

**BARNSTABLE COUNTY  
ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES**

**SIGN UP SHEET FOR PUBLIC HEARING COMMENT**  
**CHARTER REVIEW**

Date: 10-16-19

Topic: Change of govt.  
structure

Please PRINT your name below:

1. JOE GLYNN YARMOUTH ↓
2. Suzanne Brock Dennis Brock
3. FELICIA PENN HYANNIS
4. ROSE BERGSTROM CHATHAM
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CRC: public comments for 10/16/19 agenda items #5

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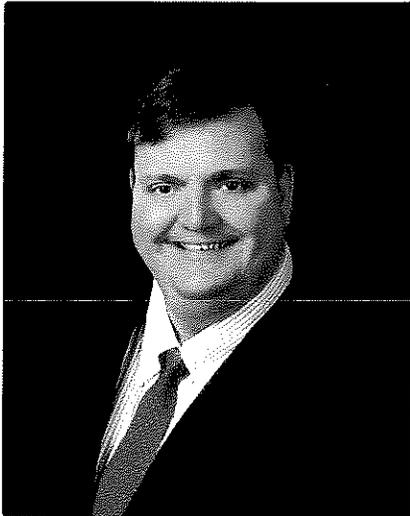
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## County Commissioner Beaty Issues Statement on Proposed County Charter Revision

Assembly committee proposes to eradicate County Commissioners...

ARTICLE | POLITICS | OCTOBER 4, 2019 10:20 AM | BY CAPECODTODAY STAFF

1



County Commissioner Ron Beaty

Statement issued Friday morning by Barnstable County Commissioner Ron Beaty (reproduced verbatim):

An infantile proposal recently issued by the Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates' Charter Review Committee to eradicate the Board of County Commissioners is a misguided attempt at a regional power grab to the detriment of voters across Cape Cod.

The County Home Rule Charter is the Constitution and guide for our Cape Cod Regional Government. It provides a blueprint for how county works, as well as a mechanism to fine tune things via the enactment of ordinances.

It has the ability to evolve through the amendment process.

Structurally, County Government is composed of two main elements, an executive branch which is the County Commissioners, and the legislative branch which is the Assembly of Delegates. The three County Commissioners are elected on a Cape-wide basis, while the 15 members of the County Assembly are elected on a town-by-town basis.

The two branches of County Government include a system of "checks and balances" which allow matters to be debated, resolved and/or rejected in a profound democratic fashion.

With this background in mind, it is my contention that the current structure of our County Government is fine as is.

It functions well as shown in recent years. If it is not broke, then don't fix it.

RONALD BEATY

Barnstable County Commissioner

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Who do you think will be the Democrat nominee for President?

Joe Biden	41% (30 votes)
Bernie Sanders	7% (5 votes)
Elizabeth Warren	16% (12 votes)
Hillary Clinton	7% (5 votes)
Pete Buttigieg	5% (4 votes)
Someone else	23% (17 votes)

Total votes: 73

Past Polls | Results

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## Janice O'Connell

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**From:** joe glynn <joeglynn2018@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 05, 2019 1:48 AM  
**To:** Randy Hunt; Robert Fellows; William Mills; david.veira@mahouse.gov; ed@95wxtk.com; gspillane@capecodonline.com; Janice O'Connell; julian.cyr@masenate.gov; news@95wxtk.com; news@barnstablepatriot.com; news@capecodonline.com; news@ccb-media.com; sarah.peake@mahouse.gov; william.crocker@mahouse.gov  
**Cc:** vinny.deMacedo@masenate.gov  
**Subject:** Re: Edited response by JoeGlynn to County Charter Review Amendments

2

On Sat, Oct 5, 2019 at 1:44 AM joe glynn <joeglynn2018@gmail.com> wrote:  
Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates thru Speaker McAullife  
thru County Clerk Janice O'Connell

To whom it may concern,  
For the record Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates/Charter Review Committee

After years of nonproductive banter and numerous iterations of the charter review committee, with no reasonable proposals or even common amendments to the charter, the Barnstable County assembly can now only come up with this radical self-serving power grab? This power-play has not been proposed by any previous review committee or by those who spent time to introduce proposals of restructuring, including previous state legislators, college government Professors, Selectmen, community members, the League of Women Voters and a current announced candidate to the Barnstable County commissioners yours truly, -Joe Glynn.

