

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS, STATE

AND FEDERAL LEGISLATION

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL
OPERATIONS, STATE AND FEDERAL
LEGISLATION

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December 19, 2024
Start: 12:16 p.m.
Recess: 12:20 p.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Lincoln Restler, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Gale A. Brewer
David M. Carr
James F. Gennaro
Vickie Paladino
Lynn C. Schulman
Inna Vernikov

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2 FEDERAL LEGISLATION

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3 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Soundcheck on Gov Ops.
4 Today's date is December 19, 2024, being recorded by
5 Danny Huang in the Council Chambers.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, and
7 welcome to today's New York City Council vote for the
8 Committee on Governmental Operations, State and
9 Federal Legislation.

10 At this time, we ask that you silence all
11 electronic devices, and at no time is anyone to
12 approach the dais.

13 Chair Restler, we may begin.

14 CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: [GAVEL] Good
15 morning. My name is Lincoln Restler, and I am the
16 Chair of the Committee on Governmental Operations,
17 State and Federal Legislation. I'd like to first
18 begin by thanking my Colleagues who have joined us
19 today, especially Jim Gennaro of Queens, Lynn
20 Schulman of Queens, Vicki Paladino of Queens, Gale
21 Brewer of Manhattan, Inna Vernikov of Brooklyn, and
22 David Carr of Brooklyn.

23 Today, we'll be voting on Intro. 1111-A,
24 sponsored by Council Member Lynn Schulman. This bill
25 will change the frequency with which the Campaign
Finance Board recalculates contribution and

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2 expenditure limits, base changes, in the Consumer
3 Price Index. The Board will be required to
4 recalculate limits once every local general election
5 cycle, instead of every four years, to account for
6 two-year Council terms that occur every 20 years due
7 to redistricting. I really want to thank Council
8 Member Schulman for this innovative legislation and
9 for having a very clear vision for what needed to be
10 changed and for making that happen.

11 With that, I'd like to turn it over to
12 her for remarks.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Thank you,
14 Chair. When the City Council first passed the
15 Campaign Finance Act, the provision that capped
16 expenditures for Council and citywide offices called
17 for the cap to be increased every four years based on
18 the Consumer Price Index. The four-year figure came
19 from the fact that citywide and Council offices have
20 four-year terms as a general rule. However, the law
21 did not account for an anomaly that occurs every 20
22 years in which members of the Council serve two-year
23 terms because of redistricting of Council lines as a
24 result of the U.S. Census. To rectify this issue and
25 bring equity to Council elections that occur within

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2 this rare circumstance, Intro. 1111 changes the
3 frequency with which the Campaign Finance Board
4 recalculates contribution and expenditure limits to
5 account for changes in the Consumer Price Index from
6 once every four years to once every local general
7 election.

8 I want to thank Speaker Adams and Chair
9 Restler for their support of this bill to bring
10 equity to City Council elections. Thank you.

11 CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: Thank you so much,
12 Council Member Schulman.

13 I'd like to thank Committee Staff,
14 Jayasri Ganapathy and Erica Cohen for their work on
15 this. I'd also like to thank David Seitzer for his
16 work on this as well, and of course the Team from the
17 CFB for their partnership and collaboration.

18 With that, I'll now ask the Clerk to call
19 the roll.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
21 afternoon. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
22 vote Committee on Governmental Operations, State and
23 Federal Legislation. Proposed Introduction 1111-A.
24 Chair Restler.

25 CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: Aye.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS, STATE AND
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COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Gennaro.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Brewer.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:

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Gutiérrez. Hanif. Schulman.

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COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Carr.

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COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Nay.

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COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Vernikov.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: No.

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COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Paladino.

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COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: I'd like

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permission to explain my vote, please.

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CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: Of course,

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permission granted.

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COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Thank you,

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Chair. While I plan to vote no on the floor for the

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full Council vote on Intro. 1111-A, I will be voting

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yes here in Committee because I believe that all

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bills that we see as Council Members should be

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introduced out of Committee and onto the floor for a

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full Council vote so I will vote yay here, but I will

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2 turn it over to the floor, whereas I will be voting
3 nay.

4 CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: I would just like to
5 state on the record thank you, Council Member
6 Paladino. It's exceptionally gracious of you, and we
7 very much appreciate your cooperation and help in
8 moving this bill to the floor.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Thank you,
10 Chair. Like I said, I just want a full Council vote
11 on everything. Thank you.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
13 you. With a vote of five in the affirmative, two in
14 the negative, and no abstentions, item has been
15 adopted by the Committee.

16 CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: And with that, we
17 are adjourned. [GAVEL]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date December 23, 2024