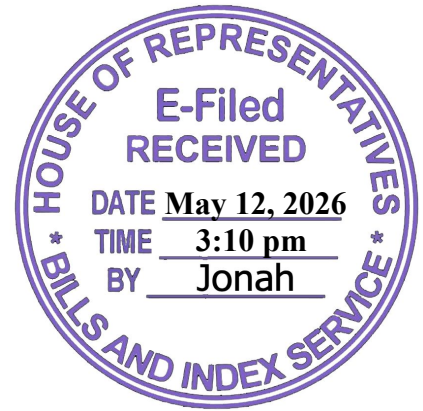


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **9215**



Introduced by Representative Richard I. Gomez, DPA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution guarantees the right of suffrage, a fundamental pillar of democracy. However, the effective exercise of this right requires conditions that allow voters to participate freely, safely, and without undue economic or logistical constraints.

The Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections scheduled on November 2, 2026, are expected to be held under extraordinary circumstances that may materially affect voter participation and election administration. The on-going US-Israel-Iran war, which broke out on February 28, 2026 has exacted socio-economic pressures, particularly the drastic increase in fuel prices, which would directly impact mobility, logistics, and access to polling places.

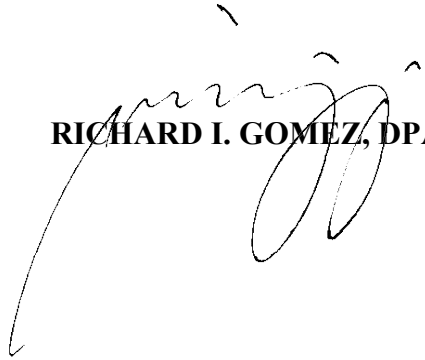
As of the beginning of May 2026, fuel prices in the Philippines are estimated to range from approximately ₱74 to ₱107 per liter for gasoline and diesel ₱80 to ₱102 per liter for diesel. These prices represent a jump of 35–65% for gasoline and 55–85% versus pre-war fuel prices. This fuel crisis has contributed to higher transportation costs, which would disproportionately affect voters in remote and geographically dispersed areas, as well as the deployment of election personnel and materials nationwide.

Given these realities, holding elections as scheduled would constrain the practical exercise of suffrage, particularly for sectors most affected by rising costs and limited mobility. Ensuring meaningful electoral participation necessarily requires the conditions that allow voters to access and engage in the electoral process without an unreasonable burden.

While suffrage is protected, the timing of elections may be adjusted when justified by compelling and extraordinary circumstances, provided such measures are not arbitrary and are aimed at preserving the integrity of the electoral process.

This measure therefore seeks to postpone the Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections and provide for a transitional arrangement to ensure continuity of local governance, while safeguarding the meaningful exercise of the right of suffrage under prevailing conditions.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



RICHARD I. GOMEZ, DPA

Republic of the Philippines
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AN ACT
POSTPONING THE NOVEMBER 2026 BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG
KABATAAN ELECTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO.
12232, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Section 2 of Republic Act No. 12232 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 2. *Date of Election.* -- The next regular barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections shall be held on the first Monday of ~~November 2026~~ **MAY 2027** and every four (4) years thereafter."

SEC. 2. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 12232 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 3. *"SEC. 2. Assumption of Office.* -The term of office of barangay official and members of the Sangguniang Kabataan elected after the effectivity of this Act shall commence on the first day of ~~December~~ **JUNE** next following their election."

SEC. 3. *Hold-Over or Interim Arrangement.* — Incumbent Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan officials shall continue to perform their duties in a hold-over capacity, or as may be determined by the Commission on Elections (COMELEC), until their successors are duly elected

and qualified.

SEC. 4. *Appropriations.* — The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be taken from the appropriations of the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) under the General Appropriations Act and/or supplementary appropriations thereafter.

SEC. 5. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, presidential decrees, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.* — If any provision or part of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of this Act shall not be affected thereby.

SEC. 7. *Effectivity Clause.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or any newspaper of general circulation.

Adopted,