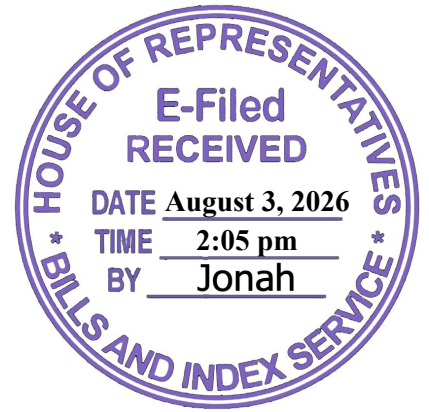




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **10509**



Introduced by:

HON. CHRISTOPHERSON “COCO” M. YAP

AN
ACT POSTPONING THE NOVEMBER 2, 2026 BARANGAY AND
SANGGUNIAN KABATAAN ELECTIONS, SETTING THE SAME ON THE
LAST MONDAY OF NOVEMBER 2028, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9164, AS AMENDED, APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Barangays constitute the basic political units of the country and serve as the primary planning and implementing units of government policies, programs, projects, and activities in communities. The Sangguniang Kabataan, meanwhile, provides an institutional mechanism for meaningful youth participation in local governance.

As the country continues to undertake reforms aimed at strengthening local governance and improving the administration of elections, there is a need to ensure that the conduct of the next Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections is properly aligned with these reforms.

The additional period will provide the government, particularly the Commission on Elections and concerned national and local government agencies, sufficient time to institute and operationalize measures intended to improve election administration, strengthen electoral processes, update and rationalize election-related systems, and ensure the orderly and effective implementation of reforms affecting barangay and youth governance.

The postponement will likewise provide an opportunity to harmonize the electoral calendar with ongoing institutional reforms while ensuring adequate preparation for the conduct of credible, orderly, and efficient Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections. This measure therefore seeks to postpone the next regular Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections scheduled in November 2026 and set the same on the last Monday of November 2028. Incumbent barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan officials shall remain

in office in a temporary holdover capacity until their successors have been duly elected and qualified. Such holdover shall operate solely by virtue of law and shall not be construed as creating a new mandate or extending their term of office.

The postponement contemplated under this measure is limited to the November 2026 elections and is not intended to establish a precedent for future postponements. Rather, it seeks to provide sufficient time for the necessary preparations and reforms while safeguarding the people's constitutional right of suffrage and ensuring that the next Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections are conducted in a free, orderly, honest, peaceful, credible, and accessible manner.

In view of the foregoing, **ug sa ngalan sa SERBISYONG TINUORAY**, the undersigned respectfully requests the immediate passage of this measure.


CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP
Representative, Second District of Southern Leyte



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

Section 1. Declaration of Policy. It is the policy of the State to safeguard the people’s constitutional right of suffrage and to ensure that elections are conducted in a free, orderly, honest, peaceful, and credible manner. Extraordinary and unforeseen developments have substantially altered the financial, logistical, and operational requirements of conducting the November 2026 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections, thereby affecting the capacity of the Commission on Elections to discharge its constitutional mandate. Accordingly, any postponement shall be confined to the shortest period reasonably necessary to preserve the integrity of the electoral process and secure the effective exercise of the people’s right to vote.

Section 2. Section 1 of Republic Act No. 9164, as amended, 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 the last Monday of November 2028 and every three (3) years thereafter.”

Section 3. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 9164, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"Section 4. Assumption of Office. - The term of office of the barangay and sangguniang kabataan officials elected under this Act shall commence at noon of December 30 next following their election".

Section 4. Hold-Over. - Until their successors shall have been duly elected and qualified, all incumbent barangay and sangguniang kabataan officials shall remain in office, unless sooner removed or suspended for cause: Provided, that barangay and Sangguniang kabataan officials who are ex officio members of the sangguniang bayan, Sangguniang panlungsod, or sangguniang panlalawigan, as the case may be, shall continue to serve as such members in the sanggunian concerned until the next barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections unless removed in accordance with their existing rules or for cause.

Holdover is temporary, solely by operation of law, creates no new mandate, does not extend the term of office, and shall automatically cease once duly elected successors assume office.

Section 5. This Act of postponement of elections shall apply only to the November 2026 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections and shall not be construed as establishing a precedent for future election postponements absent important, substantial, and compelling reasons.

Section 6. Nothing in this Act shall be construed as diminishing the people's right of suffrage. The postponement is adopted solely to ensure that the elections are conducted under conditions that fully protect the constitutional guarantees of free, orderly, honest, peaceful, credible, and accessible elections.

Section 7. 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 appropriation thereafter for the applicable fiscal year.

Section 8. 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.

Section 9. Repealing Clause. - All other laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive orders, issuances, presidential proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are contrary to and inconsistent with any provision of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

Section 10. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect immediately following the completion of its publication either in the Official gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.
Approved.