We all have submitted proposals and composed specific and detailed reasonable restructure amendments to the charter with absolutely no movement by the assembly for years and now this sudden drastic power-play.

The assembly appears to ignore all input, has not taken outside suggestions to heart, despite asking for them and juxtaposed to nominal hearings held, attended by various members of the community and despite testimony of previous upstanding members of government and civic bodies, all to be insulted by a few selfish players involved in petty politics.

There are many reasonable amendments and points that would garner the consensus of the community! Those who have participated in the reform and hastened to move to restructure, are now being ignored by this amendment.

This self-serving radical elimination of the commissioners is diametrically opposite to the spirit of the many proposed restructure ideas, thoughtfully presented over the years, to the Barnstable County Charter Review Committee.

These good faith efforts previously and our most recent proposals were designed to preserve the checks and balances and representation of the people, as well as to promote the increased integrity of County Government for the people of Barnstable County, not to avert and circumvent participation by the people.

It is abhorant that this body (The Assembly of Delegates) who is responsible for much of the poor reputation and dysfunction, along with the body they are trying to to commit a hostile takeover of (The County Commissioners) feels as if they can unilaterally, through slight of hand, wrestle power from the people, they have been entrusted to serve.

The Assembly nor the Commissioners have no such power and are not vested with any such abilities to make these changes. They can not increase their power by charter nor can they decrease power, over another body equally vested, by fiat or by charter amendment.

The ignorance of all of these elected officials is a microcosm of the overall abuse of power, as is their ignorance of the process on how to make changes to the charter.

Simply stated, the Charter Review Committee, the Assembly of Delegates, the County Commissioners or any County employee or actor, can not make such changes.

The fact they are doing these things outside of the public light, or by pulling an eleventh hour switch-aroo is regrettable and it will be counter productive and subsequently (thankfully) unsuccessful.

The legislative delegation and the county elected officials save one member of the Commissioners are up for re-election in 2020.

There is no way, after this long suffering county nightmare, will any reasonable person or body, fast track this I'll advised move, with any success.

They will not get support for a massive restructuring, that does not have broad community support especially by excluding, the state legislative delegation, community members and unbiased leaders who have thoughtfully made reasoned and forthright amendments.

They all would be well advised to make the Charter Review the subject of all their campaigns, seek public opinion on a consensus of reasonable changes and put them on a non binding ballot. Then armed with the public opinion and the election of all of their respective offices they will truly have the voice of the people in mind and the power will be properly vested in government of the people, by the people for the people!

It is clear that the childish antics and improper behavior by several of the very county elected officials have influenced this knee jerk reaction. Instead of implementing better mechanisms to keep the public informed on county government, improving the reputation of the county brand by improving it, and installing a recall provision as part of the proposed amendments to the charter. These alleged leaders have decided to go in the back room and betray democracy and then proceeded to undermine it, as opposed to keep their solemn oath to protect it.

The problem with this type of inefficient execution of county government recently, has not been improved by the constant juvenile displays of playground turf battles or adolescent whining, between two bodies that have not been efficient or transparent for a very long time.

This current maneuver is typical of the selfish status quo county government waste of time and resources and is the very reason the charter changes are necessary. The charter amendments should reflect more input by the electorate, not less. The proposals should be thoughtful and non partisan. They should be divested by any interest in power exchanges but by pure interest of public service not prurient interest of power hungry oligarchs.

There is no way the assembly should improperly empower themselves in disproportion to its own representational form, to unilaterally exact change to the charter.

This naive but duplicitous misunderstanding of the process reflects ignorance and arrogance! Despite the equal misunderstanding and immaturity of the current and past commissioners, it is mutually exclusive for the need to make significant improvements to the county charter. This is not an attempt to disparage any of the past leaders who have acted to make improvements but the comments are directed to those who have failed to recognize the abuse of power or have not done due diligence to make substantive changes to a broken county system, over the years.

This sudden rush, to this extreme amendment, when reasonable changes have been on the table for years with no movement at all is not an attempt at improvement nor is it an excuse to make rash sudden changes without the input of the public and proper vote by the people.

To the contrary it is exactly the reason we should demand better representation and accountability not to kick the can into a darken closet.

Sunlight is the best disinfectant and elections are the best remedy for change and improvement. County government should move to non partisan bicameral form of three Co-equal legislative branches of government as was proposed in all of my submissions and public presentations.

A Recall provision and three regional Commissioners (upper, lower and mid-Cape) and three at large Commissioners with the chair being the largest vote getter all non partisan would resolve these petty politics issues and would empower the voters in the tradition of our Barnstable County forefathers.

