

The Legislature of Rockland County



JAY HOOD, JR.
Legislator, District 3

Chair, Rules Committee

Members Present:

Leg. J. Hood Jr., Chair
Leg. A. Wolfe, Leg. Chair
Leg. Carey
Leg. T. Earl
Leg. L. Hofstein
Leg. Wieder

Members Absent:

Others Present:

Leg. Grant
Leg. Jobson
Leg. Low-Hogan
Elana Yeger, Esq.
Hon. Paul Piperato
S. Powers

MINUTES
RULES COMMITTEE
Wednesday, March 25, 2015
7:00 PM

ROLL CALL: 7:11 PM

ADOPTION OF MINUTES, February 26, 2014

**MOTION TO ADOPT:
WOLFE/CAREY**

UNAN.

A. REFERRAL NO. 4065:

1. SETTING A DATE FOR PUBLIC HEARING A LOCAL LAW AMENDING THE ROCKLAND COUNTY CHARTER ARTICLE III ENTITLED COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND THE ROCKLAND COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE (CHAPTER 5 OF THE LAWS OF ROCKLAND COUNTY) ARTICLE II ENTITLED LEGISLATIVE BRANCH FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTING TERM LIMITS FOR THE ELECTED POSITIONS OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND COUNTY LEGISLATOR (**HONS. CHRISTOPHER J. CAREY, DOUGLAS J. JOBSON, LEGISLATURE**)

**MOTION TO APPROVE:
CAREY/HOFSTEIN**

FAILED
AYES: CAREY, HOFSTEIN
NAYS: EARL, WIEDER, WOLFE, HOOD, JR.

Leg. Carey believes this to be a health way to get new ideas, it's a safe guard and a person can run for another offices once term is up.

Leg. Jobson agreed with Leg. Carey, there are good politicians but society only see the "bad apples that spoil the bunch". He spoke about what goes on behind the scene, the different political parties, how Hon. Gilman was a hard working politician and he was redistricted out of office.

Chair of Legislature Wolfe was not in favor of term limits it's undemocratic and voters do have a choice. Rockland does have a check and balance the Legislative branch of government is the check and the Executive branch of government is the balance. If Rockland County had a County Administration and not a County Executive that might be then appropriate way for term limits to be ineffect because then there is not a clear check and balance.

Leg. Wieder does not see corruption and is against term limits- was not put into the Constitution by our founding fathers. Leg Wieder also believes it takes away the rights of citizens to vote for incumbents.

Leg. Hofstein ran on the idea of term limits. He feels new face-new ideas will draw more people to vote, right now people don't vote because its same person always running.

Chair of Legislature Wolfe and Leg. Wieder requested the following research:

Leg. Counsel-Elana Yeger-to Research the following:

1. What counties in NY have term limits?
2. What counties in NY have a county manager or administrator rather than a County Executive?
3. What counties with county manager/administrators also have term limits?
4. Have any counties with managers/administrators previously had County Executives?
5. What are the staffing levels in offices of managers/administrators?

Leg. Research Analyst-Daniel Friedman- to Research the following:

Do term limits lead to greater voter turnout? Look first at NYC, then turn to other municipalities

Leg. Grant said the all seventeen Legislature terms are up at the same time and term limits could upset that.

Leg. Hood, Chair of Rules, stated that corruption was a poor argument. Incumbents have both an advantage and a disadvantage because you are running on your record. Seventy-eight percent on the national level is elected incumbents and twenty-two percent of incumbents did not get reelected. People should be able to elect who they want He believes the President has more power and term limits are appropriate for that position and maybe we should look into term limits for County Executive because of that positions power. Chair Hood also stated for therecord he would like to stay if the people of Haverstraw still wanted him. He also stated if someone is running in another town who is he to say they should not be able to run. He used Leg. Murphy and Leg. Cornell as examples. Chair Hood was glad we had this debate it put everyone's opinions on the record.

Leg. Carey stated for therecord he was not implying anyone here is corrupt that was not his intent.

Leg. Wieder wants to point out that by having Senior Legislator's there is more knowledge and that is important.

2. AMENDING RULE 149-9 OF THE RULES OF THE LEGISLATURE TO REORGANIZE THE ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS (HON. ALDEN H. WOLFE, LEGISLATURE)

**MOTION TO APPROVE:
WOLFE/WIEDER**

UNAN

ADDED CO-SPONSORS: LEGS. HOOD, JR., EARL, WIEDER, HOFSTEIN

3. AMENDING RULE 149-21 OF THE RULES OF THE LEGISLATURE REGARDING WITHDRAWAL OF A LOCAL LAW (HON. ALDEN H. WOLFE, LEGISLATURE)

**MOTION TO APPROVE:
WOLFE/HOOD, JR.**

UNAN

ADDED CO-SPONSORS: LEGS. HOOD, JR., EARL, WIEDER, HOFSTEIN

4. AMENDING RULE 149-22 OF THE RULES OF THE LEGISLATURE TO REQUIRE MINORITY MEMBERSHIP ON ALL STANDING COMMITTEES (HON. ALDEN H. WOLFE, LEGISLATURE)

**MOTION TO APPROVE:
WOLFE/CAREY**

UNAN

ADDED CO-SPONSORS: LEGS. HOOD, JR., EARL, WIEDER, HOFSTEIN

5. AMENDING RULE 149-26 OF THE RULES OF THE LEGISLATURE TO ELIMINATE THE REQUIREMENT OF SUMMARY STATEMENTS FOR PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS AND LOCAL LAWS IN AGENDAS (HON. ALDEN H. WOLFE, LEGISLATURE)

**MOTION TO APPROVE:
WOLFE/EARL**

UNAN

ADDED CO-SPONSORS: LEGS. HOOD, JR., EARL, WIEDER, HOFSTEIN

6. AMENDING RULE 149-33 OF THE RULES OF THE LEGISLATURE TO REPLACE THE WORDS "CITIZEN OF ROCKLAND COUNTY" AND "CITIZENS" WITH "MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC" AND "MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC" (HON. ALDEN H. WOLFE, LEGISLATURE)

**MOTION TO APPROVE:
WOLFE/HOOD, JR.**

UNAN

ADDED CO-SPONSORS: LEGS. HOOD, JR., EARL, WIEDER, HOFSTEIN

ADDENDUM:

REFERRAL NO. 4065:

7. ADDING A NEW SECTION TO THE RULES OF THE LEGISLATURE TO PROVIDE A PROCESS FOR LEGISLATIVE SUBPOENAS (**HON. ALDEN H. WOLFE, LEGISLATURE**)

MOTION TO APPROVE:

WOLFE/WIEDER

UNAN

ADDED CO-SPONSORS: LEGS. HOOD, JR., EARL, WIEDER, HOFSTEIN

MOTION TO ADJOURN: 8:02 PM

WOLFE/WIEDER

UNAN

“The Rockland County Legislature is committed to full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. To that end, the Legislature is committed to creating an accessible environment for all. To request accommodations that you may require, please call Damaris Alvarez at 845-638-5248 (845-708-7899 for TTY/TDD). Please request these accommodations three (3) days in advance so that we can seek to meet your needs.”

RULESACTIONSHEET032515
MW