

*Monroe County
Clerk of the Legislature*

*Jamie L. Slocum
Clerk*



*Heather D. Halstead
Deputy Clerk*

*David Grant
Assistant Deputy Clerk*

TO: Monroe County Charter Review Committee Members
FROM: Jamie L. Slocum, Clerk of the Legislature *JS*
DATE: March 21, 2014
RE: Public Input Received

The following attachments have been received by the Legislature Clerk's Office before the March 20, 2014 deadline. They are being distributed for your viewing before the next meeting on Thursday, March 27, 2014.

Attachments.



Statement at Public Forum of February 27th

Leslie Yaworsky

to:

charterreview

03/05/2014 07:21 PM

Hide Details

From: Leslie Yaworsky <[REDACTED]>

To: charterreview@monroecounty.gov

1 Attachment



Monroe County Charter Review Committee Public Forum statement Feb. 27.doc

To: Monroe County Charter Review Committee

From: Sarah Yaworsky, Rochester, NY

Date: March 5, 2014

RE: Statement at Public Forum of February 27th, Monroe Community Hospital Auditorium A

This is to provide the substance of my remarks at the above referenced forum. Also attached is a document of this statement.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the Committee about recommendations for changes to the Monroe County Charter.

This is to propose that Section C2-7 of the County Charter be amended to provide that resolutions that bypass the otherwise required committee process must pass by an affirmative vote of 2/3 of the legislature. Language could parallel that of the MHR section regarding Local Laws such as:

A.(2) Resolutions. The adoption of a resolution shall require the affirmative vote of at least a majority of

the total membership of the County Legislature, unless the President of the Legislature shall have certified as to the necessity for its immediate passage and such resolution is passed by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the total voting power of the Legislature, or except as may be otherwise provided for by this Charter or other law.

Rationale: In order to increase the ability of the public to meaningfully participate in their governance, it should be fundamental that all proposals for legislative acts be subject to scrutiny and debate unless the matter is of such urgency that quicker action best serves the needs of County citizens. Only those matters upon which at least a majority of legislators can agree are likely to be truly sufficiently important to be approved without time for public scrutiny. The opportunity for passing legislation without due scrutiny should not be available for abuse or to avoid meaningful democratic participation.

This amendment will not prevent any resolution from passing with only a majority affirmative vote, it will just protect the public interest in open government by requiring passage through the normal legislative process unless it is truly urgent. All political parties will be protected by this amendment as all parties will, at some time, find themselves in the minority.

Thank you for your attention to this work.

To: Monroe County Charter Review Committee
From: Sarah Yaworsky, Rochester, NY
Date: March 5, 2014

RE: Statement at Public Forum of February 27th
Monroe Community Hospital Auditorium A

This is to provide the substance of my remarks at the above referenced forum.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the Committee about recommendations for changes to the Monroe County Charter.

This is to propose that Section C2-7 of the County Charter be amended to provide that resolutions that bypass the otherwise required committee process must pass by an affirmative vote of 2/3 of the legislature. Language could parallel that of the MHR section regarding Local Laws such as:

A.(2) Resolutions. The adoption of a resolution shall require the affirmative vote of at least a majority of the total membership of the County Legislature, unless the President of the Legislature shall have certified as to the necessity for its immediate passage and such resolution is passed by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the total voting power of the Legislature, or except as may be otherwise provided for by this Charter or other law.

Rationale: In order to increase the ability of the public to meaningfully participate in their governance, it should be fundamental that all proposals for legislative acts be subject to scrutiny and debate unless the matter is of such urgency that quicker action best serves the needs of County citizens. Only those matters upon which at least a majority of legislators can agree are likely to be truly sufficiently important to be approved without time for public scrutiny. The opportunity for passing legislation without due scrutiny should not be available for abuse or to avoid meaningful democratic participation.

This amendment will not prevent any resolution from passing with only a majority affirmative vote, it will just protect the public interest in open government by requiring passage through the normal legislative process unless it is truly urgent. All political parties will be protected by this amendment as all parties will, at some time, find themselves in the minority.

Thank you for your attention to this work.



League of Women Voters -Rochester Metropolitan Area copy of address to
Charter Review Committee 2/27/14

██████████ to: charterreview

03/03/2014 10:09 PM

This November New Yorkers will vote on an amendment to the NYS Constitution to change the composition of the NYS Commission for Redistricting after the 2020 census.

