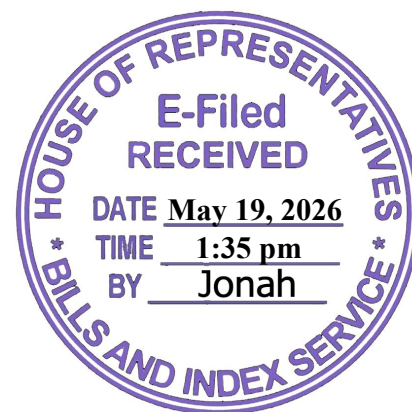


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9309



Introduced by **REP. ALFREDO “ALBEE” B. BENITEZ**

**AN ACT POSTPONING THE NOVEMBER 2026 BARANGAY AND
SANGGUNIAN KABATAAN ELECTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 12232**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

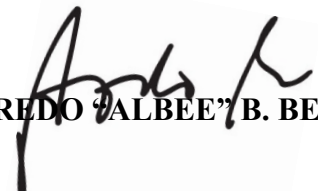
Republic Act No. 12232 fixed the term of office of barangay officials and members of the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) at four (4) years to promote stability and continuity in grassroots governance. The 1987 Constitution grants Congress the sole authority to define the term duration for barangay officials under Article X, Section 8. While Congress is vested with legislative authority over the scheduling of barangay and SK elections, such authority is not absolute and must be exercised in a manner consistent with the Constitution, particularly the people’s right of suffrage and the periodicity of elections.

Jurisprudence, including *Abas v. COMELEC* and *Macalintal v. COMELEC*, clarifies that any postponement of elections must be justified by genuine, compelling, and sufficiently weighty state interests, and must not unduly infringe upon the constitutional mandate of regular and periodic elections.

Taking cognizance of the state of national energy emergency declared by the President of the Philippines due to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, there is a need to postpone the forthcoming Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections. The prevailing socio-economic challenges that have significantly impacted energy supply, inflation, and the cost of essential goods, these conditions strain both government resources and Filipino households. The conduct of the November 2026 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections under such conditions may impose substantial fiscal pressures on the government and the electorate and may affect the efficient and orderly administration of the electoral process.

This bill, therefore, seeks to postpone the November 2026 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections to May 2027 only as an exceptional and temporary measure, and subject to the standards laid down by the Supreme Court, while ensuring that any extension of terms through hold-over is strictly limited, reasonable, and consistent with constitutional principles.

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


ALFREDO “ALBEE” B. BENITEZ

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9309

Introduced by **REP. ALFREDO “ALBEE” B. BENITEZ**

**AN ACT POSTPONING THE NOVEMBER 2026 BARANGAY AND
SANGGUNIAN KABATAAN ELECTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 12232**

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policies. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure the orderly, credible, and meaningful conduct of elections, consistent with the constitutional guarantee of suffrage and the promotion of the general welfare.

While the scheduling of Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections promotes stability in local governance pursuant to Republic Act No. 12232, the State recognizes that postponement thereof may be justified under extraordinary circumstances such as energy crisis to protect public welfare and preserve the integrity of the electoral process.

In view of the state of national energy emergency declared by the President of the Philippines due to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, which has resulted in significant increases in fuel prices, energy costs, and basic commodities, the State adopts the policy of postponing the 2026 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections as a necessary and reasonable measure to ensure economic stability, uninterrupted delivery of basic services at the barangay level, and the conduct of elections under conditions conducive to genuine democratic participation; *Provided, That* such postponement shall be temporary and the elections shall be held as provided in this Act.

SEC. 2. – 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**.

SUBSEQUENT ELECTIONS SHALL BE HELD EVERY FOUR (4) YEARS THEREAFTER.”

SEC. 3. – Section 3 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 3. *Assumption of Office.* – The term of office of barangay officials and members of the Sangguniang Kabataan elected after the **MAY 2027** election upon

effectivity of this Act shall commence on the first day of [December] **JUNE** next following their election.

THE TERMS OF OFFICE OF BARANGAY OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS OF THE SANGGUNIAN KABATAAN OF SUBSEQUENT ELECTIONS THEREAFTER SHALL COMMENCE ON THE FIRST DAY OF JUNE FOLLOWING THEIR ELECTION.”

SEC. 3. Section 5 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 5. *Transitory Provision.* – Incumbent elective barangay officials serving their third consecutive term in the same position shall not be eligible to run for the same position in the [November 2026] **MAY 2027** Barangay and Sanggunian Kabataan Elections.”

SEC. 4. *Hold-Over.* – All incumbent barangay officials and members of the Sanggunian Kabataan shall remain in office unless sooner removed or suspended for cause until their successors shall have been elected and qualified.

SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Commission on Elections shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, administrative orders, and rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect upon publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,