

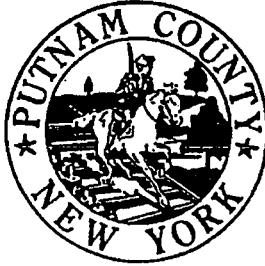
THE PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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Amy E. Sayegh *Chairwoman*
Greg E. Ellner *Deputy Chair*
Diane Trabulsky *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

<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>1:30PM</u>	<u>December 31, 2025</u>
(Special Full Mtg. to Immediately Follow)		
1. Pledge of Allegiance		
2. Roll Call		
3. Rescind Resolution #377 of 2025 – Local Law to Amend Chapter 25, Article VI, Entitled “Transportation Advisory Council”		
4. Approval – Local Law to Amend Chapter 25, Article VI, Entitled “Transportation Advisory Council”		
5. Rescind Resolution #379 of 2025 – Local Law – Amend Charter – Legislative Counsel Positions		
6. Approval – Local Law – Amend Charter – Legislative Counsel Positions		
7. Adjournment		

#3

APPROVAL/ RESCIND RESOLUTION #377 OF 2025 LOCAL LAW TO AMEND CHAPTER 25, ARTICLE VI, ENTITLED “TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL”

WHEREAS, the Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Committee approved said local law in December of 2025; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution #377 of 2025, Putnam Count Legislature approved said request; and

WHEREAS, Resolution #377 of 2025 is being rescinded due to the closure of the newspapers during the required notice period and therefore necessitates readoption procedure; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Resolution #377 of 2025 is hereby rescinded.

#4

**APPROVAL/ RE-ADOPTION LOCAL LAW TO AMEND CHAPTER 25, ARTICLE VI,
ENTITLED “TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL” (Rescinded Reso#377 of 2025)**

**A LOCAL LAW TO AMEND CHAPTER 25, ARTICLE VI, ENTITLED “TRANSPORTATION
ADVISORY COUNCIL”**

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

<<PUTNAM COUNTY CODE CHAPTER 25>>

<<ARTICLE VI>>

Section 1.

Section 25 of the Putnam County Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

§ 25-39. Establishment.

There is hereby created and established in the County of Putnam, New York, a Transportation Advisory Council to be known as the "Putnam County Transportation Advisory Council," and said Board shall be and exist for the benefit of the County of Putnam and the inhabitants thereof, and same is hereby established for the accomplishment of any and all purposes provided by law.

§ 25-40. Membership and term.

A) Membership of the Transportation Advisory Council shall consist of the following:

(1) There shall be seven members appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the Legislature, who reside or are employed in the County of Putnam. One member shall be a representative of the Putnam County business community, one member shall have experience or knowledge in the field of human services or intellectual & developmental disabilities, one member shall be a citizen at large, one member shall be a citizen eligible for Putnam County Paratransit services, one member shall have experience utilizing the PART system as a rider, one member shall have experience or knowledge in the medical services field, and one member shall have experience or knowledge as a transit operator.

(2) Ex-officio members shall be the Chairman of the Physical Services Committee, the Commissioner of Planning, Development and Public Transportation or their appointee, the Commissioner of Social Services or their appointee, the Commissioner of Health/ Public Health Director or their appointee, the Director of Tourism or their appointee, the Director of the Office for Senior Resources or their appointee, the Director of the Office of Veterans Affairs or their appointee, and the Putnam County Representative from the MTA Board. Ex-officio members are non-voting members that serve in an advisory capacity.

B) All appointed members shall serve at the pleasure of the County Executive during their three-year term of appointment.

C) Appointed member vacancies on the Transportation Advisory Council shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment, except that a vacancy occurring through circumstances other than by expiration of a term shall be filled only for the remainder of said term.

D) An appointed member of the Transportation Advisory Council shall serve until his or her successor has been appointed.

§ 25-41. Chairperson.

The Chairperson of the Transportation Advisory Council shall be the Commissioner of Planning, Development and Public Transportation or their appointee.

§ 25-42. Powers and duties.

The powers and duties of the Transportation Advisory Council shall be to:

A) Review and make recommendations to the County Executive and Legislature regarding all facets of public transportation, including guidelines, policies and procedures, in order to improve efficiencies, better manage assets, leverage resources and create partnerships to identify savings and improve transportation services.

B) Perform duties assigned to the Council in the Putnam County Department of Planning, Development, and Public Transportation's PART System Policy & Procedures Manual.

C) Provide annual updates or as requested to the Legislature.

D) Make recommendations for infrastructure improvements and other transportation additions to be included in the capital plan to the Commissioner of Planning, Development, and Public Transportation.