The NYS League of Women Voters supports this amendment and is asking each of the 62 counties in NYS to update the make-up of their own redistricting commission. Since Monroe County is reviewing their charter, the time is right for Section C2-2 to be changed.

LWVRMA recommends nonpartisan appointees to the 2021 local Commission. Members could, for example, be university professors, retired judges or civic group leaders, in addition to the two election commissioners and members of the county legislature. The goal is to provide districts that provide not only "one person, one vote", but to reflect the interests of the general public.

In 2011, although Monroe County Commission held several public forums after the proposed district map was completed, the public hearings were poorly attended because citizens thought the map would be automatically accepted by the Legislature and their input would be too late. At that time LWVRMA authorized the Center for Governmental Research (CGR) to use the Bee Bibby Endowment Fund to draw another map for our forum to let citizens view and compare a possible alternative district map to reflect the goals mentioned previously. Our forum was lively with suggestions from elected officials and citizens. No changes, however, were made to the Commission's map.

The League looks forward to a County Charter change to allow a different make-up of the Legislative District Revision Commission which provides for more meaningful citizen participation. We'd welcome an opportunity to give some specific change recommendations.

Thank you.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS-ROCHESTER METROPOLITAN AREA
Elaine Schmidt, Board Director for Governmental Positions



Charter suggestion

wash

to:

charterreview

03/10/2014 10:07 AM

[Hide Details](#)

From: [REDACTED]

To: charterreview@monroecounty.gov

I'd like to see some discussion about reducing the size of the Legislature. I don't understand the need for 29 members, when 11, 7, or even 5 would do. In fact, is the Legislature necessary at all? Why not let Town Supervisors represent residents at County meetings, and eliminate the Legislature all together?



Proposal

Bj Coleman

to:

charterreview@monroecounty.gov

03/11/2014 06:01 PM

Hide Details

From: Bj Coleman <[REDACTED]>

To: "charterreview@monroecounty.gov" <charterreview@monroecounty.gov>

Please respond to Bj Coleman <[REDACTED]>

Creating a county Office of Public Integrity to investigate complaints and review the operations of county departments and authorities.

I am in favor of the proposal to create a County Office of Public Integrity. Although there is a Whistleblower hotline to report dishonest behavior of county employees. This very same hotline is manned by Monroe County administrative employees and in most instances although there is valid evidence the poor/illegal conduct that is reported is swept under the rug.

Because no one is monitoring big brother, County administrators within the Department of Human Services and the assistance of the Federation of Social Workers are allowing County Administrators to ignore the items set forth in the employment contracts and promote persons who lack post high school education and postpone civil service exams so that they can justify the promotion based on experience. They totally ignore civil service law and make their own rules.

The Federation of Social Workers and the County have phased out Civil service titles currently held by County employees who now have no career ladder. Unfortunately the Union has not informed the employees nor given any assistance to take civil service exams once their jobs are assigned to examiners and they are terminated.

Employees are not aware of alternate procedures set in place to report misconduct by reporting the misconduct to entities such as the County Legislative, Civil Service Commission, etc.

It is time to let our County officials and administrators know that the people will hold them responsible for their disrespect for the laws that they were hired to maintain.



Citizen Input - Charter Review

David Rubin

to:

charterreview

03/17/2014 09:59 AM

Hide Details

From: "David Rubin" [REDACTED]

To: <charterreview@monroecounty.gov>

I'd like to have the charter committee review my comments, below, as a tax paying citizen of Monroe County.

I recommend the structure of county government be revised to totally eliminate the use of outside entities for the sake of expediency. In other words, I recommend all LDCs and Authorities be eliminated.

We have borrowing limits for a reason. Government should not use gimmicks to get around these limits. Authorities are able to avoid borrowing limits.

We have government pay scales for a reason. There are plenty of highly qualified people who can and are willing to perform all government functions at government pay scales. The elimination of authorities and incorporating their necessary functions into government departments would eliminate egregious pay and pensions.

I've discussed these recommendations with friends and family and there is universal support for these recommendations. I hope you can take them under consideration.

