

# THE PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE

40 Gleneida Avenue  
Carmel, New York 10512  
Phone (845) 808-1020 • Fax (845) 808-1933  
putcoleg@putnamcountyny.gov

Daniel G. Birmingham *Chairman*  
William Gouldman *Deputy Chair*  
Diane Trabulsy *Clerk*



Nancy Montgomery	Dist. 1
William Gouldman	Dist. 2
Toni E. Addonizio	Dist. 3
Laura E. Russo	Dist. 4
Jake D'Angelo	Dist. 5
Thomas Regan Jr.	Dist. 6
Daniel G. Birmingham	Dist. 7
Amy E. Sayegh	Dist. 8
Erin L. Crowley	Dist. 9

## AGENDA

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

**Members: Chairwoman Sayegh and Legislators Birmingham & Gouldman**

**Wednesday**

**February 11, 2026**

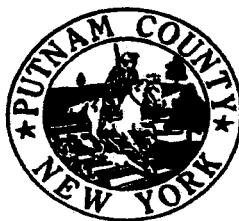
**(Immediately Following the Health Committee Mtg beginning at 6PM)**

- 1. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Approval – Re-Appointments – Plumbing & Mechanical Trades Board – Mancone & Guerra**
- 4. Approval – Litigation Settlement – Lara-Grimaldi v. County of Putnam**
- 5. Discussion – Appointment – Region 3 Fish & Wildlife Management Board – Corrado**
- 6. Discussion – Legislative Counsel Proposals**
  - a. Legislator Gouldman Proposal**
  - b. Legislator Birmingham Proposal**
- 7. Discussion – Taxpayer Transparency Act**
- 8. Discussion – Taxpayer Bill of Rights**
- 9. Discussion – Process and Procedure for Proclamations**
  - Sarasota County Guidelines**
- 10. Discussion – Legislative Committee Meeting Schedule**
- 11. FYI – Litigation Report**
- 12. Other Business**
- 13. Adjournment**

Michael Budzinski  
Director  
Ext. 46111

Russell Bleakley  
Chairman

Robert Sleight  
Vice Chairman



Henry Boyd  
Homer Losee  
Alex Mancone  
Christopher Lyons  
Thomas Capalbo  
Gary Redlon

Secretary  
Plumbing/Mechanical Board  
Ext. 46026

**PUTNAM COUNTY PLUMBING BOARD  
OFFICE OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS / WEIGHTS & MEASURES /  
Trades Licensing & Registration**

**MEMORANDUM**

**To: Diane Trabulsy**  
Clerk, Putnam County Legislature

**From: Lisa Chtioui** *[Signature]*  
Interim Secretary, Plumbing/Mechanical Board

**Date: December 18, 2025**

**RE: Appointments to the Plumbing/Mechanical Board**

2025 DEC 18 PM 3:38  
LEGISLATURE  
PUTNAM COUNTY  
CARMEL, NY

At the November 13, 2025 meeting of the Putnam County Plumbing/Mechanical Trades Board, the following nominations were made:

**Board Member Re-Appointments**

- Mr. Alex Mancone - Re-appointment as Master HVAC  
Term: 3 Years (2026 - 2028)  
Vote: All Ayes - Carried Unanimously
- Mr. Ferdy Guerra - Re-appointment as Putnam County Resident  
Term: 3 Years (2026 - 2028)  
Vote: All Ayes - Carried Unanimously

We respectfully request that the Rules Committee place this item on the agenda for its next meeting.

Attached please find letters of intent from Mr. Mancone and Mr. Guerra.

Additionally, please note that Mr. Thomas Copalbo has declined reappointment and will not be seeking a new term on the Board. We thank Mr. Copalbo for his service and contributions.

