

Law Office of

**TUCKERHULL**  
LLC

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J. Chadwick Schnee  
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June 21, 2021

Councilwoman Kendra Radle  
Luzerne County Courthouse  
200 N River Street  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711  
[Kendra.radle@luzernecounty.org](mailto:Kendra.radle@luzernecounty.org)

RE: Proposed budget for election law counsel

Dear Councilwoman Radle:

Thank you for inviting me to provide additional information for Council's consideration. Per your request, please see the below budget prepared for litigating this matter.

Please note that this budget does not include court filing fees, transcription costs and any fees related to service of documents, as, regardless of which firm is ultimately selected, those fees will be consistent. This estimate also does not include any printing or copying costs, as the Law Office of Tucker R. Hull does not charge for such services.

J. Chadwick Schnee, Esq. will be the primary contact for this matter and will bill at \$250/hour. Tucker R. Hull, Esq. will also participate in this matter as necessary and will bill at \$250/hour. If any administrative work is needed, the Law Office of Tucker R. Hull, LLC proposes to bill paralegal Tara Rivera at \$150/hour. The budget below includes an estimate of TOTAL time to be assessed by the Office.

The proposed budget is an estimate and not a guarantee of all potential litigation costs. However, to the extent that the Office believes that the estimate budgets below will be exceeded, the Office will make every attempt to promptly notify the County in advance of incurring any additional costs.

The Office estimates that it will cost between \$7,500 to \$12,500 to handle this matter before the Court of Common Pleas of Luzerne County, as broken down in more detail below. The italicized numbers reflect possible twists in the litigation that may or may not occur.

If the County is unsuccessful before the Court of Common Pleas of Luzerne County and the County desires to appeal an order denial of order to the Commonwealth Court, the Office estimates that it will cost between \$8,500 to \$12,250 to litigate a single appeal before the Commonwealth Court. The Commonwealth Court does not always order oral argument; however, the estimated budget includes time for preparing and arguing the case.

Finally, if the County loses before the Commonwealth Court and desires to file a Petition for Allowance of Appeal to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, the Office estimates it will cost between \$3,250 to \$5,250 to prepare and file a Petition for Allowance of Appeal. If the Pennsylvania Supreme Court grants the Petition for Allowance of Appeal, the Office estimates that it will cost an additional \$8,000 to \$11,000 to litigate the case before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

**Before the Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas:**

Prior legal research into Luzerne County Home Rule Charter; Article IX, Section of Pa. Constitution; and relevant case law prior to June 17, 2021 meeting	NO CHARGE
Legal research and drafting of petition for declaratory, injunctive and relief in mandamus	\$1,250.00 to \$2,500.00 (5-10 hours)
<i>Potential emergency petition for preliminary injunction</i>	<i>\$750.00 to \$1,000.00 (3-5 hours)</i>
Preparation for hearing before the Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas (witness preparation; argument preparation, etc.)	\$1,250.00 (5 hours)
Hearing before CCP	\$500-\$1,000 (2-4 hours)
Legal research and drafting of post-hearing briefs	\$2,500.00 to \$3,750.00 (10-15 hours)
Review of decision by CPP	\$250.00 (1 hour)
<i>If the CCP rules against Luzerne County Council, potential legal research and drafting of an Application for Stay pending appeal</i>	<i>\$750.00 to \$1,000.00 (3-5 hours)</i>
Miscellaneous (client updates; communications with opposing counsel; postage)	\$500.00 to \$1,250.00 (2-5 hours)

**If an appeal is filed with the Commonwealth Court:**

Legal research, drafting and filing of appeal with the Commonwealth Court; review of CCP transcript	\$750.00 to \$1,000.00 (3-5 hours)
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Legal research and drafting of brief in support of appeal, review of opposing counsel's brief; legal research and drafting of reply brief	\$5,000.00 to \$6,250.00 (20-25 hours)
<i>If ordered, preparation for oral argument before Commonwealth Court</i>	\$1,250 to \$2,500 (5-10 hours)
<i>If ordered, Oral argument before the Commonwealth Court</i>	\$750 (3 hours)
Review of decision by Commonwealth Court	\$250 (1 hour)
Miscellaneous (client updates; communications with opposing counsel)	\$500.00 to \$1,250.00 (2-5 hours)

**If a Petition for Allowance of Appeal is filed with the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and denied:**

Legal research, drafting and filing of Petition for Allowance of Appeal	\$2,500.00 to \$3,750.00 (10-15 hours)
Review of decision by Commonwealth Court	\$250 (1 hour)
Miscellaneous (client updates; communications with opposing counsel)	\$500.00 to \$1,250.00 (2-5 hours)

**If a Petition for Allowance of Appeal is filed with the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and granted:**

Legal research, drafting and filing of Petition for Allowance of Appeal	\$2,500.00 to \$3,750.00 (10-15 hours)
Review of decision by Commonwealth Court	\$250 (1 hour)
Legal research and drafting of brief in support of appeal, review of opposing counsel's brief; legal research and drafting of reply brief	\$5,000.00 to \$6,250.00 (23-30 hours)
<i>If ordered, preparation for oral argument before Pennsylvania Supreme Court</i>	\$1,250 to \$2,500 (5-10 hours)
<i>If ordered, Oral argument before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court</i>	\$750 (3 hours)
Review of decision by Pennsylvania Supreme Court	\$250 (1 hour)
Miscellaneous (client updates; communications with opposing counsel)	\$500.00 to \$1,250.00 (2-5 hours)

Thank you again for considering this firm to represent Luzerne County Council in this matter. If there are any additional questions I can answer, please kindly contact me.

Sincerely,



J. Chadwick Schnee, Esq.