Thanks,

David Rubin
6 Trailwood Circle
Rochester, NY 14618

[REDACTED]



citizen comment

nbwinters

to:

charterreview

03/17/2014 03:49 PM

Hide Details

From: [REDACTED]

To: charterreview@monroecounty.gov

Hi - I live in Webster. We have our own police dept and we should not be required to pay for Monroe County Sheriff service beyond what they are requested to do by the Town of Webster. The towns without their own police dept should be picking up the bulk of the costs. The last thing I want to see is a metropolitan style police service where there is only one unified dept. that provides all services to the county. My same sentiments apply to the metro. gov't. concept. Thank you... Bruce Winters [REDACTED]



Fwd: county charter

Debbie Drawe

to:

charterreview

03/17/2014 03:53 PM

Sent by:

Hide Details

From: Debbie Drawe

To: charterreview@monroecounty.gov

Sent by:

----- Forwarded message -----

From:

Date: Mon, Mar 17, 2014 at 3:44 PM

Subject: county charter

To:

There are some issues I believe need to be addressed in a new county charter.

- 1) non-partisan independent redistricting for legislative district boundaries
- 2) a reduction of the number of members of the county legislature down to about 17 members
- 3) public integrity / ethics enforcement that,
 - a) has authority to investigate,
 - b) may investigate without a complaint,
 - c) authority to refer to prosecution,
 - d) has some teeth rather than just a rubber stamp,
 - e) is not politically appointed,
 - f) has power over all officials, staff and employees of the county, and quasi-county entities.

Kevin Gallagher
Penfield

-- Confidentiality Notice -- This email message, including all the attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and contains confidential information. Unauthorized use or disclosure is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, you may not use, disclose, copy or disseminate this information. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender immediately by reply email and destroy all copies of the original message, including attachments.



**COPY OF LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS -ROCHESTER METRO AREA'S
ADDRESS TO CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE**

██████████ to: charterreview, jamieslocum

03/18/2014 11:23 AM

PLEASE ACCEPT THIS WRITTEN COPY OF THE ADDRESS TO THE CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR THE PUBLIC RECORD

This November New Yorkers will vote on an amendment to the NYS Constitution to change the composition of the NYS Commission for Redistricting after the 2020 census.

The NYS League of Women Voters supports this amendment and is asking each of the 62 counties of NYS to update the make-up of their own redistricting commission. Since Monroe County is reviewing their charter, the time is right for Section C2-2 to be changed.

LWV-Rochester Metro Area recommends non-partisan appointees to the 2021 local Commission. Members would not be chosen based on their party affiliation. Appointees by the Monroe County Legislature could be university professors, retired judges or civic group leaders, in addition to the two election commissioners and members of the county legislature. The goal is to draw districts that provide not only "one person, one vote" but to reflect the interests of the general public.

In 2011, although the Monroe County Commission held several public forums after the proposed district map was completed, the public hearings were poorly attended because citizens thought the map would be automatically accepted by the Legislature and their input would be too late.

At that time the LWV-RMA authorized the Center for Governmental Research to use the Bee Bibby Endowment Fund to draw another map for our public forum to let citizens view and compare a possible alternative district map to reflect the goals mentioned previously. Our forum was lively with many suggestions from elected officials and citizens. No changes, however were made to the Commission's map.

The League looks forward to a County Charter change to allow a different make-up of the Legislative District Revision Commission which provides for more meaningful citizen participation. We'd welcome an opportunity to give some specific change recommendations.

Thank you.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS-ROCHESTER MERO AREA
Elaine Schmidt, Board Director for Governmnetal Positions



Fw: Charter changes
Jamie Slocum to: Jamie Slocum

03/21/2014 11:44 AM

Jamie Slocum
Clerk of the Legislature
407 County Office Building
39 West Main Street
Rochester, NY 14614
Office: (585) 753-1914

— Forwarded by Jamie Slocum/LEG/Monroe on 03/21/2014 11:43 AM —

From: "hvan hoven" <[REDACTED]>
To: <charterreview@monroecounty.gov>
Date: 03/17/2014 06:03 PM
Subject: Charter changes

The charter should be amended to reduce the size of the legislature to bring it in line with other county legislatures in the state.

This would not only save money, but possibly allow the legislature to function more smoothly with less division along party lines.



This email is free from viruses and malware because avast! Antivirus protection is active.



Opposition to proposed change to A5-6 Delegation to County Executive

Nancy Uffindell

to:

charterreview

03/19/2014 03:40 PM

Hide Details

From: "Nancy Uffindell" <[REDACTED]>

To: <charterreview@monroecounty.gov>

Re: Deputy CE Dan Delaus proposed change- A5-6 Delegation to County Executive

1. Power to authorize, enter into and execute agreements and contracts. Proposal is to increase the CE's authority to allow her to enter into contracts in excess of \$5,000, up to \$20,000.