Thank you for your consideration.

cc: Michael Budzinski, PE  
Director, Office of Consumer Affairs

**#4**  
**February 11, 2026**  
**Rules Meeting**

**#4. Approval – Litigation Settlement – Lara-Grimaldi v.  
County of Putnam**

#5

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## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** February 6, 2026

**TO:** Daniel G. Birmingham  
Chairman, Putnam County Legislature

**CC:** Amy Sayegh  
Chairwoman, Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Committee

**FROM:** Nancy Montgomery  
Legislator, District #1  
Legislative Representative, Fish & Wildlife Management Board  
*Nancy A. Montgomery*

**RE:** Appointment of Putnam County Landowner Representative to the NYS DEC  
Region 3 Fish and Wildlife Management Board

I respectfully request that the Rules Committee consider the appointment of John Corrao as Putnam County's Landowner Representative to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Region 3 Fish and Wildlife Management Board at the February 11, 2026 Rules, Enactments, Intergovernmental Relations Committee meeting. This appointment is time sensitive as it will ensure continuity of Putnam County's voice in regional wildlife planning in accordance with state law.

The Fish and Wildlife Management Boards are established pursuant to New York State Environmental Conservation Law §11-0535, which provides for the creation of regional boards and specifically requires the appointment of a landowner representative from each county within the region to ensure that private property interests and local land management perspectives are represented in wildlife policy and management decisions.

Mr. Corrao has been a Putnam County resident and landowner for over thirty years and currently owns and actively manages an 89-acre property in the Town of Kent. He brings decades of experience in wildlife conservation, habitat management, and responsible deer management, including:

- Longstanding involvement with local and regional sportsmen's and conservation organizations
- Leadership in the implementation of the NYCDEP Deer Management Restriction Program in Putnam County
- Professional work with The Nature Conservancy managing conservation-based hunting programs
- Collaboration with NYSDEC biologists, the Watershed Agricultural Council, and conservation groups on wildlife education and habitat initiatives

Putnam County faces increasingly complex wildlife management challenges affecting homeowners, agriculture, road safety, and ecological health. Mr. Corrao's practical land stewardship experience and deep knowledge of wildlife policy make him exceptionally well-suited to serve as the County's Landowner Representative on the Region 3 Board.

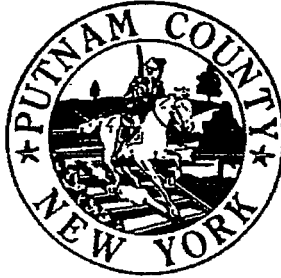
Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me should you require any additional information.

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#6a

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**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** February 4, 2026

**TO:** Amy Sayegh  
Chairwoman, Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Committee

**CC:** William Gouldman  
Legislator, District #2

**FROM:** Daniel G. Birmingham  
Chairman, Putnam County Legislature 

**RE:** Legislator Gouldman's Proposed Local Law to Amend Article 2 of the Putnam County Charter Entitled "The County Legislature" and Article 8 of the Putnam County Charter Entitled "Department of Law"

Pursuant to Section III(C)(2)(b) of the Legislative Manual, I am referring this item to the Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Committee for consideration. Please include this matter on the next agenda of the Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

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## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** February 3, 2026

**TO:** Amy Sayegh  
Chairwoman, Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Committee

**FROM:** William Gouldman  
Legislator, District #2 

**RE:** Establishing Independent Legislative Counsel for the Putnam County Legislature

Attached please find a DRAFT Amendment to the County Charter intended to "Restore Checks and Balances" through amendments to Article II and Article VIII of the Charter. This draft resembles the system of checks and balances utilized in Dutchess County, where the County Legislature is supported by its own independent Legislative Counsel. One attorney serving the entire body and selected by majority, not along party lines. While the County Executive retains regular access to legal counsel through the County Attorney, who serves at the pleasure of the Executive (something our current Charter does not provide).

This DRAFT also incorporates certain language from the Charter Amendment that was recently vetoed. It is designed to strengthen the Legislature's access to independent counsel through a single attorney serving the full body, while balancing that authority by providing comparable independent access to counsel within the Executive Branch.

This DRAFT will provide the Putnam County Legislature with a stronger form of Independent Counsel with one attorney that we can hire and remove at will.

I believe this proposal has the makings of a fair and understandable compromise that could meet the objectives of both the Legislative and Executive Branches.

There is no need in delaying this action. I therefore urge all my colleagues to give this proposal consideration. I respectfully request this item be placed on the February 11th Rules Committee Meeting to be reviewed by the Legislature and Counsel.

Thank you for your attention to this request.



