.
- (b) The Chief Medical Examiner, within the appropriations made therefor, shall appoint a Chief Deputy Medical Examiner, who shall also be a physician licensed to practice medicine in the State of New York. In addition to such other duties as may be assigned by the Chief Medical Examiner, the Chief Deputy Medical Examiner shall possess the powers and perform the duties of the Medical Examiner during his absence or inability to act.
- (c) The Chief Medical Examiner, within the appropriations made therefor, may, in conformity with the rules and regulations applicable to the civil service, appoint such forensic investigators and deputy medical examiners as may be authorized by the County Legislature. Forensic investigators and deputy medical examiners shall assist the Chief Medical Examiner in the conduct of investigations and the discharge of his other duties and responsibilities; shall conduct tests and examinations and furnish forensic, medical, investigative and technical services; and shall possess such qualifications and perform such other duties as may be determined by the Chief Medical Examiner.

[SECTION VI. Article 20 of the Albany County Charter is hereby repealed entirely and replaced as follows:

Article 20: Parks and Recreation.

There shall be a Parks and Recreation Department which shall be responsible for providing recreation programs and opportunities for the Albany County community that develops fundamental social, emotional, physical, and cognitive skills that promote a higher quality of life. The department head shall be the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation. The Commissioner of Parks and Recreation shall be appointed by the County Executive, subject to confirmation by the County Legislature as provided in Section 302(c) of this Charter, and serve at the pleasure of the County

Executive. The Commissioner of Parks and Recreation shall perform such other and related duties as shall be required or delegated to her by the County Executive or the County Legislature.]

SECTION [V]III. SEQRA Compliance

This County Legislature determines that this local law constitutes a “Type II action” pursuant to the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), and that no further action under SEQRA is required

SECTION IV[III]. Effective Date.

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing in the office of the Secretary of State if it is approved by a affirmative vote of the qualified electors of the County of Albany voting upon a proposition for its approval at the next general election in conformity with the provisions of Section 34 of the New York Municipal Home Rule Law and Section 2702 of the Albany County Charter.

LOCAL LAW NO. FOR 2024

A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, AMENDING THE ALBANY COUNTY CHARTER AND LOCAL LAW NO. 8 FOR 1993 AS AMENDED TO PROVIDE FOR AN OFFICE OF MEDICAL EXAMINER

Introduced: 9/9/24

By Cunningham, Willingham:

PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 10 AND 33 OF THE MUNICIPAL HOME RULE LAW, COUNTY LAW SECTION 400 AND SECTION 2702 OF THE ALBANY COUNTY CHARTER:

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the County of Albany as follows:

SECTION I. Legislative Intent:

In 2012, a Charter Review Commission was formed by this Honorable Body to determine what, if any, changes could be made to the then decade's old charter. The Commission met routinely over the course of a year and published recommended changes to the Charter, many of which sought to streamline processes or modernize the County's operations. To date, many of the proposed changes have been adopted, but a various substantive changes have evaded adoption. One major proposal by the Charter Review Commission was to replace the County's four, part-time Coroners with a single full-time Medical Examiner. This change would modernize death investigations in the County, a change that many other counties have adopted over the years.

SECTION II

Article 19 of the Albany County Charter is hereby repealed entirely.

Article 9: Department of Health is hereby amended by adding the following subsections:

Section 905: Office of Medical Examiner; Appointment; Qualifications

- (a) There shall be an Office of Medical Examiner, a division of the Albany County Department of Health. The Office shall be headed by a Chief Medical Examiner who shall be appointed by the County Executive for a six-year term, subject to confirmation by the County Legislature. At the time of their appointment, and throughout their appointment, the Medical Examiner shall be and remain duly licensed and entitled to practice medicine in the State of New York and shall have an expertise in forensic pathology and such other qualifications for the responsibilities of the Office as determined by the Commissioner of Health. Notwithstanding the provisions of Public Officer's Law Section 38 and County Law Section 400, if the Office of Chief Medical Examiner becomes vacant other

than by expiration of term, the vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the County Executive for a five-year term, subject to confirmation by the County Legislature.

