

Introductory Local Law Number 4 Of 2008

County Of Ulster

A Local Law To Require A Super-Majority (2/3) Of The Total Vote Of The Legislature To Carry Any Question, Proposition, Resolution, Motion, Or Any Other Matter Involving The Granting Of Authority To Increase County Taxes Of Any Kind

WHEREAS, the present times are marked by economic downturn and rapid inflation in critical sectors such as energy and food, and

WHEREAS, young people are finding it difficult to purchase homes, seniors are struggling to maintain their homes, and businesses are facing immense challenges to create and retain jobs, and

WHEREAS, New Yorkers face the highest property taxes in the nation, and when they are calculated as a percentage of home value, nine of the top 10 property tax rates in the entire United States belong to counties in New York, and

WHEREAS, property tax paying citizens of Ulster County are being saddled with County, Town and School Tax bills which are rising each year at a dramatic rate, and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature must take every possible step to ensure that the borrowing, appropriation and/or expenditure of money is done in a prudent and fiscally responsible manner so as to ensure that future generations will be able to live in Ulster County without the burden of near confiscatory taxes, while still providing for all necessary element of the County Government, and

WHEREAS, Rule 17 of the Rules of Order of the Ulster County Legislature provides that “A majority of the total vote of the Legislature shall be necessary to carry any question, proposition, resolution, motion or any other matter, except where it is otherwise provided herein or by statute that a two-thirds vote or a unanimous vote is required”, and

WHEREAS, Rule 39 of the Rules of Order of the Ulster County Legislature provides for Amendment of the said Rules, and

WHEREAS, requiring more than a simple majority vote must be enacted by local law and submitted to a mandatory referendum.

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BE IT ENACTED, by the Legislature of the County of Ulster, as follows:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT OF THE RULES OF ORDER BY LOCAL LAW.

[a] Rule 17 of Rules of Order of the Ulster County Legislature be and hereby are amended to require a super-majority (2/3) of the total vote of the Legislature to carry any question, proposition, resolution, motion, or any other matter involving the granting of authority to increase County Taxes of any kind.

SECTION 2. MANDATORY REFERENDUM.

[a] Upon its passage by the Ulster County Legislature, this Local Law shall be forwarded by the Clerk of the Legislature to the Ulster County Board of Elections for submission to the Electorate of Ulster County in a mandatory referendum at the next general election in accord with the law.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This local law shall take effect upon its approval by the electorate of Ulster County at a mandatory referendum.