A LOCAL LAW TO “RESTORE CHECKS AND BALANCES” BY AMENDING ARTICLE 2 OF THE PUTNAM COUNTY CHARTER ENTITLED “THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE” and ARTICLE 8 OF THE PUTNAM COUNTY CHARTER ENTITLED “DEPARTMENT OF LAW”

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the County of Putnam as follows:

Article 2 of the Putnam County Charter is hereby AMENDED to add §2.11 and Article 8 of the Putnam County Charter is hereby REPEALED and REPLACED as provided hereinafter:

**Section 1. Intent**

- (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 the Executive Branch; and
- (c) that the Putnam County Legislature hereby finds and determines that the interests and requirements of legislative responsibility and authority would be better served by the creation of a Counsel to the Legislature; and
- (d) that the Putnam County Legislature hereby determines that the interests and requirements of legislative responsibility and authority will be better served by such Counsel providing advice and recommendations to the members of the Legislature, in the drafting of legislation and otherwise and, as desired, in cooperation and consultation with the County Attorney and the Department of Law, provided that such cooperation shall not create or imply any supervisory authority of the County Attorney over such counsel because the role is internal to the legislature and advisory in nature and therefor in no way contravenes N.Y.S. County Law 501 or Article 8 of the Putnam County Charter.
- (e) that in furtherance of upholding the principles of checks and balances, to ensure the County Executive also has regular access to his/her own independent Counsel, that the County Attorney shall hereby be directly responsible to and serve at the pleasure of the County Executive consistent with the County Attorney’s role as sole legal advisor for the County and its administrative units.

**Section 2. Establishment**

Notwithstanding any other provisions in the County Charter, there is hereby established the position of Counsel to the Legislature to be appointed in the manner and to have the powers as provided herein, and such position shall be an employee of the County Legislature, and not the Department of Law as established under Article 8 of this Charter. Such a position will be selected by simply majority vote of the members of the Legislature.

The County Attorney shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the County Executive.

### **Section 3.**

Article 2 of the Putnam County Charter is hereby amended by adding a new Section as follows:

#### **§2.11 Counsel to the Legislature.**

- (a) The Counsel to the Legislature shall be chosen by a simple majority vote of the members of the Legislature. He or she shall be appointed on the basis of his or her legal experience and other qualifications for the responsibility of his or her office. At the time of his or her appointment, and throughout his or her term of office, the Counsel to the Legislature shall be and remain duly licensed and entitled to practice law in the State of New York.
- (b) Powers and duties. Except as may otherwise be provided in this Charter, the Counsel to the Legislature shall, with respect to matters of the County Legislature:
  - (1) Prepare local laws, ordinances, acts and resolutions upon request by a member of the County Legislature.
  - (2) Research issues related to the function, powers and duties of the 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 regular and special meetings of the Putnam County Legislature; be available to attend all committee meetings as requested by any legislator.
  - (5) Provide parliamentary advice to the members of the 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 Legislature.
  - (7) Recommend and coordinate appropriate ways to communicate initiatives and policies of the Legislature through media and other mechanisms.
  - (8) Perform a such other related activities, as required, not inconsistent with Section 501 of N.Y.S. County Law, the provisions of this Charter and the Putnam County Code.
- (c) Independence and limitations.

The Counsel to the Legislature shall not be a part of, supervised by, or subject to removal by the Department of Law or the County Attorney. He or she may only be removed by a

majority vote of the Legislature. The functions of the Counsel to the Legislature shall be strictly advisory in nature and limited to legislative matters only. The Counsel to the Legislature shall not appear as an attorney of record for the County or in any court, administrative proceeding, nor represent the County in litigation or in any other claims. Nothing herein shall affect the authority or responsibilities of the County Attorney under Article 8 of this Charter, including representation of the County in legal proceedings.

#### **Section 4.**

Article 8 of the Putnam County Charter is hereby REPEALED and REPLACED as provided hereinafter:

### **ARTICLE 8**

#### **Department of Law**

##### **§ 8.01. Department of Law — County Attorney.**

There shall be a Department of Law under the direction of a County Attorney who shall be appointed by the County Executive, subject to confirmation by the County Legislature. At the time of his or her appointment, and throughout his or her term of office, the County Attorney shall be and remain duly licensed and entitled to practice law in the State of New York. He or she shall be appointed on the basis of his or her legal experience and other qualifications for the responsibilities of his or her office. The County Attorney shall be directly responsible to, and serve at the pleasure of the County Executive. The County Attorney shall not engage in any private practice nor be employed by any private law firm or other governmental entity in his or her field of expertise of employment. This restriction on employment by the County Attorney shall not be applicable to the County Attorney serving at the time this law takes effect.

