

November 8, 1988

QUESTION 5

County Charter Commission

In the County of Barnstable:

Shall an act be passed by the general court in the year nineteen hundred and eighty-eight entitled "An act relative to a charter for the county of Barnstable", be accepted?

SUMMARY

Acceptance of the proposed Home Rule plan by a majority of the voters of Barnstable County will create a new form of county government under which Barnstable County will be governed by an elected fifteen member Assembly of Delegates and an elected three member Board of County Commissioners.

The Assembly of Delegates will consist of one member elected for a two year term by and from the voters in each of the fifteen municipalities of the County. The legislative powers of the County as exercised by resolution or ordinance will be vested in the Assembly. Votes of the delegates to the Assembly will be weighted according to the population of the municipality they represent. The delegates shall elect from its own number a Speaker and Deputy Speaker and shall also elect a person not a member of the Assembly to serve as clerk. Approval authority over the annual operating and capital outlay budgets for the County is vested in the Assembly of Delegates.

The executive powers of Barnstable County will be exercised by a three member Board of County Commissioners elected at large for staggered four

year terms. Such powers include the preparation of annual operating and capital outlay budgets for submission to the Assembly of Delegates and the Advisory Board on County Expenditures, supervision of the care and custody of all county property, institutions and agencies, and oversight of the collection and expenditure of county funds. The Board shall have appointive powers over generally all county departments and shall appoint a County Administrator to serve as chief administrative officer of the county to exercise general day to day supervision of all county agencies.

The County Sheriff will continue to be elected at large as provided by law. The positions of County Treasurer and Register of Deeds will be filled by appointment by the County Commissioners after each position is filled by election one more time. Municipal petition, citizen initiative and referendum procedures shall be available to the voters of the County.

The County shall have authority by interlocal contract, upon the request of any unit or units of local government, to provide local service functions including, but not limited to, public works, refuse disposal, public health services, water distribution, police, fire and other public safety services, sewage treatment and disposal, real property assessment and transportation services.

The County may adopt, in addition to the tax imposed by state statute, an additional tax to be retained by the County on deeds and other instruments filed with the Register of Deeds at a rate up to but not exceeding the rate imposed by the Commonwealth under statute.

	Yes	No	Blanks	Total Ballots
Barnstable County				
Barnstable	13367	5088	2212	20667
Bourne	3686	1941	1472	7099
Brewster	3060	1191	533	4784
Chatham	2981	1033	567	4581
Dennis	4908	2263	1199	8370
Eastham	1811	765	266	2842
Falmouth	8935	4005	2192	15132

	Yes	No	Blanks	Total Ballots
Harwich	3889	1589	840	6318
Mashpee	2316	827	409	3552
Orleans	2655	991	513	4159
Provincetown	1316	455	340	2111
Sandwich	5063	1954	835	7852
Truro	649	305	105	1059
Wellfleet	958	509	207	1674
Yarmouth	7162	3232	1769	12163
Totals	62756	26148	13459	102363