

**PROPOSITION AND ABSTRACT
FOR THE CITY OF ITHACA BALLOT
(General Election – November 7, 2017)**

Proposition:

Shall a local law be approved that would amend the Ithaca City Charter and the City of Ithaca Municipal Code to replace eleven boards, committees, commissions and councils with four new volunteer Advisory Commissions intended to empower public participation in setting City policy?

Abstract:

The title of the local law is “Amendment of the City of Ithaca Charter and Code to Reflect New Advisory Commissions Established by Companion Ordinance.”

This local law, together with a companion ordinance, was passed by the Common Council on July 5, 2017 in order to create four new volunteer Advisory Commissions intended to empower public participation in setting City policy. This local law is subject to referendum because it eliminates mayoral appointments to eleven City boards, committees, commissions and councils (collectively, “boards and committees”) that are being replaced by mayoral appointments to the four new Advisory Commissions.

The purpose and effect of this local law and companion ordinance is to:

- (1) replace eleven boards and committees with four new Advisory Commissions, thereby eliminating existing inefficiencies, wasted resources, and breakdowns in communication;
- (2) empower public participation in a more transparent, effective, and navigable City government, including opportunities to volunteer for 36 Commissioner positions, 40 Advisor positions, and additional appointments to commission working groups;
- (3) establish uniform requirements and procedures for all four Advisory Commissions that will promote public participation in the commissions and coordination between the commissions and the Common Council; and
- (4) update the City Charter and City Code to appropriately reflect this reorganization.