

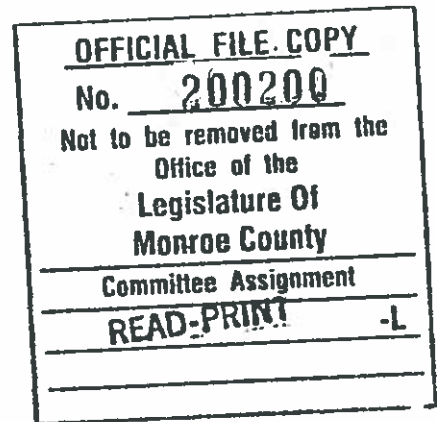


Office of the County Executive

Adam J. Bello
County Executive

June 3, 2020

Mr. Jack Moffitt
Clerk of the Legislature
Monroe County Legislature
407 County Office Building
Rochester, New York 14614



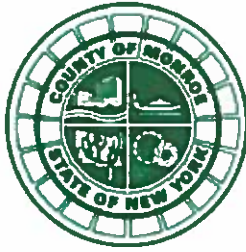
Dear Mr. Moffitt:

This is in response to your letter of May 27, 2020, presenting Resolution 169 of 2020, "Creating Six (6) New Positions in Monroe County Board of Elections and Amending 2020 Operating Budget," which was certified by you to have been adopted by the Monroe County Legislature at its Special Meeting on May 26, 2020. Pursuant to Monroe County Charter § C2-7, with this letter I am providing notice to the Legislature that I have vetoed Resolution 169 and am returning the vetoed Resolution to you.

This measure would add six new, full-time positions to the Monroe County Board of Elections at a cost of approximately \$500,000 a year in salary and benefits. It includes the creation of two Group 20 Assistant Deputy Commissioner positions that pay \$76,000 - \$98,000 a year, but does not provide job descriptions or clearly defined duties for these supervisory level positions. Monroe County's current payroll already budgets for two of the highest paid Elections Commissioners and Deputy Elections Commissioners in New York State. Adding several more highly paid administrative positions is unnecessary and irresponsible, particularly during these times of economic hardship. These positions would also be a direct chargeback to the taxpayers of Monroe County, directly affecting their county tax bill, because they are newly created positions and not replacements of current county openings.

Last November, the residents of Monroe County rejected the old way of doing business, including the patronage games that were prevalent across previous administrations. Unfortunately, the majority in the County Legislature did not receive that message and is yet again attempting to create patronage jobs on the backs of Monroe County taxpayers. Just as with the failed CABLE Act, which was a blatant power grab that sought to overturn the clear demand by voters for a new way of governing,, this motion represents the wrong way of doing business and reeks of the patronage traditions of the past.

Moreover, this proposal was submitted a mere four days after I briefed the County Legislature about \$47 million in necessary cost saving measures to help close a projected



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budget deficit, which includes a hiring delay or freeze on over 400 unfilled positions. If any other county department came to me with a similar request, I would be obligated to reject their proposal as well.

In questioning during the legislature meeting at which this measure passed, it was stated that this would represent the first reorganization of the Board of Elections in over 30 years. That being the case, any such reorganization should have a full public discussion, ensuring it is properly vetted and reviewed. In addition, the answers to the legislators' questions clearly demonstrated that this was thrown together at the last minute and not well thought out, lending further credence to the conclusion that this plan was intended to take advantage of the COVID-19 pandemic to add patronage jobs, rather than to address the actual needs at the Board. Before we ask taxpayers to shoulder these additional costs, they deserve the opportunity to evaluate and weigh in on any such plan.

My administration has shown a clear commitment to providing our Board of Elections with the necessary staffing to handle the expected influx of absentee ballots as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. We have added all of the seasonal positions requested to date, which represent expenses eligible for CARES Act funding, and have discussed other ways to assist the current staff on numerous occasions with the leadership at the Board of Elections. In fact, as soon as June 8, 2020 the Board of Elections will have 22 new seasonal employees, nearly three times the typical number of seasonal employees at the Board for this time of the year. Despite these ongoing discussions, the six positions created in this measure were never mentioned or proposed to my administration until we received the County Legislature referral at 11:29 a.m. on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 – the same day the motion was to be voted on.

While I fully support the efforts of our Board of Elections staff to ensure our elections are fair and valid, the creation of these patronage positions does nothing to meet that stated objective.

For the reasons stated above, I have vetoed Resolution 169.

Sincerely,

Adam J. Bello
Monroe County Executive

Enc.

By Legislator Brew and Felder

Intro. No. 228

RESOLUTION NO. 169 OF 2020

CREATING SIX (6) NEW POSITIONS IN MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND AMENDING 2020 OPERATING BUDGET

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

Section 1. The following positions are hereby created in the Monroe County Board of Election:

1. Two (2) Assistant Deputy Commissioners, Group 20;
2. One (1) Supervisor of Training and Recruitment, Group 15;
3. One (1) Supervisor of Information Services, Group 15;
4. One (1) Supervisor of Absentee Voting, Group 10;
5. One (1) Senior Trainer, Group 10.

Section 2. The 2020 operating budget is hereby amended by appropriating \$220,000 of unassigned fund balance to general fund 9001, funds center 2003010000, BOE Support.

Section 3. This resolution shall take effect in accordance with Section C2-7 of the Monroe County Charter.

Matter of Urgency
File No. 20-0199

ADOPTION: Date: May 26, 2020

Vote: 20-8

(Legislators Barnhart, Baurath, Baynes, Hasman, Maffucci, Morelle, Jr., Wilcox and Yudelson Voted in the Negative.)

ACTION BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

APPROVED: _____

VETOED: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

EFFECTIVE DATE OF RESOLUTION: _____