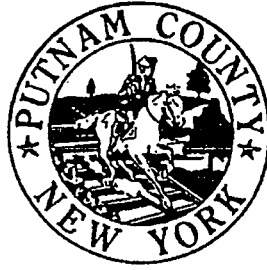


THE PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE

40 Gleneida Avenue
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Amy E. Sayegh *Chairwoman*
Greg E. Ellner *Deputy Chair*
Diane Trabulsy *Clerk*



Nancy Montgomery	Dist. 1
William Gouldman	Dist. 2
Toni E. Addonizio	Dist. 3
Laura E. Russo	Dist. 4
Greg E. Ellner	Dist. 5
Paul E. Jonke	Dist. 6
Daniel G. Birmingham	Dist. 7
Amy E. Sayegh	Dist. 8
Erin L. Crowley	Dist. 9

AGENDA
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
RULES, ENACTMENTS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
TO BE HELD IN ROOM #318
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512

Members: Chairman Birmingham and Legislators Ellner & Gouldman

Thursday **October 23, 2025**
(Immediately following the Audit Mtg. beginning at 6pm)

- 1. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Discussion – Approval – Legislative Counsel Positions**
- 4. Adjournment**

A LOCAL LAW PROVIDING FOR A COUNSEL TO THE MAJORITY OF THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE AND A COUNSEL TO THE MINORITY OF THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE.

Section 1. The Legislature of the County of Putnam, New York hereby makes the following findings and determinations:

(a) That the system of checks and balances inherent in the separation of powers of each branch of the government is vitally important to prevent the concentration of power in any one branch of government, thereby protecting individual liberties and preventing one branch of government from having supremacy over another; and

(b) that in order for the County Legislature to have the capacity to prepare legislation independent of, as well as in cooperation with, the Executive Branch, the County Legislature hereby finds that given the separate branches of County Government, the County Legislature requires Counsel to the Legislature which is separate from and not dependent upon the approval and resources of the County Executive and Executive Branch; and

(c) that the Putnam County Legislature hereby finds and determines that the interests and requirements of legislative responsibility and authority will be better served by the creation of a Counsel to the Majority of the County Legislature ("Majority Counsel") and a Counsel to the Minority of the County Legislature ("Minority Counsel"); and

(d) that the Putnam County Legislature hereby determines that such Majority Counsel and Minority Counsel shall provide advice and recommendations to the majority members of the County Legislature and to the minority members of the County Legislature, respectively, in the drafting of legislation and otherwise and, as desired, in cooperation and consultation with the County Attorney and the Department of Law,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE COUNTY OF PUTNAM AS FOLLOWS:

Section 2. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, Article 2, of the Putnam County Charter is hereby amended by adding a new Section as follows:

§ 2.11 Counsel to the Majority of the County Legislature and Counsel to Minority of the County Legislature.

(a) There is established a Counsel to the Majority of the County Legislature and a Counsel to the Minority of the County Legislature.

(b) The members of the County Legislature enrolled in the political party representing the largest number of County Legislators shall on the first day in January 2026 or as soon thereafter as practicable, and every three years thereafter, appoint a Counsel to the Majority of the County Legislature. Such Counsel to the Majority shall be chosen by the affirmative vote of the majority of such majority members of the County Legislature.

(c) The members of the County Legislature enrolled in the political party representing the next largest number of County Legislators shall on the first day in January 2026 or as soon thereafter as practicable, and every three years thereafter, appoint a Counsel to the Minority of the County Legislature. Such Minority Counsel shall be chosen by the affirmative vote of the majority of such minority members of the County Legislature.

(d) Powers and duties of each of the Counsel to the Majority and Counsel to the Minority shall include:

(1) Oversee the preparation of local laws, ordinances, acts and resolutions upon receipt of a request.

(2) Research problems related to the function, powers and duties of the County Legislature and its employees.

(3) Prepare written reports on the breadth and depth of the function, powers and duties of the County Legislature and its employees.

(4) Attend all full Legislative Meetings and all special meetings and, as requested, committee meetings.

(5) Provide advice to the members of the County Legislature on Rules of Order and other procedural questions as they arise or as requested during Legislative meetings.

(6) Recommend procedures in connection with the implementation of policy for the County Legislature.

(7) Recommend and coordinate appropriate ways to communicate initiatives and policy of the County Legislature through media and other mechanisms.

(8) Perform a variety of related activities as required.

(e) At the time of their appointments, and throughout their time in office, the Counsel to the Majority of the County Legislature and the Counsel to the Minority of the County Legislature shall be duly admitted to practice law in the State of New York.

Section 3. If any provision of this Local Law is held to be illegal or invalid for any reason, such illegality or invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions hereof, but such provision shall be fully severable and this Local Law shall be construed and enforced as if such illegal or invalid provision had never been included.

Section 4. Pursuant to Section 34(5) of the Municipal Home Rule Law, this Local Law shall take effect sixty (60) days after its final enactment and is subject to permissive referendum.