

*Monroe County
Clerk of the Legislature*

**Jack Moffitt
Clerk**



**David Grant
Deputy Clerk**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Legislators, Directors, Staff and Media
FROM: Jack Moffitt, Clerk of the Legislature *JM*
DATE: August 26, 2020
RE: Matter of Importance – File No. 20-0283

20-0283 - Amendment to Article VII of the Rules of the Monroe County Legislature to Allow for the Establishment and Funding of Independent Caucuses – As a Matter of Importance – County Legislator Calvin Lee, Jr., County Legislator Sabrina LaMar, County Legislator Frank Keophetlasy, County Legislator Ernest Flagler-Mitchell

This referral was not made to committee at the preceding meeting of the Legislature on August 11, 2020, but have been determined by President Dr. Joe Carbone to be of sufficient importance to warrant referral between Legislative meetings, pursuant to Section 545-24 (C) of the Rules of the Monroe County Legislature.

Attachments



Monroe County Legislature Black and Asian Caucus

Calvin Lee, Jr
LEGISLATOR - District 25

Sabrina LaMar
LEGISLATOR - District 27

Frank Keophetlasy
LEGISLATOR - District 28

Ernest Flagler-Mitchell
LEGISLATOR - District 29

August 26, 2020

To the Honorable
Monroe County Legislature
407 County Office Building
Rochester, New York 14614

OFFICIAL FILE COPY
No. 200283
Not to be removed from the
Office of the
Legislature Of
Monroe County
Committee Assignment
AGENDA/CHARTER - L
Allow for the

RE: Amendment to Article VII of the Rules of the Monroe County Legislature to Establish and Funding of Independent Caucuses

Honorable Legislators:

We are a group of Democratic Legislators who are giving our constituents a CHOICE by creating opportunity, income, capital and equity to provide a voice, protect the most vulnerable and ensure a future for EVERY citizen of the City of Rochester.

We are strengthening our local party by putting forth a bold progressive agenda for our most vulnerable citizens. Just last week ACT Rochester released the 2020 Hard Facts Report that showed that our region is no better, and in fact sometimes worse, than other cities that are held up as poster children for racial disparities, according to the Democrat and Chronicle.

Our decision to form an independent caucus allows us to focus primarily on the issues facing communities of color. To accomplish our goal, we must have the necessary resources and support to serve our constituents.

Each Legislator carries with them approximately \$16,334 in budgetary funds for items including staff salaries, fringe benefits, computer equipment, postage, rent, etc. The funds associated with our legislative seats are allocated to the Democratic Staff Office in accordance with the Rules of the Legislature. There are currently no provisions to reallocate those funds to support an independent caucus. Therefore, we are seeking to amend the Rules of the Legislature to permit the reallocation of funds to the newly formed "Black and Asian Caucus" so that we may best serve our constituents.

The specific legislative action required is to amend Article VII of the Rules of the Legislature of the County of Monroe by adopting the attached resolution.

The legislative action requested in this referral is not an "Action" as that term is defined in 6 NYCRR 617.5(b), and is not subject to review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act. This action will have no impact on the revenues or expenditures of the current Monroe County budget.

Sincerely,

Calvin Lee, Jr
County Legislator
District 25 - Rochester

Sabrina LaMar
County Legislator
District 27 - Rochester

Frank Keophetlasy
County Legislator
District 28 - Rochester

Ernest Flagler-Mitchell
County Legislator
District 29 - Rochester

By Legislators _____ and _____

Intro No. _____

RESOLUTION NO. __ OF 2020

AMENDING ARTICLE VII OF THE RULES OF THE LEGISLATURE OF THE COUNTY OF MONROE TO ALLOW FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNDING OF INDEPENDENT CAUCUSES

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE COUNTY OF MONROE, as follows:

Section 1. Article VII, Section 545-36 of the Rules of the Monroe County Legislature, entitled “Reallocation of Majority/Minority Budget,” is hereby relettered 545-38.

Section 2. Article VII, Section 545 of the Rules of the Monroe County Legislature is hereby amended by adding a new Article VII, Section 545-36, to read as follows:

Section 545-36 Caucuses Established

A Caucus shall be defined as a group of Legislators who are members or adherents of the same political party, or a group of Legislators who are adherents of the same issue. There shall be an established Caucus for each legally constituted political party represented by a County Legislator who is an enrolled member of said political party. Only the President of the Legislature shall have the power to establish additional Caucuses beyond those set forth herein. A group of Legislators wishing to establish a Caucus other than one for a legally constituted political party shall file notice with the President of the Legislature. Legislators shall be members of the legally constituted political party Caucus corresponding to their political party enrollment unless notice to the contrary is filed with the President of the Legislature. Legislators shall only be entitled to membership in one (1) established Caucus. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit Legislators from forming or participating in an unestablished caucus.

Section 3. Article VII, Section 545 of the Rules of the Monroe County Legislature is hereby amended by adding a new Article VII, Section 545-37, to read as follows:

Section 545-37 Majority and Minority Leaders Elected

The enrolled Legislators of the two (2) Caucuses with the greatest number of Legislators seated in the Legislature shall elect a leader of their respective Caucus. The leader of the Caucus whose membership of the Legislature constitutes a majority of the Legislature shall be known as the Majority Leader. The leader of the other Caucus shall be known as the Minority Leader. Those leaders shall serve at the pleasure of their respective Caucuses.

Section 4. Article VII, Section 545-38 of the Rules of the Monroe County Legislature, entitled “Reallocation of Majority/Minority Budget,” is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 545-38 Reallocation of Majority/Minority Legislature Budget

The Legislature shall appropriate annually an amount for the operation of the staff offices for each Caucus established in accordance with Section 545-36 both the Republican and Democrat Staff Offices. Such appropriations shall be based on each division's Caucus' percentage representation in the Legislative body and shall be reallocated anytime a Caucus' percentage representation changes as of the Organizational Meeting of the County Legislature held in accordance with Section 545-2. Should such a change occur during the course of the fiscal year, the reallocation shall be made on a prorated basis.

Section 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately in accordance with Section C2-7 of the Monroe County Charter.

File No. _____

ENACTED: Date: _____ Vote: _____

Added language is underlined

Deleted language is ~~stricken~~