

**Report of the
Assembly of Delegates**

Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates

First District Courthouse

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Administration

Diane C. Thompson, Clerk

Jennie F. Morey, Assistant to the Clerk

<u>Delegates</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>% Weighted Vote</u>
Richard Anderson	Bourne	8.43%
Ronald Bergstrom (Speaker)	Chatham	2.98%
George D. Bryant	Provincetown	1.54%
Leo Cakounes	Harwich	5.57%
Christopher Kanaga	Orleans	2.85%
Thomas F. Keyes (Deputy Speaker)	Sandwich	9.06%
Marcia King	Mashpee	5.83%
Thomas K. Lynch	Barnstable	21.52%
Teresa Martin	Eastham	2.45%
John Ohman	Dennis	7.19%
Paul Pilcher	Wellfleet	1.24%
Anthony Scalese	Brewster	4.54%
Fred Schilpp	Truro	0.94%
Charlotte B. Striebel	Yarmouth	11.16%
Julia C. Taylor	Falmouth	14.70%



The Assembly of Delegates is the legislative branch of County government. Each town that in Barnstable County is duly represented on the Assembly of Delegates with Delegates elected by the voters in each of the municipalities where they reside for two-year terms.

On Tuesday, November 4, 2008, fifteen Delegates were elected to serve during the Assembly of Delegates' eleventh session. On January 7, 2009 the Delegates were sworn in by County Clerk, Scott Nickerson. Ronald Bergstrom (Chatham) was elected Speaker and Thomas Keyes (Sandwich) was elected Deputy Speaker.

The legislative powers of the County are vested in the Assembly of Delegates. Except as provided in the Barnstable County Home Rule Charter, the acts of the Assembly of Delegates are required to be by ordinance.

The Assembly of Delegates holds regular meetings on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 4:00 p.m. in the Chamber of the Assembly of Delegates, First District Courthouse, Barnstable, MA. A Delegate's vote is a weighted vote based on the 2000 U. S. Decennial Census with Barnstable having the largest vote of 21.52% and Truro having the smallest vote of 0.94%.



Budget

During Fiscal Year 2009 the Assembly of Delegates reviewed and adopted, with amendments, the Board of County Commissioner's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2010. After receipt of the FY2010 proposed budget, standing committees of the Assembly met with department managers and discussed the goals and accomplishments in each department. The committees analyzed how reductions in departments' budgets would affect services to the towns. The Standing Committee on Finance noted that there were two major factors in the County Commissioners proposed budget that it viewed as being problematic. One was that in order to balance the proposed budget the County Commissioners included an increase to the deeds excise tax. The other concern was that one million dollars might be needed to pay for the Sheriff's retirees' health insurance. This was not funded in the proposed budget because of pending legislation whereby the County Sheriff would become a part of State government. Committee members were not in favor of increasing the deeds excise tax without first looking at further reductions to the budget and also at possible reforms. Finance committee members were concerned that if the legislation regarding the Sheriff's Department did not pass the County would be required to fund the one million dollars, and wanted assurances that the County would be in a position to make the necessary expenditures.

At the public hearing on the proposed budget, the Standing Committee on Finance heard significant testimony about potential budget cuts and the impacts that further cuts would have on the County's ability to provide important services to the towns. The committee also heard from numerous real estate agents who believed that the proposed increase to the deeds excise tax would have a negative effect on real estate transactions in the County. Recommendations from the Standing Committee on Finance to the Assembly of Delegates were based, in part, on information received at the public hearing. It was also based on information gathered in committee and received from other standing committees.

Prior to adopting the FY 2010 budget, further budget cuts within departments were considered and then voted, in addition to reductions that were already reflected in the proposed budget. The Assembly of Delegates also voted to increase the Deeds Excise Tax

from \$1.14 to \$1.36.

Regional Policy Plan

During the Cape Cod Commission's review and revision of the Regional Policy Plan in 2008, it was determined that the Cape Cod Commission needed more time to complete the major revisions in the document. The Assembly of Delegates granted two extensions of time. Many of the revisions took into consideration suggestions from the 21st Century Task Force.