This was the spirit of these great patriots and we call on all those of good faith to act accordingly to demand that our elected officials act as statesmen and leaders or at the very least as act as unselfish mature adults and fight for improvement for all Cape Codders throughout Barnstable County of all persuasions. It is one Cape Cod for us all and all for one Barnstable County not County government for themselves inspire of all of us!

Voice your choice! Write your state legislature and tell them you want input and control of your local regional government!

Joe Glynn  
Hyannis Park-Yarmouth

508-790-5747 (Home)  
508-737-8021 (Cell)

The Author is Vice Chairman and elected Board Commissioner for the Yarmouth Housing Authority and announced Candidate for Barnstable County Board of Regional Commissioners and has authored specific and detailed County Restructuring Amendments and has publicly published and presented them over the years of public discussion to media outlets and the County Assembly of Delegates/Charter Review Committee

**Janice O'Connell**

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**From:** Sherrie Hitchcock <hitchcocks151@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 06, 2019 12:51 PM  
**To:** Janice O'Connell  
**Subject:** Charter Review

3

I am responding to the proposal to eliminate County Commissioner positions.

It seems like a good idea to replace the Commissioners with one county manager in the executive branch. The interests of the various Cape towns/citizens will still be represented by the Assembly of Delegates.

The county manager would be a professional versus a politician and easier to hold accountable. Executive triumvirates in history, e.g., Rome, have not been effective. Our own Commissioners also seem to be a case in point.

Because county government is important here, unlike other parts of the Commonwealth, we should have the most effective, streamlined governmental bodies as possible. The proposal is a solid step in that direction.

It is no secret people don't usually embrace change, and in the newspaper article I see we already have some hysterical response in the negative. Don't let the naysayers and harpies dissuade you from fully exploring trying to improve how government is delivered to the people of Barnstable County.

Good luck!

Sherrie Hitchcock  
Yarmouth Port

CRC  
Public Comment #4 10-16-19 agenda  
item #5

FELICIA R PENN \* 15 DAISY BLUFF LANE \* HYANNIS, MA 02601

TO: Suzanne MacAuliffe, Chair, Assembly of Delegates

FROM: Felicia Penn

Date: October 11, 2019

RE: Proposed Reorganization of County Government

Thank you for advertising a public hearing on this important topic.

Summarizing the proposed reorganization, it appears that the purpose is to rid the County of the Executive Branch of government, and replace it with a strong County Administrator under the direction of the Assembly of Delegates (AOD).

Upon examining the information provided to your members, I, too, read Section Three of the County Charter. I call your attention to Section 3, items 10 and 11, which describe the establishment of a Cape Cod Regional Government Administrator (County Administrator), indicate compensation for this position as well as its powers and duties. This position is responsible for the establishment and management of the annual budget, capital outlay budget, as well creating procedures for all county departments, offices and agencies. The Assembly of Delegates has the power to approve said budgets and procedures. The County administrator is also responsible for negotiations, reporting and communications both to the Assembly and the public at large. This individual also is tasked with making recommendations for improvements to county government based on forecasts and trends.

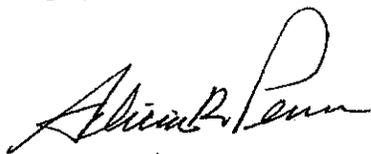
In other words, it appears to me that our county charter already provides for a strong county administrator. The only difference is, this individual works directly with the executive branch, the Board of Regional County Commissioners, and not the Assembly of Delegates; although they must keep the AOD informed.

To eliminate the executive branch of county government is a mistake. Concentrating all the power within the Assembly is a grave error.

(The Charter Review Committee used Dukes County as a model for review. Comparing Dukes County to Cape Cod is like comparing apples and oranges. Dukes County has a population of 17,300. Barnstable County has 213,400. The town of Sandwich has 3,000 more residents than all of Dukes County.)

Barnstable County, like other respectable governmental structural models is bicameral, designed to support checks and balances. It may appear clumsy to you and not very efficient, but it requires transparency which is essential in representative government. If this system is eliminated, it will concentrate the power into one body having universal control. This is not a desirable alternative.

I urge you to reject this recommendation.



