



Legislation Text

File #: Res 1232-2008, **Version:** *

Res. No. 1232

Resolution calling upon the Legislature of the State of New York to amend New York State Public Officers Law to require that a person seeking municipal elective office in the City of New York be a resident of the political subdivision in which he/she is seeking election at least one year immediately preceding the election.

By Council Members Stewart, Avella and Vacca

Whereas, New York State Public Officers Law section 3 outlines the qualifications for holding a civil office in the State of New York (State); and

Whereas, With respect to a municipal office, Public Officers Law section 3 requires a person seeking office to reside within the political subdivision or municipal corporation of the state no later than the time he/she shall be chosen for such municipal office; and

Whereas, In addition, the State Constitution requires a candidate for the office of Governor or member of the State Legislature (Legislature) to reside in the State for a five-year period immediately preceding his/her election;

Whereas, The State Constitution also requires a candidate for the Legislature to be a resident of the respective assembly or senate district for at least twelve months immediately preceding his/her election; and

Whereas, There is no similar one-year or five-year residency requirement for those seeking municipal office in New York City (City); and

Whereas, Similar to the residency requirements applicable to a candidate for the Governor and the Legislature, it is in the best interest of the public and the person seeking City municipal office that there be a one-year residency requirement; and

Whereas, A one-year residency requirement for those seeking municipal office in the City is sound

public policy because it would provide the candidate with an opportunity to familiarize him/herself with the specific issues relevant to the political subdivision which he/she is seeking to represent; and

Whereas, Further, a one-year residency requirement would also ensure that the constituents in the respective district have ample time to become acquainted with the candidate seeking to represent them; and

Whereas, Finally, a one-year residency requirement would ensure that only a serious candidate, who has a personal stake in the community he/she is seeking to represent, would seek such municipal office; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon the Legislature of the State of New York to amend New York State Public Officers Law to require that a person seeking municipal elective office in the City of New York be a resident of the political subdivision in which he/she is seeking election at least one year immediately preceding the election.

DG
LS #2700
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