



**COMMON COUNCIL MEETING
FINANCE, ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION COMMITTEE
Meghan Keegan, Chair**

DATE: **Wednesday, February 4, 2026**

TIME: **6:00 PM**

LOCATION: **Council Chambers-2nd Floor, City Hall**

LIVESTREAM: **YouTube— <https://www.youtube.com/@albanycommoncouncil>**
Facebook— <https://www.facebook.com/albany.commoncouncil>

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:

- **Local Law B of 2026**
A LOCAL LAW AMENDING ARTICLE III (SENIOR CITIZENS TAX EXEMPTION) OF CHAPTER 333 (TAXATION) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALBANY TO ALLOW FOR THE FORGOING OF FILING RENEWAL APPLICATIONS FOR PROPERTY OWNERS WHO HAVE RECEIVED THE EXEMPTION FOR FIVE (5) CONSECUTIVE YEARS
- **Local Law C of 2026**
A LOCAL LAW AMENDING SECTION 42-263 (ANNUAL SALARIES; ELECTIVE OFFICERS) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALBANY IN RELATION TO ADDING A MAJORITY WHIP POSITION FOR THE COMMON COUNCIL AND THE SALARIES OF ELECTIVE OFFICERS

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: YES

The Albany Common Council encourages members of the public to provide public comment in-person or online. To provide in-person commentary, one can show up before the meeting to sign up, or use the link that follows 30 minutes prior to the meeting. One can also email commoncouncil@albanyny.gov to provide written public comment, or use the same link that follows:

<https://albanyny.gov/FormCenter/Common-Council-15/Online-Public-Comment-SignUpSubmission-F-59>

Council Member Hoey introduced the following:

LOCAL LAW B OF 2026

A LOCAL LAW AMENDING ARTICLE III (SENIOR CITIZENS TAX EXEMPTION) OF CHAPTER 333 (TAXATION) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALBANY TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM EXEMPTION PERCENTAGE LEVELS APPLICABLE TO THE EXEMPTION

Be it enacted by the Common Council of the City of Albany as follows:

Section 1. Subsection (A) of section 333-37 (Application) of Article III (Senior Citizens Tax Exemption) of Chapter 333 (Taxation) of Part II (General Legislation) of the Code of the City of Albany is hereby amended to add a subsection (B) to read as follows:

B. Except in cities of one million or more, any person who has been granted exemption pursuant to this section on five (5) consecutive completed assessment rolls, including any years when the exemption was granted to a property owned by a married person or a married couple while both spouses resided in such property, shall not be subject to the requirements set forth in paragraph (a) of this subdivision provided the governing board of the municipality in which said property is situated after public hearing adopts a local law, ordinance or resolution providing therefor however said person shall be mailed an application form and a notice setting forth such person's rights. Such exemption shall be automatically granted on each subsequent assessment roll. Provided, however, that when tax payment is made by such person a sworn affidavit must be included with such payment which shall state that such person continues to be eligible for such exemption. Such affidavit shall be on a form prescribed by the commissioner. If such affidavit is not included with the tax payment, the collecting officer shall proceed pursuant to section five hundred fifty-one-a of this chapter.

Section 3. This Local Law shall take effect upon final passage, public hearing, and filing with the Secretary of State and shall apply to assessment rolls prepared on the basis of taxable status dates occurring on and after January 1, 2026.

**APPROVED AS TO FORM THIS
15th DAY OF JANUARY, 2026**

Corporation Counsel

To: **Shaniqua Jackson, City Clerk**

From: **Trey Kingston, Commissioner of Assessment**

Re: **Common Council Legislation**
Supporting Memorandum

Date: **January 15, 2026**

Sponsor: **Council Member Hoey**

Local Law B OF 2026

TITLE

A LOCAL LAW AMENDING ARTICLE III (SENIOR CITIZENS TAX EXEMPTION) OF CHAPTER 333 (TAXATION) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALBANY TO ALLOW FOR THE FORGOING OF FILING RENEWAL APPLICATIONS FOR PROPERTY OWNERS WHO HAVE RECEIVED THE EXEMPTION FOR FIVE (5) CONSECUTIVE YEARS

GENERAL PURPOSE OF LEGSLATION

The City of Albany's senior citizen property tax exemption, codified at Code § 333-34 et seq., is authorized by and based upon section 467 of the New York State Real Property Tax Law. The renewal process, which is currently in place for the City of Albany, requires an annual renewal, including a State form, Federal Tax Returns, bank statements and Social Security documents. The required renewal paperwork is cumbersome to collect and important to remain protected for these property owners. State regulations require the removal of the exemption for those unable to satisfactorily submit the required documents, which would be catastrophic to the property owners' ability to age in their homes.