##### **§ 8.02. County Attorney; powers and duties.**

Except as may otherwise be provided in this Charter, the County Attorney shall, with respect to County civil matters:

- (f) Be the sole legal adviser for the County and its administrative units, including its officers, other than the Legislature and its officers;
- (f) Prepare all necessary legal papers and instruments;
- (f) Prosecute or defend all civil matters or proceedings involving the County and its units, including its officers;
- (f) Prepare local laws, resolutions, legalizing acts or other legislation upon request of the County Executive, together with notices and other documents in connection therewith, exclusive of those at the request of a member of the County Legislature, which falls within the duties of the Counsel to the Legislature;
- (f) Execute all tax foreclosure proceedings required in the name of the County;
- (f) Have all the powers and perform all the duties conferred or imposed by law on a County Attorney, and perform such other and related nonconflicting duties required by the County Executive.

##### **§ 8.03. Deputy County Attorneys and staff: appointment; revocation.**

The County Attorney may appoint such Deputy County Attorneys, assistants and employees of his or her department as shall be authorized by the County Legislature, including a confidential

secretary, who shall be in the exempt class of the Civil Service. At the time of his or her appointment, and throughout his or her term of office, each Deputy County Attorney shall be and remain duly licensed to practice law in the State of New York. All full-time Deputy County Attorneys shall not engage in any private practice nor be employed by any private law firm or other governmental entity in their field of expertise of employment, except any employee hired prior to December 20, 2007 may continue in any private practice in their field of expertise until December 31, 2010 as long as they remain in their current position of County employment. Deputy County Attorneys, assistants and employees of the department shall be directly responsible to and serve at the pleasure of the County Attorney.

#### **§ 8.04. Acting County Attorney.**

The County Attorney, subject to approval of the County Executive, shall designate in writing and in order of succession the Deputy County Attorneys who shall be acting County Attorney in the event of his or her absence from the County or inability to perform and exercise the powers and duties of his or her office. Such designation shall be filed with the County Executive and the Clerk to the County Legislature and may be revoked at any time by the County Attorney by filing a new written designation and order of succession. The Acting County Attorney shall have all the powers and perform all the duties of the County Attorney.

#### **§ 8.06. Special counsel.**

The County Attorney shall have the power to retain special counsel, subject to appropriations made by the County Legislature.

### **Section 5. Severability**

If any provision of this Local Law is held to be illegal or invalid for any reason by any court of law, 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 6. Effect**

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

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**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** February 6, 2026

**TO:** Amy Sayegh  
Chairwoman, Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Committee

**FROM:** Daniel G. Birmingham  
Chairman, Putnam County Legislature 

**RE:** Legislative Counsel Proposal

I reviewed with interest the proposal sent by Legislator Gouldman pertaining to Legislative Counsel and commend him for placing this legislation before us. Attached is my own proposal for this topic.

Respectfully, I request this proposal be considered under this item on the February 11, 2026 Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Committee Meeting.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Attachment

## **A LOCAL LAW PROVIDING FOR A COUNSEL TO THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE COUNTY OF PUTNAM AS FOLLOWS:**

### **Section 1. Definitions.**

- (a) Majority Party shall mean the members of the County Legislature enrolled in the political party representing the largest number of County Legislators.
- (b) Minority Party shall mean the members of the County Legislature enrolled in the political party representing the next largest number of County Legislators.

**Section 2. Findings and Determinations.** 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 County 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 the position of Counsel to the County Legislature; and
- (d) that the Putnam County Legislature hereby determines that the interests and requirements of legislative responsibility and authority will be better served by Counsel to the County Legislature providing advice and recommendations to the members of the County Legislature in the drafting of legislation and otherwise and, as desired, in cooperation and consultation with the County Attorney and the Department of Law, provided that such cooperation shall not create or imply any supervisory authority of the County Attorney over such counsel because the role is internal to the legislature, and advisory in nature and therefore in no way contravenes County Law §501 or Article 8 of the Putnam County Code.

