

**COUNTY OF LEHIGH, PENNSYLVANIA  
COMMISSIONERS BILL 2011-91  
SPONSORED BY COMMISSIONERS ROMAN & BROWNING  
REQUESTED DATE: DECEMBER 6, 2011  
ORDINANCE 2011 - NO.**

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**AN ORDINANCE PROPOSING A REFERENDUM AMENDING THE  
HOME RULE CHARTER TO REMOVE TERM LIMITATIONS FROM  
THE OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

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**WHEREAS**, Section 1008 of the Lehigh County Home Rule Charter and the Pennsylvania Home Rule Charter and Optional Plans Law, Act 177 of 1996, as amended, 53 Pa. C.S.A. §2942, provide that a referendum on the question of amendment of a Home Rule Charter may be initiated by ordinance of the governing body, in this case the Board of Commissioners; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board believes that the voters of Lehigh County should be given the opportunity to eliminate the limitation on the number of full four (4) year terms which persons elected to the Office of County Executive may serve.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ENACTED AND ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF LEHIGH, PENNSYLVANIA, THAT:**

1. The citizens of Lehigh County shall be given the opportunity to vote at the 2012 general election on amending §203 of the Lehigh County Home Rule Charter to eliminate the limitation of two full four (4) year terms for person elected to the Office of County Executive. §203 of the Charter would be amended to read as follows (bracketed

language indicates deleted language, underlined language indicates amending language and any change is in bold type):

**§203. Election of Officers.**

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(c) The County Executive shall be nominated and elected by the qualified electors of the County in the year 1977 and at four year intervals thereafter. **[No person so elected to the office of County Executive for a four (4) year term shall serve more than two (2) consecutive four (4) year terms of office. The limitation shall apply to persons elected to the office of County Executive at the elections to be held November 7, 1989, and every four (4) years thereafter. No four (4) year term served prior to that commencing on the first Monday of January, 1990 shall be included in calculating this limitation. Any terms served by a person appointed to fill a vacancy or elected to complete an uncompleted term in the office of County Executive pursuant to §208 or other applicable law shall not be included in calculating this limitation.]**

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2. The proper officers and other personnel of Lehigh County are hereby authorized and empowered to take all such further action, including any necessary transfers of funds, and execute additional documents as they may deem appropriate to carry out the purpose of this Ordinance.

3. The County Executive shall distribute copies of this Ordinance to the proper offices and other personnel of Lehigh County whose further action is required to achieve the purpose of this Ordinance.

4. Any Ordinance or part of any Ordinance conflicting with the provisions of this Ordinance is hereby repealed insofar as the same affects this Ordinance.

5. This Ordinance shall become effective in ten (10) days after enactment.

ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2011 by the following

vote:

Commissioners

AYE

NAY

Dean N. Browning  
Thomas C. Creighton, III  
Percy H. Dougherty  
Glenn Eckhart  
Gloria L. Hamm  
William H. Hansell  
David S. Jones, Sr.  
Daniel K. McCarthy  
Andy Roman

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

APPROVED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2011.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Donald T. Cunningham, Jr.  
County Executive

ENACTED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2011.