



**Town Supervisor**  
William J. Rieber, Jr.

**Town Board Members**  
Deputy Supervisor Melinda Meddaugh  
Scott Mace  
John Pavese  
Ryan Schock

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

At this time there is a Referendum scheduled for tomorrow, January 18, 2024 from 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. regarding the approval or disapproval of the incorporation of the Village of Ateres to be located within both the Town of Thompson and Town of Fallsburg.

At this time both I and Town of Fallsburg Supervisor, Michael Bensimon, have agreed that we will need to adjourn, without date, the Referendum scheduled for tomorrow due to the current status of the Village Law regarding the creation of a Village in the State of New York.

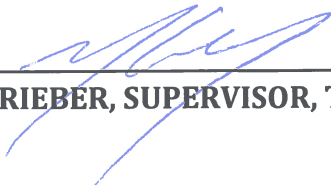
On December 22, 2023 Governor Hochul signed into law (Approval #92 and #93 of Chapter #774) revisions to Village Law, Article 2, Section 200, changing the requirements necessary for the creation of a new Village in the State of New York. Of note, the population requirements were amended from 500 persons to a minimum of 2,000 persons, along with other procedural requirements to sustain a Petition. The Governor added additional language to the Bills when signing them into law that required further passage by the New York State Senate and New York State Assembly. Part of the Governor's additional language included a "carve out" of any Petition where a Joint Notice of Election specifying a date and time of the election and signed by the Town Clerk of each affected Town pursuant to Section 2-214 of the Village Law, dated December 22, 2023 or earlier, as well as a decrease in the minimum number of persons from 2,000 to 1,500 for a Petition to incorporate.

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The Governor signed the original Bill previously approved by the Senate and Assembly into Law on December 22, 2023; the additional language and modifications to the Bill required further approvals by both the Senate and Assembly to become part of the Law. The Senate approved the modifications on January 9, 2024, but the Assembly has yet to propose the amendments nor take any action on them, as proposed by the Governor. As such, the Law, as approved, currently does not include the specific “carve out” as prescribed by the Governor and unless and until the Assembly approves same it is premature to move forward with a Referendum that is based on a Petition that clearly does not meet the minimum requirements of the newly enacted Law regarding incorporation of Villages which, currently, does not include any exceptions for pending action.

Accordingly, the Referendum needs to be adjourned and put on hold until a determination is made to accept or reject the Governor’s amendments to Approval #92 and 93 of Chapter #774, at which point a decision on the Referendum shall be made to either rescheduled (if the Assembly passes the Amendments) or formally cancelled (if the Assembly rejects the Amendments). Thus, there will not be a Referendum on the Village of Ateres tomorrow, January 18, 2024.

It should be further noted that both I and Supervisor Bensimon waited until the last possible moment to take such action as we waited until the Assembly finished their term and will no longer be sitting in Albany at any time prior to tomorrow’s scheduled Referendum. At this point we have no other option but to adjourn the Referendum since, in its current stance, the Petition does not comply with the new Village Law as currently constructed and same has not been specifically allowed to proceed. As previously stated, we are taking no definitive action on the matter until final determinations are made by the Assembly and at that point we will move forward pursuant to the Law, as it will exist.

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**WILLIAM J. RIEBER, SUPERVISOR, TOWN OF THOMPSON**

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