I am opposed to the increase of contractual spending limits for the CE. As the money comes from the taxpayers, the spending decisions should be made by the legislative body, not by an individual. \$5,000 can be considered a reasonable amount for an individual decision, anything above that should be considered extreme – 5 decisions at \$20,000 quickly becomes \$100,000! Please do not allow this increase to pass!

The basis for my opposition to this proposed change:

-The proposal was made by the Deputy to the current CE – Will he be running for his boss's job when she no longer runs? Is he preparing the system so he can spend more money at his own discretion? *A change to regulation of the CE office coming from someone within the CE office certainly appears to be a conflict of interest!*

-Also, many things that have surfaced regarding LDC's and COMIDA, which have caused the spending of county tax dollars in a manner that has not been frugal and more resident tax dollars that will need to be spent to untangle that web, along with the continual actual and proposed very large annual wage increases for a certain employee of the county gives credence to the fact that giving more spending power to one individual (the CE) without oversight is not prudent.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Nancy Uffindell

Monroe County Resident who votes in every election



<http://static.avast.com/emails/avast-mail-stamp.png> />

This email is free from viruses and malware because avast! Antivirus protection is active.



ideas
Kevin Yost
to:
charterreview@monroecounty.gov
03/19/2014 01:02 PM
Hide Details
From: Kevin Yost <[REDACTED]>

To: "charterreview@monroecounty.gov" <charterreview@monroecounty.gov>

Please respond to Kevin Yost <[REDACTED]>

There needs to be more county lej oversight of LDC's. There also needs to be an elected county comptroller. If the lej is to be downsized, there should be no less than 21 legislators.

Kevin Yost
Henrietta



Charter review input

Collinge/Thiel

to:

charterreview

03/20/2014 02:26 PM

Hide Details

From: Collinge/Thiel <[REDACTED]>

To: charterreview@monroecounty.gov

Security:

To ensure privacy, images from remote sites were prevented from downloading. Show Images

To eliminate the decennial controversies about county legislature redistricting, I suggest that the county charter specify that future redistricting plans be chosen by pre-announced numerical criteria, rather than by a committee. For example, starting with a requirement that each district be contiguous and contain a population within 3% of the mean district population (that is, the county population divided by the number of districts), plans would receive points based on these three categories:

1. Similar population size - award points based on how far proposed districts stray from the ideal of being within 1% of the mean district population
2. District compactness - award points based on how compact districts are, perhaps using a measure such as the ratio of the district's perimeter squared to its area
3. Intact municipalities - award points when a given city or town is split among more districts than needed to handle its population.

I suggest that faculty at the University of Rochester or RIT or other local colleges be consulted on the optimum formulas and weighting of these three categories towards the overall score, and perhaps graduate students could later help with scoring the plans received. Anyone within the county could suggest a redistricting plan: a "good government" group, a political party, or a local citizen. The plan with the fewest weighted total points according to the criteria and agreed-upon weighting would be adopted.

Peter Collinge
77 Tall Oak Lane
Pittsford, NY 14534
(resident of the Town of Henrietta)



This email is free from viruses and malware because avast! Antivirus protection is active.



more days voting election week

Dan Melia

to:

charterreview@monroecounty.gov

03/20/2014 08:45 PM

Hide Details

From: Dan Melia <[REDACTED]>

To: "charterreview@monroecounty.gov" <charterreview@monroecounty.gov>

Please respond to Dan Melia <[REDACTED]>

Please keep voting booths open more days during election week. Fluctuating schedules, imperative obligations to care for family members, unexpected illness, & other factors, often interferes with my & many others ability to vote. One day to vote is simply too difficult.

America is the land of opportunity. Voting booths remaining open more days during election week will provide a much greater opportunity for me and others to vote. Absentee ballots are not a better alternative. Unexpected calls into work, unexpected extra travel time to get to work or while working, unexpected traffic jams, terrible weather, etc., all impact our ability to get to the voting booth.

Absentee ballot costs add up. Ballots mailed but never returned, absentee ballot apps from people not even registered, additional costs such as clerks trying to alert people in such situations to register, people without internet access, computer or iPhone problems, all contribute the absentee ballot disadvantages. You know all these things already.

Considering more volunteers, leave that task to people like me. It will not be a problem, at all, and I do mean, at all, for me to get plenty, more than plenty, hundreds of volunteers who see it as their civil duty to be an election inspector during an election week.

These people will do it for nothing! No charge! If payment remains a requirement, we'll do it for so much \$ less, it will be totally worth it!

Please get back to me. I would love the opportunity to speak to you!

With great appreciation,
Dan Melia