

**Initiative Petition to Amend City of Hudson NY Charter/Code – under § 37, New York Municipal Home Rule Law**

I, the undersigned, do hereby state that I am a resident of and a registered and qualified voter in City of Hudson, New York (hereinafter, "Hudson"), that my present place of residence is truly stated opposite my signature hereto, and that I do hereby sign this Petition, as set forth below and on the one additional page, to enable the contents of this Petition (or an approved summary) to be submitted to the electors of Hudson at a general election.

In witness where, I have hereunto set my hand, the day and year placed opposite my signature.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name of signer (signature required) (printed name may be added)</b>	<b>Enter in box below Residence: <i>No. &amp; Street</i>    <i>City</i>    <i>County</i>    <i>State</i></b>
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<i>Signature: .....</i> <i>[No. &amp; Street] .....</i>
<i>/ /15 [printed name:] .....</i> <i>[City] Hudson</i> <i>[County] Columbia</i> <i>[State] New York</i>

**PETITION FOR THE CITY OF HUDSON AND HUDSON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT TO PROVIDE AND/OR PAY FOR FREE, FAST BROADBAND SERVICES FOR ALL HUDSON RESIDENTS AND ALL BUSINESS, PROFESSIONAL, NON-PROFIT AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION ENTITIES AND SCHOOLS BASED IN THE CITY OF HUDSON**

**WHEREAS**, there is a direct relationship between availability and speed of an individual's Internet connection and the individual's ability to learn and earn;

**WHEREAS**, there is a direct relationship between availability and average speed of a community's Internet connection and community prosperity, the prosperity of small businesses in the community, the availability of high-paying jobs in the community; and the value of land and rental properties in the community;

**WHEREAS**, the United States as a whole is increasing the speed of its average Internet connection, and that such speed is becoming a significant factor in the competition for business opportunities and jobs for local communities, which in turn may have an impact on local land values;

**WHEREAS**, the money spent by a community for teaching its children achieves greater success in relation to the Internet connection speed available to the schools, teachers, students and administrators;

**WHEREAS**, an ever-increasing number of communities have established or are attempting to establish community-wide fast Internet connections, involving a variety of cost estimates, fixed and continuing (monthly or annual), for the community, residents and local business and other entities;

**Complete ONE of the following:**

**(1) STATEMENT OF WITNESS**

I, (name of witness) \_\_\_\_\_ state: I am a duly qualified voter of Hudson, New York and I am also duly qualified to sign the Petition. I now reside in Hudson, NY at (residence address) \_\_\_\_\_, Hudson, NY (Columbia County). The individual whose name is subscribed to this Petition sheet containing 1 signature, subscribed the same in my presence on the date above indicated and identified himself/herself to be the individual who signed this sheet.

I understand that this statement will be accepted for all purposes as the equivalent of an affidavit and, if it contains a material false statement, shall subject me to the same penalties as if I had been duly sworn.

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/2015  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of Witness**

**(2) NOTARY PUBLIC OR COMMISSIONER OF DEEDS**

On the date above indicated before me personally came the Hudson NY voter whose signature appears on this Petition sheet containing one petition signature who signed same in my presence and who being by me duly sworn, said that the foregoing statement made and subscribed by him/her was true.

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/2015  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature and Official Title of Officer Administering Oath**

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**WHEREAS**, every resident and business in Hudson would benefit by having the fastest broadband available, and by having Hudson provide this service the cost per person (including small entities as "persons") would be substantially lower than the present system of individual purchasing; and the needed increase in taxes would be offset to a substantial extent by the elimination of broadband expenses now being paid by individuals and entities in Hudson;

**WHEREAS**, Mid-Hudson Cable is a local supplier of broadband services to individual subscribers ranging from 5 mbps (a speed 50% lower than the average Internet connection speed in the U.S. and in New York State) to 50 mbps (megabytes per second, the present fastest available broadband speed) and is expanding its facilities to handle a growing demand based primarily on the streaming of movies through Amazon, Netflix, Hulu, Apple TV and others;

**WHEREAS**, broadband services are available through a variety of technologies including fiber optics, cable, telephone lines (DSL), radio and satellite, involving different startup timelines, costs, reliability, speeds, fixed startup costs, monthly or annual costs, servicing requirements, downtime, technological advances and increases in available broadband speed; and other factors that need to be considered;

**WHEREAS**, the benefits of fast broadband availability to all Hudson residents and entities requires, as a practical matter, that Hudson take the lead to investigate and recommend to Hudson voters one or more options for fast broadband services, as quickly as possible.