§ 25-43. Meetings.

A) The Transportation Advisory Council shall hold regular meetings in accordance with federal and state requirements, and at such other times as its Chairperson deems necessary for the efficient discharge of the business of the Transportation Advisory Council. Transportation Advisory Council meetings shall comply with the New York State Open Meetings Law.^[1]

[1]

Editor's Note: See Public Officers Law, Art. 7, § 100 et seq.

B) The Transportation Advisory Council shall adopt rules and procedures for its meetings.

C) The Transportation Advisory Council shall maintain minutes of the proceedings of all meetings, memorializing votes taken, questions asked, and comments made with regard to the business before the Transportation Advisory Council.

D) Four members of the Transportation Advisory Council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

§ 25-44. Compensation.

The members of the Transportation Advisory Council shall receive no compensation for their services.

Section 2.

This local law shall take effect immediately.

#5

**APPROVAL/ RESCIND RESOLUTION #379 OF 2025 CHANGING THE CHARTER TO
PROVIDE FOR A COUNSEL TO THE MAJORITY OF THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE AND A
COUNSEL TO THE MINORITY OF THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

**WHEREAS, the Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Committee
approved said local law in December of 2025; and**

**WHEREAS, by Resolution #379 of 2025, Putnam County Legislature approved said
request; and**

**WHEREAS, Resolution #379 of 2025 is being rescinded due to the closure of the
newspapers during the required notice period and therefore necessitates readoption
procedure; now therefore be it**

RESOLVED, that Resolution #379 of 2025 is hereby rescinded.

APPROVAL/ RE-ADOPTION OF A LOCAL LAW CHANGING THE CHARTER TO PROVIDE FOR A COUNSEL TO THE MAJORITY OF THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE AND A COUNSEL TO THE MINORITY OF THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE (Rescinded Reso#379 of 2025)

WHEREAS, the Legislature has determined to add Article 2, to the Putnam County Charter and is hereby amended by adding a new Section;

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

§ 2.11 Counsel to the Majority of the County Legislature and 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 the interests and requirements of legislative responsibility and authority will be better served by such Majority Counsel and Minority Counsel providing 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, 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 2. Establishment.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of the County Charter, there is hereby established the positions of Counsel to the Majority of the County Legislature and Counsel to the Minority of the County Legislature to be appointed in the manner and have the powers as provided herein, and such positions shall be employees of the County Legislature

and not of the Department of Law established under Article 8 of this Charter. Such positions will be selected by simple majority upon a vote of the Majority Party for the Counsel to the Majority, and simple majority upon a vote of the Minority Party for Counsel to the Minority. In the event that there are fewer than three members of the minority party, the selection will be made by the longest serving member of the minority party.

Section 3. Article 2, of the Putnam County Charter is hereby amended by adding a new Section to read as follows:

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

(a) The members of the County Legislature enrolled in the political party representing the largest number of County Legislators shall at the Organizational Meeting in January or as soon thereafter as practicable, and annually thereafter, appoint a Counsel to the Majority of the County Legislature. Such Counsel to the Majority shall be chosen by a simple majority upon a vote of the members of the Majority Party in the County Legislature. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Counsel to the Majority of the County Legislature, a replacement may be chosen thereafter by the same procedure.

(b) The members of the County Legislature enrolled in the political party representing the next largest number of County Legislators shall at the Organizational Meeting in January or as soon thereafter as practicable, and annually thereafter, appoint a Counsel to the Minority of the County Legislature by a simple majority vote of the Minority Party. In the event that there are fewer than three members of the minority party, the selection will be made by the longest serving member of the minority party. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Counsel to the Minority of the County Legislature, a replacement may be chosen thereafter by the same procedure.

(c) 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) As requested by any Legislator, attend full Legislative meetings, special meetings and 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, not inconsistent with Section 501 of the County Law and the provisions of this Charter, and the Putnam County Code.**

(d) 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.

(e) Independence and limitations.

The Counsel to the Majority and the Counsel to the Minority shall not be part of, supervised by, or subject to removal by the Department of Law or the County Attorney. Their functions shall be strictly advisory and legislative in nature. They shall not appear as attorneys 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.

(f) Equal Compensation.

The positions of Counsel to the Majority and Counsel to the Minority shall be compensated at an equal rate, reflecting parity in qualifications, duties, and professional standing, and shall be commensurate with other legal positions in the County. Equal compensation is essential to ensure nonpartisan fairness, prevent political discrimination, and maintain the Legislature's commitment to equality and integrity in public employment.

Section 4. 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 5. 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.