

July 13, 2023

**LOWER SAUCON TOWNSHIP
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

ORDINANCE NO. 2023- 07

AN ORDINANCE OF LOWER SAUCON TOWNSHIP PROVIDING FOR A QUESTION TO BE PLACED BEFORE THE VOTERS OF LOWER SAUCON TOWNSHIP BY A REFERENDUM AT THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 7, 2023, ASKING WHETHER THE ELECTORS OF LOWER SAUCON TOWNSHIP FAVOR THE ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE THAT WOULD AMEND THE TOWNSHIP'S OPTIONAL PLAN OF GOVERNMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE CODE TO IMPOSE A TWO (2) CONSECUTIVE TERM LIMITATION (EIGHT (8) TOTAL YEARS) FOR LOWER SAUCON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEMBERS COMMENCING WITH THE TERMS THAT BEGIN ON JANUARY 5, 2026, AND CONTINUING THEREAFTER FOR ALL ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS.

WHEREAS, Lower Saucon Township (hereinafter "Township") is a Township of the Second Class located in Northampton County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, the Township is governed pursuant to an Optional Plan of Government as approved and authorized by the electors of the Township in 1973, and in accordance with the Pennsylvania Home Rule Charter and Optional Plans Law (53 Pa.C.S. §§ 2901-3171); and

WHEREAS, elected Council members in Lower Saucon Township currently serve four (4) year terms with no limitation on the number of consecutive terms that an individual is allowed to serve; and

WHEREAS, the Township is authorized to place a ballot question before the electors of Lower Saucon Township relative to any proposed amendment to the Township Optional Plan and Administrative Code pursuant to Subchapter C of the Pennsylvania Home Rule Charter and Optional Plans Law (53 Pa.C.S. §§ 2941-2944); and

WHEREAS, the Council of Lower Saucon Township now desires to place a ballot question before the electors of Lower Saucon Township at the Municipal Election scheduled to

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take place on November 7, 2023, asking the electors if they favor limiting the number of terms that an elected Lower Saucon Township Council member is allowed serve to two (2) terms (8 years total, not including any years of service as an appointed Council member immediately prior to the first elected term) commencing with the terms that begin on January 5, 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED by the Council of the Township of Lower Saucon, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, as follows:

SECTION 1.

The question to be placed before the voters of Lower Saucon Township shall read as follows:

“Do you favor the adoption of an Ordinance that would amend the Township’s Optional Plan of Government and Administrative Code to impose a two (2) consecutive term limitation (eight (8) total years) for Lower Saucon Township Council elected members commencing with the terms that begin on January 5, 2026, and continuing thereafter for all elected Council members; any years of service by an individual who was appointed to Council shall not be included in the 8 total year limitation. YES or NO?”

The plain English version of the above-listed question is as follows:

“The ballot question asks the voters of Lower Saucon Township whether the Township should adopt an Ordinance to amend the Township’s Optional Plan of Government and Administrative Code to limit the number of terms that an elected Council member can serve to two (2) consecutive terms or a total of eight (8) consecutive years. The Ordinance would contain an exception to the two (2) consecutive term limitation so that it only applies to elected terms and not to individuals who are appointed to the Council due to a vacancy, thus allowing an individual to fill a vacancy in the office of a Council member and subsequently be elected to two (2) consecutive terms.

SECTION 2.

A vote of “YES” to the aforementioned ballot question approves the adoption of an Ordinance by the Council of Lower Saucon Township, amending the Optional Plan of Government and Administrative Code, to impose a two (2) term limitation on individuals elected to the position of Council member commencing with the terms that begin on January 5, 2026.

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A vote of “NO” to the aforementioned ballot question would result in the continuation of the current Optional Plan of Government and Administrative Code that, together, allow elected Lower Saucon Township Council members to serve in the position of Council member for an unlimited number of terms.

SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY

The provisions of this Ordinance are severable and if any of its sections, clauses or sentences shall be held illegal, invalid or unconstitutional, such provisions shall not affect or impair any of the remaining sections, clauses or sentences.

SECTION 4. REPEALER

All ordinances and parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after its adoption.

ENACTED AND ORDAINED, this _____ day of _____, 2023.

ATTEST

LOWER SAUCON TOWNSHIP

Mark L. Hudson
Township Manager

Jason Banonis
Council President