**THE FOLLOWING IS HEREBY DESIRED AND APPROVED AS AN INITIATIVE FOR ADOPTION OF A LOCAL LAW TO AMEND THE CITY OF HUDSON, NEW YORK CHARTER/CODE, TO BE PRESENTED TO VOTERS OF THE CITY OF HUDSON, NEW YORK AT A GENERAL ELECTION OF VOTERS:**

1. The title of this local law is "Act to have the City of Hudson and Hudson City School District provide and/or pay for free, fast broadband services for all Hudson residents and all business, professional, non-profit and non-governmental organization entities and schools based in the City of Hudson".
2. The City of Hudson, New York ("Hudson") shall set up a committee of 5 members (the Mayor of Hudson and 2 members of the Common Council and 2 members of the Hudson City School District), hereinafter, the "Committee", which will then retain 2 paid consultants to help the Committee develop one or more plans for establishing free, fast broadband services for all residents and entities (including schools) based in Hudson, except for such costs associated with hookups more than a specified distance away from a broadband source which the Committee decides should be paid by the user instead of Hudson and/or Hudson City School District.
3. The Committee is directed to determine how any plan approved by is to be financed, including an increase in real estate taxes and any special legislation that may be needed to authorize the raising of the needed funds.
4. The Committee shall make its final report and recommendation within 6 months from the date of enactment of this Act, with final approval or rejection to be at a duly-advertised and noticed meeting in Hudson for approval or rejection by a simple majority of the resident voters voting on the proposition.
5. If a plan is adopted by a majority vote, Hudson will then be authorized to enter into a contract as outlined in the adopted plan.
6. If no plan is adopted at the first meeting of voters, the Committee will then, within three months of the first vote, propose one or more other plans or revised plans, for consideration and vote, as outlined above, and to do this until no plan has been adopted after a total of 4 different meetings and vote, in which case this Act will expire without any community broadband services unless another petition under the New York Home Rule Law is submitted to and approved by Hudson-resident voters.
7. If any provision of this law is held to be unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, the remaining provisions shall be in no manner affected thereby but shall remain in full force and effect.

**Plan for Financing the Implementation of this Statute for the City of Hudson**

**(Submitted in Support of the Petition pursuant to ¶ 11 of Section 37 of the NY Municipal Home Rule Law)**

The implementation of this statute will require Hudson to pay an average of approximately \$1,200 per year for each family or entity in Hudson (approximately 2,200 units) or a total annual cost of about \$2,640,000, and estimated startup costs of \$250,000 to \$500,000 (including the cost of two paid consultants). These costs will require an increase in real property and/or other taxes for residents and businesses and other entities in Hudson. These costs to City of Hudson would result in a reduction of broadband costs for the individuals and entities in Hudson who presently subscribe to and pay for broadband services, who would need to have private broadband services under this plan. Although it should not be considered part of the Plan for Financing, it is estimated that these added costs for City of Hudson would result in economic benefits to the residents and entities of Hudson amounting to at least 10 times the amount of such costs, and could enable Hudson to recapture a substantial part of these costs through (i) real property taxes on the increased land values attributable to the free broadband services; (ii) reduced educational costs to Hudson and the Hudson City School District; and reduced social welfare costs resulting from increased prosperity in Hudson.

**Availability of Additional Information about this Petition, the Ballot Initiative Process, and the Individuals Involved**

Additional information about this Petition and other Petitions, the Ballot Initiative Process and the individuals involved is available at voterlaws.com. Copies of this Petition may be downloaded and printed out for use.

**WHERE TO MAIL THE ORIGINAL SIGNED PETITION**

**Please mail the Petition (as signed by two Hudson registered voters -- or one Hudson voter and one NYS notary public) to:**

voterlaws.com c/o Carl E. Person  
225 E. 36<sup>th</sup> Street – Suite 3A  
New York NY 10016-3664

**[end of petition zz44zz02F]**