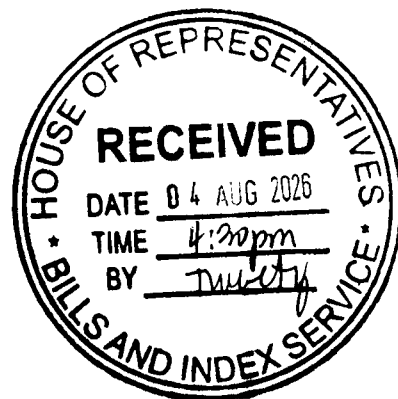




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
Second Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 10584

Introduced by **HON. USTADZ YUSOP T. ALANO** of the Lone District of Basilan

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Under *Macalintal v. Commission on Elections* (G.R. Nos. 263590 and 263673, June 27, 2023), postponing an election is an exception that requires important, substantial, and compelling governmental reasons grounded in objective, verifiable criteria. Unlike past postponements struck down for relying on political convenience or fiscal redirection, this measure responds directly to supervening public emergencies that severely threaten the safe, credible, and orderly conduct of the November 2, 2026 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections (BSKE).

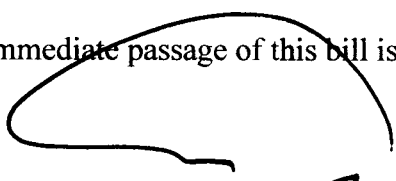
An ongoing international energy emergency has triggered extreme domestic fuel volatility, reaching up to Php 172.90 per liter for diesel, and widespread inflation, which hit 6.4 percent in June 2026 with transport costs rising by 12.8 percent. Because election logistics require the nationwide deployment of ballots, equipment, security, and personnel, these cost surges invalidate previous budgetary baselines. Conducting the BSKE under current COMELEC appropriations without realistic calibration risks severe operational deficiencies, delayed deployments, and inadequate support for Electoral Boards, especially in geographically isolated areas.

This operational strain is further compounded by recent major earthquakes in Northern Cebu, Davao Oriental, and General Santos and Sarangani, which have damaged thousands of classrooms across the country. Public schools serve as indispensable voting centers. Forcing an election while facilities remain structurally unsafe, inaccessible, or undergoing repair compromises voter safety and equal access.

Additionally, postponing the BSKE relieves overwhelming administrative pressure on election workers, security forces, and COMELEC just as they prepare for the first regular Bangsamoro Parliamentary Election on September 14, 2026. Conducting two massive electoral exercises within six weeks of each other in BARMM creates extreme logistical strain. Rescheduling the BSKE ensures focused institutional support for this historic transition in the peace process.

This measure fully satisfies the constitutional thresholds established under *Macalintal*. It serves the compelling public interest of ensuring safe, free, and credible elections while addressing nationwide, interconnected operational emergencies that localized postponements cannot fix. Furthermore, it is narrowly tailored by setting a fixed date on the last Monday of November 2028, preserving the periodic nature of voting without granting incumbents a new mandate, as holdover service remains strictly statutory.

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



USTADZ YUSOP T. ALANÒ

Representative

Lone District of Basilan



Republic of the Philippines
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HOUSE BILL NO. ~~10584~~

Introduced by **HON. USTADZ YUSOP T. ALANO** of the Lone District of Basilan

AN ACT

**POSTPONING THE NOVEMBER 2, 2026 BARANGAY AND
SANGGUNANG 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**

*Be it enacted by 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.

SEC. 2. Section 1 of Republic Act No. 9164, as amended, is hereby further amended
to read as follows:

1 "Section 1. Date of Election. There shall be synchronized barangay and
2 Sangguniang Kabataan elections, which shall be held on the last Monday of
3 November 2028 and every three (3) years thereafter."

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

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

9 **SEC. 4. Hold-Over.** – Until their successors shall have been duly elected and qualified,
10 all incumbent barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan officials shall remain in office, unless
11 sooner removed or suspended for cause: Provided, That barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan
12 officials who are ex officio members of the Sangguniang Bayan, Sangguniang Panlungsod, or
13 Sangguniang Panlalawigan, as the case may be, shall continue to serve as such members in the
14 sanggunian concerned until the next barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections unless
15 removed in accordance with their existing rules or for cause. Holdover is temporary, solely by
16 operation of law, creates no new mandate, does not extend the term of office, and shall
17 automatically cease once duly elected successors assume office.

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

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

1 **SEC. 7. – Appropriations.** - The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act
2 shall be taken from the appropriations of the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) under the
3 General Appropriations Act and/or supplementary appropriation thereafter for the applicable
4 fiscal year.

5 **SEC. 8. – Separability Clause.** - If any portion or provision of this Act is declared
6 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain
7 in force and effect.

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

12 **SEC. 10. – Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect immediately following the
13 completion of its publication either in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general
14 circulation.

15 Approved,