Even-Year Elections FAQ

A compilation of the most frequently asked questions we are fielding regarding the legislation that proposes to change local town elections from occurring in odd-numbered years to even-numbered years.

What does A4282B/S3505B do?
Among other things, it changes town elections, except for town justices, from odd-numbered years to even-numbered years to increase voter turnout.

Is it signed into law yet?
No. It passed both the Assembly and the Senate in the beginning of June, but it has yet to be delivered to or signed by the Governor.

I’m up for re-election this year, if the law gets signed, what does it mean for this election?
If adopted, the law WILL NOT IMPACT the 2023 elections, and you will serve your full term if elected in 2023.

Who else is included in the even-year election legislation besides towns?
Various elected county positions, like county legislators.

How would the switch to even years take place?
As stated, if you are elected in 2023, you will serve your full term. In order to transition to even years, there will also be town elections in 2025 and 2027; however, one year will be taken off the term of office, for one time only. For example, if you have a two-year term of office and are running in 2023, you will serve your full two years. If you choose to run again after completing your term, there will be an election in 2025 but it will be for a one-year term, and you will have to run for re-election in 2026. If you have a four-year term of office and run in 2023, you will serve your full four years, and if you decide to run for re-election, you will run at the 2027 election; however, it will only be for a three-year term. Then, in 2030, the term of office will return to four years.

Finally, why aren’t all local elections / all positions changed to even years?
Some positions, like town justices and county judges, have constitutional provisions that come into play and there would need to be an amendment to the New York State Constitution to switch those elections to even years. A constitutional amendment would also be required for city elections, and therefore they are not included in the legislation. Finally, villages are not included as they have a different election cycle and conduct elections themselves.

MORE QUESTIONS?
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