



**City of Rochester**

City Hall Room 308A, 30 Church Street  
Rochester, New York 14614-1290  
www.cityofrochester.gov

**COMMITTEE OF  
THE WHOLE  
INTRODUCTORY NO.**

**238**

<sup>60</sup>  
**Lovely A. Warren**  
Mayor

*MAJOR*

June 7, 2019

TO THE COUNCIL

Ladies and Gentlemen:

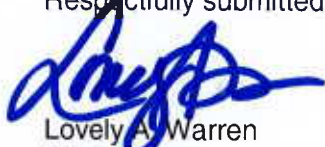
Re: Statement of Necessity

I am submitting this Statement of Necessity so that action may be taken at the June 18 Council Meeting on the attached legislation related to amending the City Charter to remove language referencing the Commissioners of Schools and salaries of School Board Members.

This amendment is necessary to allow the State Commissioner of Education to institute necessary processes and procedures that will provide a better educational outcome for our City students.

Therefore, in order to protect the City's children, it is important to consider this legislation now.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Lovely A. Warren  
Mayor

RECEIVED  
OFFICE OF THE CLERK  
CITY OF ROCHESTER  
2019 JUN -7 PM 2:08





**City of Rochester**

City Hall Room 308A, 30 Church Street  
Rochester, New York 14614-1290  
www.cityofrochester.gov

**COMMITTEE OF  
THE WHOLE  
INTRODUCTORY NO.**

**Lovely A. Warren**  
Mayor

**238**

June 7, 2019

TO THE COUNCIL

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Re: Amending the City Charter regarding the  
Commissioners of Schools and Salaries  
of School Board Members

Transmitted herewith for your approval is legislation amending the City Charter to remove language referencing the Commissioners of Schools and salaries of School Board Members.

Chronic dysfunction and substandard student performance levels have caused the New York State Education Department to investigate the governance of the Rochester City School District.

On November 14, 2018, Dr. Jaime Aquino issued the Distinguished Educator's Report, which details 106 findings and 84 recommendations necessary to support and advance district improvements for the Board of Education and District to provide equitable access to high-quality education for all students.

Prompted by the release of the Distinguished Educator's Report, throughout the month of December 2018, Mayor Lovely Warren hosted a series of forums to discuss the opportunities and challenges facing Rochester's schools. The goal was to identify areas for future community partnerships that will promote our children's success and learning. Hundreds of parents, students and community members took the time to come together and emphasize the urgency of confronting the challenges in our schools. In doing so, they recognized that so much of one's future life experiences—from health to wellbeing to income—depends on the acquisition of a quality education.

Based on the conclusions of the Distinguished Educator's Report and the feedback received during the public forums, it is the intent of the City to ask its citizens, by the affirmative vote of its electors, to determine if removal of the Board of Commissioners of the City School District for a period of not less than five (5) years to allow the State Commissioner of Education to institute necessary processes and procedures would provide a better educational outcome for our City students.

Therefore, amendments to the City Charter are necessary to allow the State Commissioner of Education to institute necessary processes and procedures in furtherance of better educational opportunities for our City students.

Respectfully submitted,

Lovely A. Warren  
Mayor

Loreta C. Scott  
City Council President



# INTRODUCTORY NO.

238

Local Law No.

## **Local Law, entitled "Our Children, Our Future," amending the City Charter with regard to Commissioners of Schools**

BE IT ENACTED, by the Council of the City of Rochester as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 755 of the Laws of 1907, entitled "An Act Constituting the Charter of the City of Rochester", as amended, is hereby further amended by modifying Section 2-1 to read as follows:

The electors of the City shall elect the Mayor, five Council-members-at-large, ~~the Commissioners of Schools~~ and the Judges of the City Court. The electors of each City district shall elect one District Councilmember.

Section 2. Chapter 755 of the Laws of 1907, entitled "An Act Constituting the Charter of the City of Rochester", as amended, is hereby further amended by modifying Section 2-8 to read as follows:

The term of each elective officer commences on the first day of January succeeding his or her election, ~~and the term of office of Commissioners of Schools is four years.~~

Section 3. Chapter 755 of the Laws of 1907, entitled "An Act Constituting the Charter of the City of Rochester", as amended, is hereby further amended by deleting Section 2-13, Salaries of School Board members, in its entirety.

Section 4. This Local Law shall be submitted for the approval of the electors of the City of Rochester at the general election to be held on November 5, 2019 and shall take effect only if and when it is certified as having been approved by the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors voting on said proposition and the enactment of appropriate enabling amendments to the Education Law.

Strikeout indicates deleted text, new text is underlined