

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 10376



Introduced by **HON. JANETTE L. GARIN, HON. JUDE A. ACIDRE,**
HON. FRANCISCO PAOLO P. ORTEGA V, HON. JEFFERSON F. KHONGHUN
HON. YSABEL MARIA J. ZAMORA AND HON. TERRY L. RIDON

EXPLANATORY NOTE

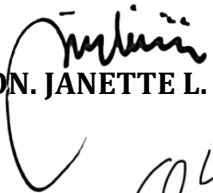
Republic Act No. 12232 was enacted into law to fix the term of office of Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) officials at four (4) years, providing greater stability and continuity in grassroots governance. Under Section 2 of RA 12232, the next regular Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections (BSKE) are scheduled to be held in November 2026.

This bill proposes resetting the next synchronized BSKE to the second Monday of November 2028 to address acute, compounding global and domestic crises. Crucially, the country faces severe economic headwinds driven by escalating Middle East geopolitical tensions. As a heavy net importer of oil, the Philippines is vulnerable to global fuel price spikes, supply chain disruptions, and heightened domestic inflation. At the same time, agricultural production and domestic food security are threatened by the possible devastating impacts of Super El Niño, which has been predicted to induce droughts, crop damage, and losses in rural livelihoods across the archipelago.

Holding a standalone local election in November 2026—just eighteen months after the May 2025 national polls and right before preparations begin for the May 2028 elections—places unnecessary strain on government resources during a critical time for our economy. Moving the election date to November 2028 directly serves the public interest. First, it ensures stability by allowing national and local agencies to keep their full focus on economic recovery, disaster response, and inflation control without constant political interruptions. Second, holding the election six months after the May 2028 national polls gives the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) enough time to use fully tested and secure voting technology smoothly while preventing voter fatigue.

Finally, aligning the election timeline optimizes state resources and administrative capacity, ensuring that public machinery remains concentrated on protecting vulnerable households, stabilizing essential prices, and restoring agricultural resilience. By balancing the duty to hold regular elections with the urgent need for national economic stability, this bill protects both election integrity and public welfare.

In view of these compelling state interests and urgent national economic priorities, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



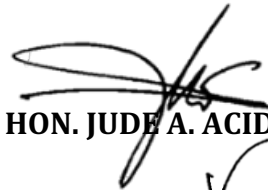
HON. JANETTE L. GARIN



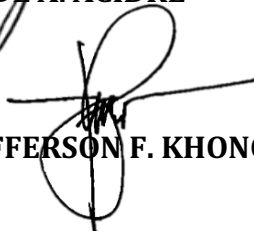
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**AN ACT POSTPONING THE SYNCHRONIZED BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG
KABATAAN ELECTIONS TO NOVEMBER 2028, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 12232, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. Date of Election. — 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 **second Monday of November 2028**, and
every four (4) years thereafter."

SEC. 2. Assumption of Office. — Section 3 of Republic Act No. 12232 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 effectivity of this Act shall
commence at noon on the **first day of December** next following their election."

SEC. 3. Transitory Provision. — Section 5 of Republic Act No. 12232 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 2028** Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections."

SEC. 4. Hold-Over Capacity. — The hold-over provision under Section 4 of Republic Act No. 12232 shall remain in full force and effect. All incumbent barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan officials shall continue to hold office in a hold-over capacity until their successors have been duly elected and qualified, unless sooner removed or suspended for cause in accordance with law.

SEC. 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) 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 or invalid, the remainder of this Act not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 7. Repealing Clause. — All laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive orders, issuances, presidential proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are contrary to and inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly

SEC. 8. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,