

AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
TO CREATE AN ULSTER COUNTY CHARTER COMMISSION

The Government Efficiency and Reform Committee (Chairman Noonan and Legislators Busick, Harris, Maloney, Lomita, Robert Parete and Shapiro) offers the following:

WHEREAS, Ulster County is experiencing a period of rapid population growth and economic and social change, and

WHEREAS, this change has engendered considerable discussion about the appropriateness of the current structure of County government to meet the future needs of the people of Ulster County and to assure the responsive, efficient and effective delivery of essential public services in the years ahead, and

WHEREAS, Article IX of the Constitution and the laws of the State of New York concerning local government provide Ulster County many options for its self-governance, and

WHEREAS, there is broad experience in counties throughout New York with the available range of option for self-governance that may be studied to identify best practices for potential adoption by Ulster County, and

WHEREAS, the Ways and Means Committee has met and reviewed said request with the majority of members voting approval.

RESOLVED, that in accordance with the germane provisions of the Municipal Law of the State of New York, an Ulster County Charter Commission be appointed, and

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FURTHER RESOLVED, that this commission shall be constituted of the following eleven persons: Gerald Benjamin, as Chairman and Thomas Roach, Cal Cunningham, John Dwyer, Louis Klein, Renee Sachs, Everton Henriques, Rev. Julius Collins, Caroline Kuhlman, Marianne Collins and Michael Catalinotto who are appointed for this purpose by and upon the adoption of this resolution and shall serve until such time as final action is taken on its recommendations, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that, in an objective and nonpartisan manner, the commission shall prepare studies of the alternative structures and processes through which Ulster County may be governed, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the commission shall keep the Legislature regularly apprised of its work through monthly reports by its Chairman to the Legislative Chairman and to the Committee on Government Efficiency and Reform, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that at every stage of its work, the commission shall give publicity to its activities throughout the County and make every effort to obtain widespread public comment and input, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that no later than December, 2005, the Commission make a full report of its recommendations to this Legislature, which report will include a draft document or documents in a form suitable for adoption by Legislative action, and if required by State law, consideration by the public and action at public referendum, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that in consultation with the Chair of the Commission, appointed in accord with this resolution, two staff persons shall be designated by the Chairman of the Legislature to provide research and administrative support for the Commission's work as part of their assigned duties, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the sum of \$50,000.00 is hereby provided to be spent as authorized by the Chair, in accord with regular County procedures, to

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Provide research and otherwise pay the expenses of the Commission so as to achieve its purposes, except that Commission members will serve as volunteers and may not be compensated, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ulster County budget is amended as follows:

**CREATE**

A4-1001-4264 Charter Commission Expenses  
(Appr.#)

**TRANSFER**

FROM:	A4-1331-4553 (Appr.#)	Other Misc. Contractual Expenses	\$50,000.00
TO:	A4-1001-4264 (Appr.#)	Charter Commission Expenses	\$50,000.00

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 33 NOES: 0

Legislator Lomita moved, seconded by Legislator Shapiro to change the date of the full report from December 2005 to August 2005.

MOTION DEFEATED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 16 NOES: 17  
(Legislators: Bartels, Berardi, Dart, Donaldson, Feldmann, Hyatt, Kraft, Lomita, Loughran, R.A. Parete, R.S. Parete, Provenzano, Rodriguez, Shapiro, Stoeckeler, and Zimet)

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FINANCIAL IMPACT:

\$50,000.00 – BUDGETED COUNTY DOLLARS (CONTINGENT ACCOUNT)

0801