

A Non Partisan System

Pros

- The focus of a campaign is on local issues (i.e. land use), rather than national, state, or social issues.
- Any qualified voter - and not just qualified voters of a particular political party - can be nominated. The number of independent voters is on the increase.
- Candidates are selected for their community service, rather than for one issue.
- Partisan politics are avoided.
- Elected officials are accountable to the citizens and not to a political party.
- Candidates run on their experience, and not on party labels.
- According to NYS law, any qualified voter can get a petition signed and run for mayor or trustee.

Cons

- The nominating process may be closed to the public - deliberations may be closed; names of potential nominees may not be released.
- Issues are not generally discussed during a non-contested campaign.
- The general electorate does not have a choice on Election Day if only one candidate is put forth for each vacancy.
- Voter turnout is usually low unless the election is contested.