

PROPOSED LOCAL LAW FOR
ESTABLISHMENT OF
DESIGNATED TOWN BOARD POSITIONS

DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, STATE RECORDS & UNIFORM
COMMERCIAL CODE
ONE COMMERCE PLAZA
99 WASHINGTON AVENUE
ALBANY, NY 12231-0001

LOCAL LAW FILING

Town of Long Lake
County of Hamilton

Local Law No. 2 (tentative) of the year 2019

Be it Enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Long Lake as follows:

Section 1. Legislative authority; title.

This local law is enacted pursuant to New York State Constitution, Art. 9 § 2(c) (1), and Municipal Home Rule Law § 10, Subdivision 1(ii)a(1), both of which vest the Town Board with the power to adopt and amend local laws concerning the mode of selection of its officers. This Local Law is entitled: Local Law for Establishment of Designated Town Board Positions.

Section 2. Purpose and intent.

The Town Board has determined that under the current method of biennially electing two of its four town board members — whereby voters are ordinarily provided with the opportunity to vote for any two candidates competing for two board member positions up for election and where both positions are filled by the candidates who receive the two highest vote totals of all candidates running — a significant number of voters fail to vote for a second candidate out of concerns that a vote cast for any such candidate will detract from the voter's top selection. The purpose and intent of this local law is to diminish the above-noted concerns, to encourage better voter participation in all elections for town board members and to encourage competitive races for all board seats.

Section 3. Establishment of designated Town Board positions.

A. Position Designations

Town board positions shall be designated as: "Town Board Position A," "Town Board Position B," "Town Board Position C," and "Town Board Position D."

Such designations shall be determined as follows: the two Town Board Positions, which, on the effective date of this local law, are up for reelection at the first biennial Town election following the effective date of this local law shall be designated, respectively, as "Town Board Position A," and, "Town Board Position B," with the position of the Board member then having relatively more seniority on the Board being designated as "Town Board Position A," while the position of the Board member then having relatively less seniority on the Board being designated as "Town Board Position B." The two Board positions which, on the effective date of this local law, are up for reelection at the second biennial Town election following the effective date of this local law shall be designated, respectively, as "Town Board Position C" and "Town Board Position D," with the position of the Board member then having relatively more seniority on the Board being designated as "Town Board Position C," while the position of the Board member then having relatively less seniority on the Board being designated as "Town Board Position D."

B. Voter Casting

At the first biennial Town election following the effective date of this local law, electors shall be entitled to cast one vote for "Town Board Position A" and one vote for "Town Board Position B." At the second biennial Town election following the effective date of this local law, electors shall be entitled to cast one vote for "Town Board Position C" and one vote for "Town Board Position D." The petition of any candidate for any Board position shall designate the specific Board position for which she or he seeks to be elected.

C. More than Two Board Races

In the event that more than two Board position races are held during the same biennial Town election, appropriate designations of Board positions, consistent with this local law, shall be followed and electors shall be entitled to cast one vote per Town Board Position race.

Section 6. Voter Approval and Effective date.

This local law shall take effect upon filing with the New York Secretary of State, however the operational effectiveness of the seat designations shall not take effect unless the changes under this local law are approved by affirmative vote of a majority of the town's qualified electors voting upon the proposition during the town biennial election of November 2019. If so approved, by the qualified electors, the first town board member races affected by this local law shall be for the biennial election of the year 2021.

End of Draft Proposed Local Law