### **Section 3. Establishment.**

Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, there is hereby established the position of Counsel to the County Legislature to be appointed in the manner and have the powers as provided herein, and such position shall be an employee of the County Legislature

and not of the Department of Law established under Article 8 of the County Charter.

**Section 4. Method of Selection and Tenure.**

(a) At the annual Organizational Meeting of the County Legislature for the year 2027, or as soon as practicable thereafter, there shall be annually be selected a Counsel to the County Legislature to be selected jointly by a vote of not less than 50% of the members of the Majority Party and by a vote of not less than 50% of the members of the Minority Party. In the event that either the Majority Party or the Minority Party are unable to achieve approval by said 50% of the members of the respective party, the position of Counsel to the County Legislature shall remain vacant until such 50% threshold has been achieved in each of the Majority Party and the Minority Party. Prior to January 1, 2027, Counsel to the County Legislature shall be selected at any time prior thereto in the manner as set forth in this paragraph (a).

(b) Counsel to the County Legislature shall hold his or her office until a successor has been appointed.

(c) At the time of his/her appointment, and throughout his/her time in office, the Counsel to the County Legislature shall be duly admitted to practice law in the State of New York.

**Section 5. Powers and duties of the Counsel to the Legislature shall include:**

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

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

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

(d) As requested by any Legislator, attend full Legislative meetings, special meetings and committee meetings.

(e) 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.

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

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

(h) Perform a variety of related activities as required, not inconsistent with Section 501 of the County Law and the provisions of this Charter, and the Putnam County Code.

**Section 6. Independence and limitations.**

The Counsel to the County Legislature shall not be part of, supervised by, or subject to removal by the Department of Law or the County Attorney. Counsel to the County Legislature shall be strictly advisory and legislative in nature. Counsel to the County Legislature shall not appear as attorney of record for the County or in any court or administrative proceeding, nor represent the County in litigation or claims. Nothing herein shall affect the authority or responsibilities of the County Attorney under Article 8 of this Charter, including representation of the County and the Legislature in legal proceedings.

**Section 7. Severability.**

If any provision of this Local Law is held to be illegal or invalid for any reason by court of law, 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 8. Effective Date.** This Local Law shall take effect forty-five (45) days after its passage and is subject to permissive referendum.



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## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** February 5, 2026

**TO:** Amy Sayegh  
Chairwoman, Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Committee

**CC:** Laura Russo  
Legislator, District #4

**FROM:** Daniel G. Birmingham *DB/es*  
Chairman, Putnam County Legislature

**RE:** Legislator Russo's Proposal - Taxpayer Transparency Act and Taxpayer Bill of Rights

Pursuant to Section III(C)(2)(b) of the Legislative Manual, I am referring this item to the Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Committee for consideration. Please include this matter on the next agenda of the Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

*Current as of 1/29/26*

A LOCAL LAW TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE COUNTY OF PUTNAM BY ADDING  
CHAPTER 222, ENTITLED "TAXPAYER TRANSPARENCY"

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the County of Putnam as follows:

**Section I.**

Chapter 222 of the Code of the County of Putnam is hereby added as provided hereinafter:

**CHAPTER 222**

**TAXPAYER TRANSPARENCY**

**§ 222-1 Title.**

**§ 222-2 Legislative intent.**

**§ 222-3 Searchable budget database website created.**

**§ 222-4 Taxpayer Participation in budget process**

**§ 222-5 Electronic public access to meetings and information**

**§ 222-6 Severability.**

**§ 222-7 Repealer.**

**§ 222-1 Title.**

This chapter of the Code of Putnam County shall be entitled and known as the "Taxpayer Transparency Act."

**§ 222-2 Legislative intent.**

The Legislature finds that taxpayers should have easy access to information on how the County is spending their tax dollars, what performance results are achieved for those expenditures, and the legislative process in general regarding County spending. It is further the intent that this access can be achieved by transparency in the County budget process, including a searchable budget database website and easier access to Legislative meetings and public hearings through live streaming to the public.

**§ 222-3 Searchable budget database website**

The Commissioner of Finance shall maintain and make publicly available a single, searchable budget database website including the required data for the most recent County budget. The website shall be given a unique website address and a link to that address shall be on the County's official website.

