

**RESOLUTION NO. 531-2022, ADOPTING LOCAL LAW
NO. 31-2022, A CHARTER LAW TO TERMINATE PUBLIC
FINANCING OF POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS**

WHEREAS, there was duly presented and introduced to this County Legislature at a meeting held on May 17 2022, a proposed local law entitled, "**A CHARTER LAW TO TERMINATE PUBLIC FINANCING OF POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS**"; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that said local law be enacted in form as follows:

LOCAL LAW NO. 31-2022, SUFFOLK COUNTY, NEW YORK

**A CHARTER LAW TO TERMINATE PUBLIC FINANCING OF
POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS**

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE OF THE COUNTY OF
SUFFOLK**, as follows:

Section 1. Legislative Intent.

This Legislature hereby finds and determines that county taxpayer dollars are best spent in furtherance of public safety, public health, social programs, public works, improving infrastructure, preserving open space and farmland, providing affordable housing opportunities and improving the overall quality of life of Suffolk County residents.

The Legislature finds that several of these core functions are presently underfunded and said lack of funding negatively affects public health, safety, and quality of life.

Conversely, this Legislature finds that the public funding of partisan political campaigns, political consultants, political advertisements, political robocalls and the like is not an expense meant to be borne by county taxpayers. Moreover, studies have shown that the public funding of campaigns does not affect the status quo that keeps established parties and incumbent candidates in power.

This Legislature further finds that ordinary taxpayers should not be forced, through the public purse, to support candidates that they would never chose to vote for, and instead, should have the possibility to decide if and when they want to contribute money to a political party, candidate or cause.

This Legislature concludes that the County of Suffolk should focus on delivering the aforementioned services to its residents and abstain from utilizing public resources to fund political campaigns.

Therefore, the purpose of this law is to repeal Local Law No. 8-2018 and terminate the County's campaign finance program.

Section 2. Repeal.

Local Law No. 8-2018 and Article 41 of the SUFFOLK COUNTY CHARTER are repealed in their entirety.

Section 3. Applicability.

This law shall apply to all actions occurring on or after the effective date of this law.

Section 4. Severability.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or part of this law or the application thereof to any person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity, or circumstance shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or part of this law, or in its application to the person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity, or circumstance directly involved in the controversy in which such order or judgment shall be rendered.

Section 5. SEQRA Determination.

This Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this law constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(26), (27) and (33) of Title 6 of the NEW YORK CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS (6 NYCRR) and within the meaning of Section 8-0109(2) of the NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW in that the action constitutes routine or continuing administration and management not including new programs or major reordering of priorities that may affect the environment. The Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this law.

Section 6. Effective Date.

This law shall take effect immediately upon its filing in the Office of the Secretary of State.

DATED: June 22, 2022

****VETOED BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE ON JULY 19, 2022****

****VETO OVERRIDDEN ADOPTED ON JULY 26, 2022****

Filed with the Secretary of State on September 30, 2022