

Kiryas Joel Separation – Let Us Vote!

On Election Day the voters of Monroe **MAY** have the chance to decide whether the Village of Kiryas Joel can separate and form its own Town.

On **September 7th**, the County Legislature will vote whether to allow the Kiryas Joel separation to go to a Monroe Town-wide vote. If they vote “Yes” by a two-thirds majority, Kiryas Joel separation would be on the ballot this Election Day, November 7, 2017.

United Monroe believes that Kiryas Joel separation is the best solution to give the people of Monroe long-term political independence from the Bloc Vote. In this flyer, we hope to answer most of the questions that you may have about this important issue.

What will happen to the Monroe-Woodbury School District if Kiryas Joel separates?

The MW school district is fully protected. The Palm Tree territory will be moved out and into the KJ district when Palm Tree commences. The Boards of Education for MW and KJ have each passed resolutions and taken all legal steps necessary to make this happen. This would prevent the nightmare that happened to the East Ramapo School District in Rockland County.

How much land does Kiryas Joel want in exchange for separation?

The Kiryas Joel leaders submitted a petition to take 382 acres from Monroe in 2016. We held a strong position that this was too high a price to pay in exchange for political separation. Thanks to your support of our efforts, we negotiated that number down from 382 acres to just 56 acres more than the 164 acres which Kiryas Joel won in the annexation law suit.

What will happen with all of the lawsuits?

Preserve Hudson Valley lost a lawsuit against Kiryas Joel over the 164 acre annexation. As part of this settlement, Preserve Hudson Valley would agree to withdraw their existing appeal of the judge's decision on the 164. Meanwhile, Kiryas Joel is appealing the Town of Monroe’s “No” vote on the 507 acre annexation. In exchange for just 56 acres more than the 164 acre annexation, Kiryas Joel will withdraw their appeal for that large amount of land.

How can we make sure that Kiryas Joel drops their 507 acre appeal?

In order to get Kiryas Joel to drop their 507 acre appeal, and protect our school district, two things have to happen:

1. The Orange County Legislature must vote by a two-thirds majority in September to allow the citizens of Monroe to decide their own political future.
2. We must vote “Yes” for Kiryas Joel separation on the back of our ballots on November 7, 2017.

What if Kiryas Joel wants to annex from Monroe again?

As part of our settlement, Kiryas Joel agreed to vote “No” on annexations from Monroe for a period of at least 10 years after their new town comes into existence. Thereafter, the newly-independent Town Board of Monroe could say “No.”

We believe that this “Annexation Moratorium” will give the citizens of Monroe a break from the constant land battles and instead focus on the business of Monroe.

What will happen to my property taxes if Kiryas Joel separates from Monroe?

Today, property owners in Kiryas Joel pay approximately 12% of the Town's total tax revenue. If they form their own town, the population of Monroe would be reduced by about half. This means that the Town will save money on reduction of services because of the population decrease. Along with our new power to elect fiscally responsible people onto future Town Boards, we believe that any change in property taxes will be modest. Once the Legislature votes "Yes", then the Town Board will hire an accounting firm to determine the tax impact and it will be discussed publicly well in advance of the November Town-wide vote.

Will the Kiryas Joel bloc be able to vote in future Town Board elections?

No. If the Orange County Legislature allows us to decide the political future of our Town, the "New" Town of Palm Tree will begin its existence no later than 2020. This means that citizens of Kiryas Joel and those living within the extra 56 acres will vote for their own Town Board in November 2019.

The voters of the remainder of the Town of Monroe will be free to vote for Town Board candidates who are focused on things like fiscal responsibility, utilizing passive parkland, and smart, sustainable zoning.

What happens if we don't separate?

If we do not separate now, the citizens of Monroe outside of Kiryas Joel will not be able to elect our Town Board members when KJ votes as a bloc. This is because the bloc vote of Kiryas Joel cannot be overcome today and it is growing rapidly. Not separating now means giving Kiryas Joel the ability to control our Town Board, our zoning, our planning, and will eventually mean high density housing throughout Monroe.

Now is the time to separate. Remember, there is only one way to get this done. The members of the Orange County Legislature must allow the people of Monroe to determine the future of our Town this Election Day.

We ask you to call, write, and email all 21 legislators and *urge them to allow us to exercise our right to decide.*

For the phone numbers and mailing/email addresses of all of our County Legislators, along with a form letter, go to: www.unitedmonroe.org/let-us-decide