**§ 222-5 Taxpayer Participation in Budget Process**

Following the County Executive addressing the Budget and Finance Committee at its public hearing pursuant to § 7.04(b)(3) of the Charter and before the adoption of the final annual

operating budget, the County Executive shall hold at least one (1) public hearing on the proposed tentative budget.

**§ 222-6 Electronic public access to meetings and information.**

- A. The Putnam County Legislature shall make all meetings of the Legislature or its subcommittees available for public viewing in real time by live video stream. A link to the live stream shall be conspicuously posted and made available on the Legislature's website at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting.
- B. Except in the case of executive sessions held pursuant to N.Y.S. Open Meetings Law § 105, the Legislature shall ensure that members can be heard, seen, and identified at all times, when the meeting is being conducted, including but not limited to any motions, proposals, resolutions, and any other matter formally discussed or voted upon.
- C. All public hearings held by the County Executive pursuant to § 3.04-B of the Charter shall be available for public viewing in real time by video live stream.
- D. Each meeting or hearing that is live streamed shall be recorded and such recordings linked or posted online within five (5) business days following the meeting/hearing and shall remain so available for a minimum of five (5) years thereafter.

**§ 222-7 Severability.**

If any part or provision of this chapter or the application thereof to any person or circumstance be adjudged invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment shall be confined in its operation to the part or provision or application directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered and shall not affect or impair the validity of the remainder of this chapter or the application thereof to other persons or circumstances. The County of Putnam hereby declares that it would have passed this chapter or the remainder thereof had such invalid application or invalid provision been apparent.

**§ 222-8 Repealer.**

All ordinances, local laws, and parts thereof inconsistent with this chapter are hereby repealed; provided, however, that such repeal shall not affect or impair any act done or right accruing, accrued, or acquired, or penalty, charge, liability, forfeiture, or punishment incurred or owing prior to the time such repeal takes effect, but the same may be enjoyed, asserted, collected, enforced, prosecuted, or inflicted as fully and to the same extent as if such repeal had not been effected. All actions and proceedings, civil or criminal, commenced under or by virtue of any provision of any County of Putnam local law, ordinance or resolution so repealed, and pending immediately prior to the taking effect of such repeal, may be prosecuted and defended to final effect in the same manner as they might if such provisions were not so repealed.

**Section II.**

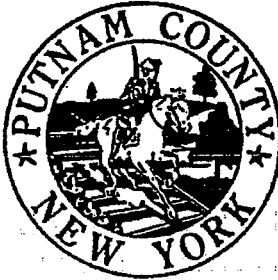
This Local Law shall take effect on \_\_\_\_\_.

#8

THE PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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Carmel, New York 10512  
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putcoleg@putnamcountyny.gov

Daniel G. Birmingham *Chairman*  
William Gouldman *Deputy Chair*  
Diane Trabulsy *Clerk*



Nancy Montgomery	Dist. 1
William Gouldman	Dist. 2
Toni E. Addonizio	Dist. 3
Laura E. Russo	Dist. 4
Jake D'Angelo	Dist. 5
Thomas Regan Jr.	Dist. 6
Daniel G. Birmingham	Dist. 7
Amy E. Sayegh	Dist. 8
Erin L. Crowley	Dist. 9

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** February 5, 2026

**TO:** Amy Sayegh  
Chairwoman, Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Committee

**CC:** Laura Russo  
Legislator, District #4

**FROM:** Daniel G. Birmingham *DB/es*  
Chairman, Putnam County Legislature

**RE:** Legislator Russo's Proposal - Taxpayer Transparency Act and Taxpayer Bill of Rights

Pursuant to Section III(C)(2)(b) of the Legislative Manual, I am referring this item to the Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Committee for consideration. Please include this matter on the next agenda of the Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

## APPROVAL/ ESTABLISHING A PUTNAM COUNTY TAXPAYER BILL OF RIGHTS

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Government exists to provide for the health, safety, and well-being of the public, while upholding federal and state law, promoting responsible stewardship of County resources, and treating all residents with dignity, fairness, and respect; and

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Executive and the Putnam County Legislature are committed to transparency, accountability, continuous improvement, and open communication consistent with the County's Mission Statement; and

WHEREAS, all reasonable efforts shall be made for County tax policy to be written as comprehensible as possible to residents in order to foster strong economic activity consistent with the public good\*; and