Adopting RPTL §467(6)(b) will allow the property owners who have received the Senior Citizen exemption for five consecutive years to forgo the formal renewal process and rather submit an affidavit of qualification which will be provided by the Department of Assessment.

The adoption of this local law into City Code will free up resources in the Department of Assessment and help Seniors receive the exemption in which they are legally entitled.

NECESSITY FOR LEGISLATION AND ANY CHANGE TO EXISTING LAW

This local law helps the City of Albany achieve in assisting seniors' ability to age in their homes. By alleviating the burden imposed by the renewal requirements, it will allow seniors to retain the exemption without multiple trips to City Hall, providing sensitive financial information, and in many cases, the loss of the exemption altogether due to potential confusion and inability to complete.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

Council Member Keegan, on behalf of the Committee on Finance, Assessment and Taxation, introduced the following:

LOCAL LAW C OF 2026

A LOCAL LAW AMENDING SECTION 42-263 (ANNUAL SALARIES; ELECTIVE OFFICERS) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALBANY IN RELATION TO ADDING A MAJORITY WHIP POSITION FOR THE COMMON COUNCIL AND THE SALARIES OF ELECTIVE OFFICERS

Be it enacted, by the Common Council of the City of Albany, as follows:

Section 1. Section 42-263 (Annual salaries; elective officials) of Article XXXII (General Provisions) of Part 22 (Elective and Appointive Officers of the City of Albany) of Chapter 42 (Departments and Commissions) of Part I (Administrative Legislation) of the Code of the City of Albany is hereby amended as follows:

The following elective officers of the City of Albany shall receive an annual salary in the following sums, respectively:

Officer	Salary
Mayor	\$160,000.00
Chief City Auditor	\$125,000.00
Treasurer	\$125,000.00
President, Common Council	\$38,000.00
President Pro Tempore, Common Council	\$28,000.00
Majority Leader, Common Council	\$28,000.00
<u>Majority Whip, Common Council</u>	<u>\$28,000.00</u>
Member, Common Council	\$25,000.00

Section 2. This local law shall take effect upon final passage, public hearing, and filing with the Secretary of State.

**APPROVED AS TO FORM THIS
23RD DAY OF JANUARY, 2026**

Corporation Counsel

To: **Shaniqua Jackson, City Clerk**

From: **Carly Johnson, Junior Legislative Aide**
Robert Wenner, Research Counsel

Re: **Common Council Legislation**
Supporting Memorandum

Date: **January 23, 2026**

Sponsor: **Council Member Keegan, o/b/o Finance Committee**

LOCAL LAW C OF 2026

TITLE

A LOCAL LAW AMENDING SECTION 42-263 (ANNUAL SALARIES; ELECTIVE OFFICERS) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALBANY IN RELATION TO ADDING A MAJORITY WHIP POSITION FOR THE COMMON COUNCIL AND THE SALARIES OF ELECTIVE OFFICERS

GENERAL PURPOSE OF LEGISLATION

Per section 203 of the City Charter, “The salaries of elected officials shall be fixed by local law of the Common Council.” The Council has codified salaries for elected officials in the City Code at section 42-263, but the salaries reflected therein do not reflect the recently added leadership position, Majority Whip. This position was added in the Common Council’s Rules of Procedure that were adopted on January 5, 2026, and the position was filled by election on January 23, 2026. This legislation amends the Code to reflect the added position by amending section 1 of Local Law 9-2025.

NECESSITY FOR LEGISLATION AND ANY CHANGE TO EXISTING LAW

This legislation is necessary to comply with the City Charter, to enact the adopted Rules of Procedure, and to make updates to Code § 42-263.

The addition of this position fills a role currently empty in Common Council Leadership. The Majority Whip will be responsible for managing intercommunications between Council Leadership and other Council members, including such communications as it relates to regular and special meetings of the Council, events, legislative items, and matters of public policy. The Majority Whip will also exercise the powers granted to the Majority Leader in their absence.

FISCAL IMPACTS

This local law would increase expenditure by approximately \$3,000 annually.