

At the request of a town Board member, the Town Attorney prepared a local law to extend the term of the Town Supervisor from two years to four years. The draft local law was introduced at the last Town Board meeting and, as required, a Public Hearing was set. Unfortunately, due to a procedural error, today's hearing date is less than the required 150 days prior to the general election and therefore would technically not be able to be presented as a referendum on the ballot this November.

I fully endorse the idea of extending the term of supervisor to four years, and note that several other Oswego County Towns are also pursuing increasing the term of supervisor. In our increasingly complex world, which includes changing state and federal regulations, the learning curve for a Town Supervisor, indeed for any elected position, is large and long. A two-year term is not sufficient to fully master the requirements of the job. I also believe that the elected official would be better tasked to learning the role and performing the duties of the job rather than spending the time to run for election every two years.

However, as much as I support this local law, I feel it is not ready to be on the ballot for this election cycle. I believe the public could use more time to understand issues surrounding this law. It would seem best if this issue could be determined at a time when it is not tied to the election of a current elected official and should be based on the merit of the law itself. Therefore, when the resolution of the law is introduced, I intend to move it to be tabled until after the new year. This would allow more time for review and would meet the legal requirements to then be placed on the ballot for a Public Referendum.