WHEREAS, general provisions of fiscal matters should adhere to concise language, using plain English in a spirit of clarity and openness; and

WHEREAS, Putnam County seeks to affirm and codify fundamental rights afforded to every taxpayer to enhance trust in how their tax dollars are managed; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature hereby establishes the Putnam County Taxpayer Bill of Rights, ensuring that every taxpayer here is entitled to the following:

1. The Right to Know How County Tax Dollars Are Spent  
Access to budgets, capital plans, and financial information, including state-mandated spending, in a user-friendly format on the County's official website.
2. The Right to Open and Accessible Budget Proceedings  
Live-streaming and archival access to County budget meetings and hearings.
3. The Right to Understand the Countywide Tax System and Its Local Counterparts  
Clear descriptions of the County property tax versus school tax, County mill rate, assessments, and the adopted tax levy.
4. The Right to Know Where to Ask Questions About Taxes and Assessments  
A clearly identified point of contact for inquiries related to property taxes and assessments.
5. The Right to Understand How and Where to Grieve Taxes  
Accessible guidance on the jurisdiction, timeline, and procedures for grieving assessments under New York State law.
6. The Right to Information on County Property Tax Exemptions  
A current listing of all County-adopted property tax exemptions permitted under State law.
7. The Right to Know the County Sales Tax Rate and Exemptions  
Clear access to information about the County sales tax rate and applicable exemptions.

8. The Right to Know the County's Debt Obligations

Up-to-date information on the County's outstanding debt and long-term financial liabilities.

9. The Right to Know the County's Bond Rating

Public access to the County's current bond rating and related fiscal information.

10. The Right to Know Where the County Invests Its Money

Clear information about the County's investment practices, including permitted investment vehicles, portfolio summaries, and applicable County or State investment policies; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive and all relevant departments shall publish, maintain, and annually update the Taxpayer Bill of Rights on the County's official website and through appropriate public communications; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

DRAFT

**#9**  
**February 11, 2026**  
**Rules Meeting**

## **#9. Discussion – Process and Procedure for Proclamations**

# Proclamations and Certificates of Recognition

Proclamations and Certificates of Recognition are ceremonial documents issued by the Sarasota County Commission. They honor and celebrate events, recognize achievements, and/or increase public awareness. Presentations are made at the start of regular meetings, and are generally limited to four per meeting.

## Criteria & Guidelines

- **Proclamations** may be issued for a specific day, week, or month that holds local significance and is recognized by a state or federal government agency, notable non-profit organization, or regional trade association.
- Request must be submitted by a Sarasota County resident or group.
- Personal proclamations for individuals or businesses will not be accepted. Individual accomplishments of local significance or milestone celebrations may be recognized with a **Certificate of Recognition** or congratulatory letter.
- An organization does not have exclusive rights to the day, week or month of their proclamation.
- Proclamations are not automatically renewed - requests must be made on an annual basis.
- Multiple requests by an organization may not be honored in the same calendar year.
- Requests similar to other recognitions may be declined.

### Recognitions will not be issued for:

1. Controversial or polarizing issues, ideological or religious beliefs, or individual convictions;
2. Anything that may suggest an official county position on a matter under consideration;
3. Events or organizations with no direct relationship to Sarasota County;
4. Matters contrary to Sarasota County policy or to the well being of its citizens.

## Submitting a Request

Requests should be made in writing to Commission Services at least 30 days (but no more than six months) in advance to allow time for review and production.

### Requests must include:

1. Your contact information and a list of those who will accept the recognition;
2. Background info on the event or organization, draft text (three "whereas" clauses for a proclamation);
3. Day, week or month to be proclaimed (or the event or organization to be recognized);
4. How you would like to receive the document: at a Commission meeting; special event (provide details, subject to Commissioner availability); by mail (provide mailing address), or in person.
5. Date needed. If you are requesting recognition at a Commission meeting, you may check the County Calendar and request a date; we will try to accommodate.

[View sample Proclamation](#)

[View sample Certificate of Recognition](#)



**#10**  
**February 11, 2026**  
**Rules Meeting**

**#10. Discussion – Legislative Committee Meeting  
Schedule**

**#11**  
**February 11, 2026**  
**Rules Meeting**

## **#11. FYI - Litigation Report**