



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

Twentieth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10407



Introduced by Representative NIKO RAUL S.J. DAZA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The power of Congress to determine both the term of office and term limitations of barangay officials has been affirmed by the Supreme Court when the constitutionality of Republic Act No. 9164 was challenged. In deciding the case of COMELEC vs Cruz¹, the High Court stated that Congress has [the] plenary authority under the Constitution to determine by legislation not only the duration of the term of *barangay* officials, but also the application to them of a consecutive term limit.

The most recent Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections was conducted last October 2023. Under Republic Act No. 12232, the next synchronized elections were reset to the first Monday of November 2026, with the term of office of all elected barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan officials fixed at four (4) years.

The country, however, now finds itself in a fiscal and energy situation that was not contemplated when that schedule was fixed. The continuing armed conflict in the Middle East has disrupted global petroleum supply and driven pump prices in the Philippines to levels that have cascaded into the cost of transport, food, power, and basic goods. In response, the President issued Executive Order No. 110, s. 2026², declaring a State of National Energy Emergency in view of the imminent danger posed upon the availability and stability of the country's energy supply.

Pursuant to that declaration, the Department of Budget and Management issued National Budget Circular No. 602³, directing all departments, agencies, state universities and colleges, and government-owned or -controlled corporations to adopt economy measures: a cost reduction of at least twenty percent (20%) on maintenance and other operating expenses, and the deferral of capital outlays such as the construction of new government buildings and the purchase of motor vehicles, so that the savings generated may be redirected to the Unified Package for Livelihoods, Industry, Food, and Transport (UPLIFT).

It would be difficult to reconcile this national policy of austerity with the disbursement of billions of pesos for the conduct of a barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan electoral exercise in the

very fiscal year in which every other office of government has been directed to tighten its belt. The appropriation set aside for the 2026 exercise is far better applied, for the moment, to fuel subsidies, food security, and transport assistance for the sectors hardest hit by the crisis. Deferment is not a denial of the right of suffrage; it is the sequencing of an expenditure that the present emergency cannot presently justify.

This bill therefore seeks to postpone the Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections scheduled on the first Monday of November 2026 and to set the same on the first Monday of November 2028, by which time the emergency measures under Executive Order No. 110 are expected to have been lifted and the fiscal space of the national government restored. The succeeding elections shall be conducted every four (4) years thereafter.

Incumbent barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan officials shall continue in a holdover capacity. They are, in fact, the very officials on the front line of distributing fuel, food, and livelihood assistance in their communities, and their continuity in office during this period is consistent with the call of members of the Liga ng mga Barangay (LNB) to be granted a fixed term that will afford them ample time and opportunity to implement and promote long-term programs and advocacies without interruption and political interference.

It is respectfully hoped that the 20th Congress heeds this call in the same spirit of sacrifice now being asked of the rest of government. The passage of this bill is hence earnestly sought.



NIKO RAUL S.J. DAZA

Representative, 1st District, Northern Samar

¹ GR No. 186616

² Declaring a State of National Energy Emergency and Authorizing the Unified Package for Livelihoods, Industry, Food, and Transport.

³ DBM National Budget Circular No. 602 dated April 23, 2026, Adoption of Economy Measures in View of the Declaration of a State of National Energy Emergency under Executive Order No. 110, s. 2026.



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AN ACT POSTPONING THE NOVEMBER 2026 BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9164, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

Section 1. Section 1 of Republic Act No. 9164, as amended by Republic Act No. 9340, Republic Act No. 10632, Republic Act No. 10656, Republic Act No. 10923, Republic Act No. 10952, Republic Act No. 11462, Republic Act No. 11935, and Republic Act No. 12232, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 1. *Date of Election.* — [There shall be synchronized barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections which shall be held on July 15, 2002. Subsequent synchronized barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections shall be held on the last Monday of October and every three (3) years thereafter.] THE SYNCHRONIZED BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS SCHEDULED ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF NOVEMBER 2026 SHALL BE POSTPONED AND BE HELD ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF NOVEMBER 2028. SUCCEEDING BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS SHALL BE HELD EVERY FOUR (4) YEARS THEREAFTER.

Section 2. *Reconciliation with Republic Act No. 12232.* — The four (4)-year term of office and the four (4)-year electoral interval fixed under Republic Act No. 12232 are hereby maintained, and shall be reckoned from the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections to be held on the first Monday of November 2028, in the following manner:

(a) *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 **FIRST MONDAY OF NOVEMBER 2028** and every four (4) years thereafter."

(b) *Term of office.* — The four (4)-year term of office under Section 1 of Republic Act No. 12232 shall apply to the officials elected in the November 2028 elections and in every regular election thereafter. Nothing in this Act shall be construed as lengthening, shortening, or otherwise modifying the term of office so fixed.

(c) *Assumption of office.* — Section 3 of Republic Act No. 12232 shall remain in force, and the term of office of the officials elected in the November 2028 elections shall commence on the first day of December next following their election.

(d) *Hold-over.* — Pursuant to Section 4 of Republic Act No. 12232, all incumbent barangay officials and members of the Sangguniang Kabataan shall remain in office, unless sooner removed or suspended for cause, until their successors shall have been elected and qualified. The period of hold-over service rendered solely by reason of the postponement under this Act shall not be considered a term of office for purposes of the term limits under Section 1 of Republic Act No. 12232.

(e) *Transitory provision.* — The reference to the "November 2026 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections" in Section 5 of Republic Act No. 12232 shall be understood to refer to the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections to be held on the first Monday of November 2028.

Section 3. *Hold Over* — Section 5 of Republic Act No. 9164, as amended, pertaining to the holdover capacity of all incumbent barangay and sangguniang kabataan officials shall remain in force and effect.

Section 4. *Applicability of Other Election Laws.* — The Omnibus Election Code and other existing election laws, as far as practicable, shall apply to the barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections.

Section 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* — The Commission on Elections and the Department of the Interior and Local Government shall promulgate such rules and regulations necessary to implement this Act within thirty (30) days after its effectivity.

Section 6. *Repealing Clause* — All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 7. *Effectivity Clause* — This Act shall take effect upon its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,