*CRC  
Public Comment #5 10-16-19 agenda  
item #5*

**Janice O'Connell**

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**From:** Phillip B. <pblowers@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 13, 2019 11:11 AM  
**To:** Janice O'Connell  
**Subject:** Board of Regional Commissioners

With the over population of Cape Cod, the lack of forthright attention dealing with the future of the area known as Cape Cod, pollution from the year round residents, and the ever growing increase thanks to the abuse of summer tourism. The past history of various community on this land show a serious lack of attention to detail for the lives Americans live out on this fragile land! The Board of Regional Commissioners should be disposed of, and a new collective with a constantly changing understanding be formed. Create a determination to review standards, and create a new committee every ten years, to fifteen years. Things are going to change fast with and around the area Americans call, survive on, and live off of Cape Cod.

Phill Blowers  
W Barnstable

CRC ~~Agenda~~ Public Comment (#6)  
10-16-19 agenda item #3

October 16, 2019

Madam Speaker and Delegates to the Assembly:

I believe the time to be right for you as the County Assembly of Delegates acting as a Charter Review Committee (CRC) to make a very helpful restructuring of the executive branch of County Government. At your October 2 meeting, the Speaker and Committee Chair Suzanne McAuliffe offered the worthy suggestion of entirely eliminating the County three-member Board of Commissioners. The Board's administrative functions would be assumed by an appointed strong, professional administrator and deputy administrator and the Board's policy functions would be given to the 15 Assembly Delegates— one delegate from each Cape town with a population-based weighted vote.

The Speaker raised excellent points to which I agree as did a significant number of other delegates but possibly not a majority. As Speaker McAuliffe said, this change would accomplish the following: the elimination of accusations of open law violations since the three-member board which can't legally speak to each other absent a public meeting, also eliminated redundancy of reports necessarily being given to both the commissioners and the delegates, ambiguity in some functions would be removed, added is increased accountability, administration work done by professionals, some streamlining of government and finally, the Assembly's policy making role would be strengthened.

Those of you who were nay-sayers focused your objections largely on your observation that things were going well enough. Such a "radical" change was therefore unnecessary. "Where's the problem that needs that level of fix?" one asked. I agree with the two delegates that responded. There were numerous problems though none may rise to the level of radical. Another reminded the CRC that one didn't have to go too far back in history to find both dysfunction, particularly in the Board of Commissioners, and ineptitude. Another reminded you that people have been talking about change for years, even before the Special Commission's report of 2012.

As a supporter of the elimination of the Board of Commissioners, I add these things: there would be one clear spokesperson for the County rather than the current annual rotating chair of the commissioners; a strong executive could function as a vision setter and catalyst for action. This professional executive would bring additional cache at the state and federal levels of government with whom the County relates.

I'm sorry to be unable to attend your hearing in person. I hope you will have received other correspondence from persons or organizations supporting the change as well as those appearing in person. I hope the results of this hearing will include a thorough discussion of what those presentations and offerings, unlike what happened at the most hearing a few years ago recommendations, where plans were dropped with no discussion.

Discussion affirms your value of the comments, whether or not you find agreement. Those taking the time to present deserve at least this effort. Thank you. I hope you will support the suggested proposal.

Judy Thomas, 21 Eileen Road, Chatham, MA 02633

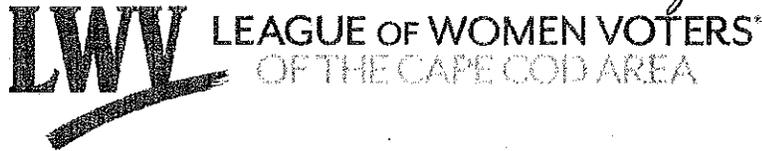
Janice O'Connell

CRC 10-16-19 agenda  
Public Comment (#7) item #5

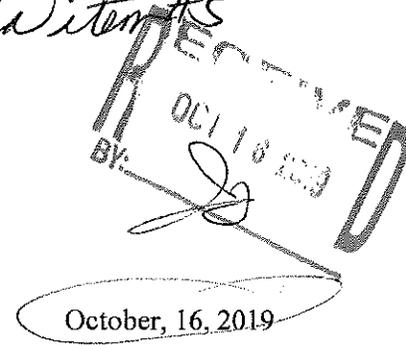
**From:** Eileen Sonnenberg <esonnenberg218@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 15, 2019 11:04 AM  
**To:** Janice O'Connell  
**Subject:** County Restructure

I believe that it would be in the best interests of Barnstable County to eliminate the elected commissioners board in favor of an appointed manager, and most certainly have the Assembly of Delegates handle all of the policy responsibilities. That would prevent any unfit candidates such as Ron Beaty from ever being in charge of making important decisions for the County.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eileen Sonnenberg  
18 Cranberry Lane  
Brewster, MA



*ERC Public Comment #8  
10-16-19 agenda item #5*



Madam Speaker, Delegates.

