

Cumberland County Charter Ready for Citizen Input

Cumberland County Charter Commissioners

DISTRICT 1

Elected:

John Eder
Portland
207-871-0317

Kathleen Babeu
Cumberland
207-615-3030

Appointed:

*Representative Meredith
Strang Burgess*
207-829-6264

DISTRICT 2

Elected:

Neil Jamieson
Scarborough
207-885-5461

Claude Morgan
South Portland
207-450-2583

Appointed:

*County Commissioner
Richard "Dick" Feeney*
South Portland
207-871-8380

DISTRICT 3

Elected:

David Lunt
New Gloucester
207-926-3877

Steve Gorden
North Yarmouth
207-829-3821

Appointed:

Selectperson Lisa Villa
Harrison
207-776-3118

Cumberland County, ME, May 26, 2010 - Cumberland County residents are being encouraged to attend public hearings to learn about and give their opinions on a draft of the county's first ever charter which will be put to voters for approval on November 2, 2010.

Claude Morgan, Chairman of the Cumberland County Charter Commission, said the purpose of the charter, a ten-page document drafted by the nine member Charter Commission, is to create a flexible government structure that can respond to requested needs of the county and its citizens.

"Cumberland County never has had a charter. They've been following the legislative rules that created Cumberland County government 250 years ago, said Morgan. A county charter is common in other parts of the country, but in Maine, only Aroostook and Knox Counties are currently operating with a charter, however a number of other Maine counties are currently working on the development of a charter. The Cumberland County Commissioners felt it was the right time for us to develop our own."

The Cumberland County Charter Commission is made up of six members that were elected by the voters of Cumberland County in November 2008 and three additional appointed members, one from each of the three districts within Cumberland County. The Commission has been meeting since January to draft the proposed Charter.

Morgan said the Charter Commission has focused on the details and basic governance structures involved in creating this first ever charter. Most of the Charter is putting in to place much of what has become standard practice. Additionally they have worked on some modifications that include encouraging regional cooperation and possible collaborations; improving the citizen representation by increasing the number of county districts; creating flexibilities to allow the County to operate in the most efficient and effective way possible; and evaluating elected versus appointed county management positions.

The Charter Commission has begun its outreach to the citizens of Cumberland County for input and feedback on the draft Charter. Public input will be accepted up until July 30, 2010, at which time the Charter will go through its final legal review. It then will be approved by the County Commissioners who will send it out for final voter approval at the November 2nd election.



Cumberland County Charter Commission

142 Federal St., Portland, ME 04101 • 207-871-8380 • www.cumberlandcountychartercommission.org

Following is a schedule of opportunities for public input:

June 7, 2010 5:30-7PM In Portland (County Court House)

June 16, 2010 6:30-8PM in Windham (Conference Rm 1, Town Office,
8 School Street)

June 24, 2010 6:30-8Pm in Westbrook (Council Chambers, Rm 114,
Westbrook HS, 125 Stroudwater St.)

June 28, 2010 5:30-7:30PM in Scarborough (Town Council Chamber)

July 8, 2010 6:30-8PM in Brunswick (location TBD)

July TBD, 2010 6:30-8PM in Gorham (location TBD)

July 22, 2010 6:30-8PM in Raymond (Broadcast Studio, Jordan Small School
portable, 423 Web Mills Rd)

August 5, 2010 6:30-8PM In Portland (County Court House)

August 19, 2010 6:30-8PM In Portland (County Court House)

September 3, 2010- Final date for Charter to be completed

The draft Charter can be reviewed at

www.cumberlandcountychartercommission.org

The site will also have the latest Charter Commission meeting schedules and
from the Commission meetings.

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**For more information contact:
Meredith Strang Burgess, 207-831-5227**