The Assembly of Delegates received the revised Regional Policy Plan (RPP) in the form of a proposed ordinance at its meeting on November 5th. Because the Assembly of Delegates has only 45 days within which to conduct public hearings and render a decision on the Regional Policy Plan, prior to receipt of the proposed ordinance the standing committees met with staff at the Cape Cod Commission and reviewed changes that were being proposed at that time. Public hearings were conducted and testimony from the town representatives and the public was duly taken into consideration. On December 17, 2008, the Assembly of Delegates voted to adopt the proposed ordinance that revised the Regional Policy Plan. It also adopted a Resolution that outlined the Assembly's understanding that certain actions would be taken by the Cape Cod Commission once the RPP revisions were adopted, i.e., on an annual basis the Cape Cod Commission would review at least one section of the Regional Policy Plan, and after the adoption of the Regional Policy Plan, Technical Bulletins would be prepared and filed with the Assembly of Delegates. Part of the process included amending the Barnstable County Regional Policy Plan Land Use Vision Map and other maps included in the RPP.

Code of Cape Cod Commission Regulations of General Application

The Assembly of Delegates voted to amend the Code of Cape Cod Commission Regulations of General Application, Chapter D, Development Agreement Regulations. Development Agreements are voluntary, binding contracts that assure applicable development review regulations will not change over the necessary construction period of a project. The purpose of the proposed changes was to further define the process where the Commission is a party and also incorporated DRI review into the Development Agreement process, which provided due process rights as they exist



now under DRI review.

Human Rights Commission

The Assembly of Delegates heard from the Human Rights Commission (HRC) that certain changes to the Human Rights Commission composition and governmental structure should be made. During 2008 the Assembly of Delegates met with members of the HRC and the County Commissioners and voted to adopt an ordinance that amended and clarified the composition of the Human Rights Commission.

The Assembly of Delegates adopted a Resolution that established a Charter Review Committee. At least every five years, the Assembly of Delegates establishes a special committee that is charged with the responsibility of reviewing the Barnstable County Home Rule Charter and the Ordinances of Barnstable County. The Committee will consist of members of the Assembly of Delegates, one County Commissioner, members from each of the three regions of Cape Cod, the Lower Cape, Mid Cape and Upper Cape regions, and one at-large member. The Speaker of the Assembly of Delegates asked towns for nominations to the Committee. The Charter Review Committee will begin meeting in the Fall of 2009.

A complete list of all ordinances and resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Delegates is available upon request.

Standing Committees

Delegates serve on various Standing Committees. Each Standing Committee reviews certain components of the proposed County budget. Committees examine department budgets, review new programs, and also look at the goals and effectiveness of each program being operated within Barnstable County.

During Fiscal Year 2009 there were six Standing Committees and one Ad Hoc Committee. The Standing Committees were involved with many regional issues. Below is a list of the committees and a brief description of some of the issues that the committees worked on during Fiscal Year 2009.

The Standing Committee on Finance, in addition to the overwhelming task of reviewing the budget, must look at every major decision rendered by the County that has financial implications. The Committee re-

mains active throughout each year, dealing with the financial issues that face Barnstable County, and with the supplemental appropriations that are required.

The Standing Committee on Natural Resources worked on growth management initiatives, draft revisions to the Regional Policy Plan, and County wastewater management issues.

The Standing Committee on Economic Affairs was involved with the Regional Policy Plan, the County's Economic Development Council and the revenues received from the purchase of the Barnstable County license plates and the grants that were awarded by the County from those revenues.

The Standing Committee on Public Services worked on the Regional Policy Plan and on matters relating to the existing buildings within the County complex.

The Standing Committee on Health and Human Services worked on the Regional Policy Plan, examined human services funding needs in Barnstable County and looked at ways whereby funding could be obtained. It also examined and recommended changes to the Human Rights Commission.

The Standing Committee on Governmental Regulations consists of the Chairs of each standing committee. It reviewed and recommended the adoption of the Regional Policy Plan and associated maps and changes to regulations dealing with Development Agreements.

The Charter Review Committee will review the Barnstable County Home Rule Charter, as amended, and Ordinances of the County, for the purpose of determining if any amendments or revisions are necessary or desirable. The Charter Review Committee shall make a report, with recommendations, to the Assembly of Delegates not later than ten months following the date such committee is appointed. It will begin meeting in FY 2010.