- (b) The Chief Medical Examiner, within the appropriations made therefor, shall appoint a Chief Deputy Medical Examiner, who shall also be a physician licensed to practice medicine in the State of New York. In addition to such other duties as may be assigned by the Chief Medical Examiner, the Chief Deputy Medical Examiner shall possess the powers and perform the duties of the Medical Examiner during his absence or inability to act.
- (c) The Chief Medical Examiner, within the appropriations made therefor, may, in conformity with the rules and regulations applicable to the civil service, appoint such forensic investigators and deputy medical examiners as may be authorized by the County Legislature. Forensic investigators and deputy medical examiners shall assist the Chief Medical Examiner in the conduct of investigations and the discharge of his other duties and responsibilities; shall conduct tests and examinations and furnish forensic, medical, investigative and technical services; and shall possess such qualifications and perform such other duties as may be determined by the Chief Medical Examiner.

SECTION III. SEQRA Compliance

This County Legislature determines that this local law constitutes a “Type II action” pursuant to the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), and that no further action under SEQRA is required

SECTION IV. Effective Date.

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing in the office of the Secretary of State if it is approved by a affirmative vote of the qualified electors of the County of Albany voting upon a proposition for its approval at the next general election in conformity with the provisions of Section 34 of the New York Municipal Home Rule Law and Section 2702 of the Albany County Charter.

LOCAL LAW NO. “R” FOR 2024

A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, AMENDING THE ALBANY COUNTY CHARTER AND LOCAL LAW NO. 8 FOR 1993 AS AMENDED TO INCORPORATE CERTAIN UNITS OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Introduced: 10/15/24

By Cunningham, Willingham and Lekakis:

PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 10 AND 33 OF THE MUNICIPAL HOME RULE LAW, COUNTY LAW SECTION 400 AND SECTION 2702 OF THE ALBANY COUNTY CHARTER:

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the County of Albany as follows:

SECTION I. Legislative Intent:

In 2012, a Charter Review Commission was formed by this Honorable Body to determine what, if any, changes could be made to the then decade’s old charter. The Commission met routinely over the course of a year and published recommended changes to the Charter, many of which sought to streamline processes or modernize the County’s operations. To date, many of the proposed changes have been adopted, including provisions which recognize departments that have come into existence since the former Charter, but more departments have come into existence, needing the same attention. These proposed changes do just that, with the Division of Information Services, Veterans Services Bureau and the newly retitled Department of Parks and Recreation,

SECTION II. Article 5 of the Albany County Charter is hereby amended to create the following sections:

Section 504: Information Services.

There shall be within the Department of Management and Budget an independent Division of Information Services headed by a Chief Information Officer. The Chief Information Officer shall be appointed by the County Executive, subject to confirmation by the County Legislature as provided in Section 302(c) of this Charter, and serve at the pleasure of the County Executive. The Chief Information Officer and staff shall be charged with providing information, technology and computer systems services in support of the county’s departments and administrative units. The Chief Information Officer shall perform such other and related duties as shall be required or delegated to her by the County Executive or the County Legislature.

SECTION III. Article 20 of the Albany County Charter is hereby repealed entirely and replaced as follows:

Article 20: Parks and Recreation.

There shall be a Parks and Recreation Department which shall be responsible for providing recreation programs and opportunities for the Albany County community that develops fundamental social, emotional, physical, and cognitive skills that promote a higher quality of life. The department head shall be the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation. The Commissioner of Parks and Recreation shall be appointed by the County Executive, subject to confirmation by the County Legislature as provided in Section 302(c) of this Charter, and serve at the pleasure of the County Executive. The Commissioner of Parks and Recreation shall perform such other and related duties as shall be required or delegated to her by the County Executive or the County Legislature.

SECTION IV. Article 25 of the Albany County Charter is hereby amended as follows:

Section 2501: Veterans Service Bureau.

There shall be a Veterans Service Bureau headed by a Director of Veterans Services. The Director of Veterans Services shall be appointed by the County Executive, subject to confirmation by the County Legislature as provided in Section 302(c) of this Charter, and serve at the pleasure of the County Executive. The Director of Veterans Service shall be charged with providing information and services to veterans living in Albany County, assisting veterans and their dependents in filing claims, obtaining important documents, and determining eligibility for the benefits and services they have a legal right to. The Director of Veterans Services shall perform such other and related duties as shall be required or delegated to her by the County Executive or the County Legislature.

SECTION V. SEQRA Compliance

This County Legislature determines that this local law constitutes a “Type II action” pursuant to the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), and that no further action under SEQRA is required.

SECTION VI. Effective Date.

This Local Law is adopted subject to permissive referendum pursuant to Section 24 of the New York State Municipal Home Rule Law.