

Janice O'Connell

From: Todd Palmer <tdpalmer@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, June 16, 2013 12:09 PM
To: \Assembly of Delegates" <aofd@barnstablecounty.org>
Subject: County Government Restructuring

Cape Cod Regional Charter Review Committee 1st District Court Building Barnstable, MA 02630

Dear Committee,

An independent, coherent and honestly conducted cost-benefit analysis will conclude that the following recommended model is the most efficient and egalitarian for any potential restructuring of our Cape Cod Regional Government:

EXECUTIVE BRANCH:

The executive powers of the Cape Cod regional government (Barnstable County) shall be exercised by a non-partisan board of regional commissioners consisting of five members. Each non-partisan member shall be elected from one of five (5) districts of Barnstable County.

County Administrator: A so-called strong County Administrator shall be appointed to manage the day-to-day affairs and business of Barnstable County.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH:

The Assembly of Delegates shall consist of one elected non-partisan representative from each town in Barnstable County, with a weighted vote system.

This unbiased model is the chief one that should be considered by the Charter Review Committee regarding the initial steps that are necessary to implement a fair and democratic restructuring of County Government.

Very truly yours,

Todd Palmer, 72 Cape Davis Lane, East Falmouth, MA 02536

Janice O'Connell

From: Julia Taylor
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2013 4:23 AM
To: Janice O'Connell
Subject: Barnstable County Government Structure

Barnstable County Government Structure

First, the existing structure has worked well for over 20 years.

Second, if the County is going to act as a useful regional government in the future, it would benefit from a structure that makes it more visible, more regional, and more accountable to the citizens of Cape Cod.

My suggestions include ideas that I had when I worked on the first Charter Commission and ideas of the recent Special Commission on County Governance as well as my long experience as an elected Assembly member.

More visible, more regional, and more accountable leadership means, for me, a full-time elected official who represents the entire Cape. Diluted leadership whether from three or five part-time Commissioners has obvious drawbacks. (Appointed administrators will also be an important part of the executive branch.)

The same criteria shape my opinion on the legislative branch. It could be smaller - seven or nine or even eleven members - and it should be elected regionally so that every citizens' vote has equal weight. Under the present system, a citizen in Wellfleet can elect his or her own delegate, but that delegate will be so powerless as to be ineffectual and thus unaccountable since power resides elsewhere. Barnstable and Falmouth delegates - plus one or two others - could easily have everything their own way. (Frankly, because I have been the Falmouth delegate that has not happened, but it will when I leave.) Its most important duties would continue to be voting on the budget and on ordinances of the Cape Cod Commission, and I think it should be a low-pay, non-partisan, part-time office that does not include pension and health benefits because we are a small government with a limited budget. That budget is unlikely to grow significantly so our value-added must come from being a regional co-ordinator for programs that benefit citizens and towns through regional cost savings - starting with lowering the size and cost of the regional government and increasing the regional attitude of the elected officials.

The towns are already represented individually and equally in the two most important places - the Cape Cod Commission and the Cape Light Compact.

Sent from my iPad