

Enjoy all of our
new HD channels



TIME WARNER CABLE
THE POWER OF YOU™

THE BUFFALO NEWS

PRINT THIS

Click to Print

[SAVE THIS](#) | [EMAIL THIS](#) | [Close](#)

Let West Seneca vote

Take the time for real discussion, not for foot-dragging appeals

Updated: 10/09/08 6:59 AM

Here's the odd thing about West Seneca's foot-dragging on a referendum to downsize the Town Board: It's the kind of nonresponsive government that makes people want to downsize town boards. How's that for irony?

The problem in West Seneca is that Kevin Gaughan figured out something Town Board members didn't know: A section of state law allows residents to force a referendum to shrink the size of the board.

Gaughan led a successful petition effort to secure the signatures needed after the Town Board refused to call the vote on its own. But, acting on a challenge from a resident, the Erie County Board of Elections invalidated the signatures and ruled that voters wouldn't be able to understand the proposition's language. A judge disagreed this week, and ordered a special election on the downsizing question.

That's a lot of extra legwork over an issue that was pursued according to state law. And Town Board members have also delayed calling the election until they receive the actual court order. That may be a plausible course of action, but it will pay to ensure that the Board takes the step.

What shouldn't happen is for this ruling to be appealed. That would be only a stalling tactic designed to thwart the 4,000 residents who won the right to have this question placed on the ballot.

It's not that strange an idea. Both Buffalo and Erie County have downsized their legislative branches in recent years. No one, except any sitting board members who are desperate to stay put, has anything to fear. There are legitimate reasons to reduce or maintain the current configuration. There is still time — though barely — to have that debate. An appeal of the ruling could take that time away.

What is more, even a successful appeal won't make this issue go away. The law allows residents to force this kind of referendum. This year or next, West Seneca will vote on downsizing the Town Board. Almost certainly, so will

**BASIL RESALE
SHERIDAN**

**IT'S
INCREDIBLE!**

MEGA SALES EVENT
AND ONLY
\$99 /MO

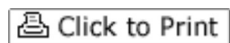
**CLICK HERE FOR
EXCLUSIVE DETAILS**

BASILCARS.COM

residents of other towns in Western New York. Board members should go along quietly.

Find this article at:

<http://www.buffalonews.com/opinion/editorials/story/458470.html>



[SAVE THIS](#) | [EMAIL THIS](#) | [Close](#)

☐ Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.