I am Suzanne Brock of the League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area. Thank you for holding this hearing on suggestions for structural change to the County Charter regarding the executive branch of government. The League is most pleased that as a Charter Review Committee the Assembly of Delegates has ventured into serious discussion regarding structural change. We applaud the holding of this hearing for public input now so that the thinking and reasoning of others may play a role in your decision making.

As you know from our previous testimony this past summer, the League has believed for some time that structural change with both the executive and legislative branches of County government would lead to greater efficiencies and better functioning of both. The current proposal deals only with the executive branch so at this hearing that will be our focus.

As a watch dog of county government over many years, the League has seen County government function at varying levels of efficiency and cohesion. Sometimes fairly smoothly, at other times with significant dysfunction, particularly in the executive branch where the three member Board of Commissioners has had difficulty.

The League has identified certain problems with the current Charter's executive branch provisions.

1. Under the current Charter the whole Board of Commissioners is given the general supervision and direction of all agencies of the regional government. This process leads to a great deal of confusion. Which of the three commissioners gives direction to the administrator? Whom does the administrator call with a question? How do three persons act as a CEO or make inquiries into conduct?
2. A three member Board means that, under the Open Meetings Law, no two commissioners may communicate in any form with each other because two constitute a quorum. We believe the proposal before the Charter Review Committee will significantly improve county government by reducing this layer of confusion.
3. Re-organization happens on a yearly basis. With this possible yearly chairmanship rotation, planning continuity and follow through can be lost.

As noted in a report by Carol Ridley in the strategic plan, a budgetary process involving both the Commissioners and the Assembly makes the process both lengthy and hard for departments to plan and implement programs in a timely and efficient manner. Many management consultants view an elected official as less able to make a fair evaluation of employees than an appointed administrator. Politics complicates relationships and responsibilities. It is extremely hard to do personnel review in the public. Ideally, reviews are done in a private setting where there can be open discussion of what's been done and where areas of improvement are needed. Fortunately, with the proposal put forward by Speaker/Chair of the Charter Review Committee and discussed earlier this month with a provision to eliminate the Board of Commissioners, these roadblocks to a more effective government are removed. Under the suggested

proposal, the Assembly would appoint a qualified professional administrator/manager to be aided by a deputy administrator to carry out all of the executive functions now handled by the current Board. As was noted at your Oct. 2 meeting, the current Charter already allows many of these functions to be delegated — and they already are — to the administrator. This points out the practicality and efficiency of having these functions in the job description of the administrator or a manager, whatever term is chosen.

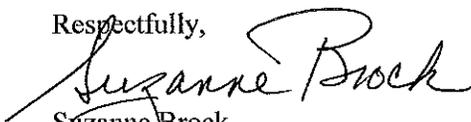
We strongly agree with the reasoning highlighted by Speaker/Chair McAuliffe when she outlined the suggested proposal and her rationale saying that there would no longer be accusations of open law violations if the three member board inadvertently spoke to each other absent a public meeting. This problem would be eliminated as would the redundancy between reports being given to both the commissioners and the delegates. Ambiguity in some functions would be removed, there would be increased accountability, administrative work would be done by professionals, there would be some streamlining of government with some possible cost savings and finally the Assembly's policy making role would be strengthened.

While this proposal goes a long way in moving our County towards having a more effective and efficient governmental body, the League of Women Voters of Cape Cod strongly recommends that the Charter Review Committee also address the number of Assembly Delegates. A change to a reduced number of delegates elected on a regional basis would greatly improve the responsiveness and strength of the Cape's Regional Government.

Change can be hard. It requires open minds and flexibility, vision, and the commitment to work toward change. The proposal on the floor is worthy of support. It offers something better for the county and its work on behalf of all of its year round residents as well as those persons who call the Cape home for at least part of the year.

We, The League of Women Voters of Cape Cod, urge support of the elimination of the Board of Commissioners in favor of a strong professional executive along with a reduced number of Assembly Delegates. This has been part of our official position for many years.

Respectfully,



Suzanne Brock  
Steering Committee Member  
LWVCC