

CITY OF LITTLE FALLS, NY

City Treasurer Local Law #7 of 2025

A LOCAL LAW AMENDING THE CITY CHARTER TO CHANGE THE OFFICE OF THE CITY TREASURER TO AN APPOINTED POSITION

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LITTLE FALLS AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: Purpose and Findings The City of Little Falls Article 2, Section 201 of the City Charter designates the Office of the City Treasurer as an elected position. Due to a significant population decline of 13% since 2000, the geographic requirement to reside in the City of Little Falls has made it challenging to identify qualified candidates with the necessary skills to proficiently manage the City's financial records. To address this issue and ensure professional qualifications and effective financial management, the Common Council finds that the Office of the City Treasurer is better suited as an appointed position, subject to the oversight of the Mayor and Common Council.

Section 2: Amendments to Article 2, Section 202 Article 2, Section 202 of the City of Little Falls Charter is hereby amended to remove the Office of City Treasurer from the list of elected offices and shall read as follows: The elective officers of the City to be elected by the City at large shall be: (a) A Mayor, whose term shall be 4 years and whose salary shall be determined by Local Law. (b) A Clerk, whose term shall be 4 years and whose salary shall be as provided by Local Law. (c) A City Court Judge, whose term shall be 6 years and whose salary shall be as fixed by State Law, or in the absence thereof, by Local Law. (d) Except as may be otherwise provided or required by law, two Legislators to serve on the Herkimer County Board of Legislators as representatives of the City of Little Falls. The term of such Legislators shall be 2 years, and their compensation shall be the same as paid by the County of Herkimer to other Legislators on the County Board of Legislators. (e) Eight Aldermen, not elected at large, but two from each of the four City Wards, whose term shall be 2 years and whose salaries shall be as fixed by Local Law.

Section 3: Amendments to Article 2, Section 204 Article 2, Section 204 of the City of Little Falls Charter is hereby amended to add subsection (q) as follows: (q) One CITY TREASURER, who shall be a resident of the City of Little Falls or any adjoining Town, appointed by the Mayor with the consent of the Common Council. The City Treasurer shall serve a term of four (4) years, commencing on January 1 following the appointment, and shall receive such compensation as the Common Council shall determine by Local Law. The appointee shall possess demonstrated qualifications in financial management, accounting, or a related field, as determined by the Mayor and Common Council.

Section 4: Transition Provision- The current elected City Treasurer shall serve the remainder of their term. Upon the expiration of the current term or in the event of a vacancy, the position shall transition to an appointed office as provided in Section 3. The Mayor shall nominate a candidate for City Treasurer within 30 days of the effective date of this Local Law or the occurrence of a vacancy, whichever is later, subject to Common Council approval.

Section 5: Separability If any provision of this Local Law or its application to any person or circumstance is adjudged invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment shall be confined to the part or provision directly involved and shall not affect the validity of the remainder of this Local Law. The Common Council declares that it would have enacted this Local Law or the remainder thereof had such invalid provision been apparent.

Section 6: Repeal All ordinances, local laws, or parts thereof inconsistent with this Local Law are hereby repealed.

Section 7: Effective Date This Local Law is subject to a mandatory referendum pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law Section 23 and shall be submitted to the voters at a special election to be held by the City of Little Falls no less than 60 days after its adoption by the Common Council. This Local Law shall take effect upon approval by a majority of the qualified electors voting at such referendum and upon filing with the New York Secretary of State.

BALLOT QUESTION:

Shall the City of Little Falls adopt Local Law #1 of 2025, amending the City Charter to change the Office of City Treasurer from an elected position to a position appointed by the Mayor with the consent of the Common Council, requiring the appointee to be a resident of the City or an adjoining Town, serve a four-year term, and possess qualifications in financial management, to address challenges in finding qualified candidates due to population decline?

Motion by Alderman Masi

Seconded by Alderman Lyon

Roll Call: Lyon, Shaffer, Dillon, Masi, Ruffing, Lockwood, Carter, Eysaman



Kira M. Miller, City of Little Falls City Clerk



Deborah A. Kaufman, Mayor of City of Little Falls