

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 10524

To amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to prohibit the use of Federal funds for the administration of elections for Federal, State, or local office in States which do not have in effect laws to permit units of local government to hold elections for local office in odd-numbered years, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 19, 2024

Mr. D’ESPOSITO (for himself and Mr. LALOTA) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to prohibit the use of Federal funds for the administration of elections for Federal, State, or local office in States which do not have in effect laws to permit units of local government to hold elections for local office in odd-numbered years, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Our Local
5 Elections Act” or the “POLE Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Holding local elections for public office in
4 odd-numbered years provides greater focus on local
5 candidates and issues.

6 (2) Local elections held in odd-numbered years
7 allow voters to make more informed decisions about
8 their local representation.

9 (3) Holding all elections in even-numbered
10 years diminishes the attention given to community
11 matters.

12 (4) Holding all elections in even-numbered
13 years overcrowds the ballot, hindering the decision-
14 making process for voters.

15 (5) Local elected officials directly serve their
16 immediate communities and needs.

17 (6) Local leaders played a vital role in the
18 founding of the United States.

19 (7) Local governments are at the core of our
20 Nation's republic.

21 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
22 gress that—

23 (1) units of local governments should have the
24 authority to conduct elections for local office in odd-
25 numbered years;

1 (2) local elections held in odd-numbered years
 2 ensure that local candidates and issues receive great-
 3 er attention and allow voters to make well-informed
 4 choices; and

5 (3) the most effective form of representation is
 6 attained through local governance.

7 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITING PROVISION OF FEDERAL FUNDS FOR**
 8 **ELECTION ADMINISTRATION FOR STATES**
 9 **NOT PERMITTING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO**
 10 **HOLD ELECTIONS FOR LOCAL OFFICE IN**
 11 **ODD-NUMBERED YEARS.**

12 (a) PROHIBITION.—Title IX of the Help America
 13 Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21141 et seq.) is amended
 14 by adding at the end the following new section:

15 **“SEC. 907. PROHIBITING PROVISION OF FEDERAL FUNDS**
 16 **FOR ELECTION ADMINISTRATION FOR**
 17 **STATES NOT PERMITTING LOCAL GOVERN-**
 18 **MENTS TO HOLD ELECTIONS FOR LOCAL OF-**
 19 **FICE IN ODD-NUMBERED YEARS.**

20 “Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no Fed-
 21 eral funds may be provided under this Act or any other
 22 Act to administer an election for Federal, State, or local
 23 office held in a State which does not have in effect a law
 24 which permits units of local government in the State to
 25 hold elections for local office in odd-numbered years.”.

1 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
2 of such Act is amended by adding at the end of the items
3 relating to title IX the following:

“Sec. 907. Prohibiting provision of Federal funds for election administration
for States not permitting local governments to hold elections
for local office in odd-numbered years”.

4 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
5 this section shall apply with respect to fiscal year 2026
6 and each succeeding fiscal year.

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