

RESOLUTION NO. 341

AMENDING THE ALBANY COUNTY LEGISLATURE'S RULES OF ORDER REGARDING DUTIES AND POWERS OF LEGISLATIVE LEADERS

Introduced: 7/9/18

By: Rules Reform Task Force

WHEREAS, Clear guidance is necessary to conduct legislative businesses in a productive and effective manner, and

WHEREAS, Clarifying this language will better serve this body and any future iterations of this body, and

WHEREAS, Section 203(d) of the Albany County Charter explicitly instructs for the election of a Chairperson of the Legislature at each organizational meeting while leaving the remainder of the process to be defined by the Rules of the Legislature, and

WHEREAS, It is already existing practice to have a compensated chairperson with specific duties and non-compensated deputy chairpersons with specific duties and those duties and selection processes should be enumerated in our rules, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By the Albany County Legislature that Rule 1 of the Albany County Legislature's Rules of Order be amended in part to read as follows:

RULE 1 - ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

The meeting of the County Legislature for the selection of a Chairman and the transaction of other business relative to organization, pursuant to Section 203 of the Albany County Charter, shall be held each even numbered year at 7:30 p.m. in the Chambers of the County Legislature on the first Monday following the first day of January except that in each and every year following the election of the Legislators, the meeting shall be held in the Chambers of the Legislature on the first day of January at 12:00 noon. The Clerk of the Legislature shall serve on each member a written notice, mailed to each member's last known post office address, at least 48 hours before the date of the meeting, stating the time and date of said meeting and identifying the place and purpose as being the organization of the Legislature and the election of its Chairperson and Deputy Chairpersons.

During the organizational meeting, in addition to a Chairperson of the Legislature being elected, a Deputy Chairperson from both the majority and minority caucuses shall be elected by a vote within their own caucus. A caucus shall

be defined as a political group of legislators with like-minded philosophies and affiliations. If a caucus is constituted by a majority of the Legislators, then it is called the Majority Caucus. The group constituting a minority of the Legislators will be called the Minority Caucus. Members of either caucus are not restrained by their caucus and are free to vote their conscience.

It shall be the responsibility of the Chairperson of the Legislature to conduct the Legislature in an orderly and efficient manner in accordance with the Rules of Legislature. It shall also be the responsibility of the Chairperson to disseminate information on resolutions, local laws and other pertinent matters affecting the County to the members of the Legislature. The Chairperson shall staff the Office of the Chairperson to accomplish these responsibilities. The Chairperson is a paid position with compensation established by the Legislature.

The duties of the Deputy Chairpersons of the Legislature shall be limited to conducting Legislative meetings in the Chairperson's absence. This duty shall alternate between the two Deputy Chairpersons with the majority Deputy Chairperson going first. Each Deputy Chairperson position is a non-compensated position.

and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Legislature forward a certified copy of this resolution to the Chairperson of the Legislature and the appropriate County Officials.

Referred to Law Committee – 7/9/18