

Erie County Charter
Beta 3.2

Notes:

The section dealing with the legislature is not included at this time, pending the A&L committee report and action.

ARTICLE I

ERIE COUNTY AND ITS GOVERNMENT

Section	101.	Title and purpose.
	102.	County status, powers and duties.
	103.	Charter effect on state laws.
	104.	Charter effect on local laws and resolutions.
	<u>105.</u>	<u>Charter Review</u>

Section 101. Title and purpose. This charter and all amendments hereto shall constitute the form of government for the county of Erie and shall be known and cited as the "Erie county charter." Among the purposes of this charter are the accomplishment of greater efficiency, economy and responsibility in county government; the securing of all possible county home rule; **the coordination of planning and economic development ; and the encouragement of inter-governmental cooperation among the cities, towns, villages and the county.**

- a) **The county of Erie shall provide services in a manner most economical for the taxpayer while maintaining the level of service established by the county strategic and business plans and as approved and funded by the Erie county legislature. In the case of New York State mandated services, alternative methods of implementation of mandates as provided for by state law shall be periodically reviewed.**
- b) **Hearings and meetings of Erie county government shall be held at such times and places as to provide for maximum participation by citizens of the county.**
- c) **An informed citizenship being essential to good government, the Legislature shall name an open meetings officer from among its members to advise the body on compliance with the state Open Meetings and Freedom of Information laws. New York state Open Meetings Law notwithstanding, all meetings at which county public business is considered, at which a majority of legislators are present, shall be open to the public. A meeting of the legislature or its committees may enter into executive session as provided for under the state Open Meetings Law.**

Section 102. County status, powers and duties. The county of Erie shall continue to be a municipal corporation exercising such powers and discharging such duties as may be imposed or conferred upon it by this charter or by the applicable law.

Section 103. Charter effect on state laws. Within the limits prescribed in the New York state municipal home rule law, wherever and whenever any state law, general, special or local in effect, is inconsistent with this charter, such law shall be deemed to the extent of such inconsistency to be superceded by this charter insofar as the county of Erie and its government are affected.

Section 104. Charter effect on local laws and resolutions. Except to the extent inconsistent with this charter, all existing laws and resolutions heretofore adopted by the county board of supervisors and **the legislature of the county** shall continue in force until amended, superceded or repealed as provided herein.

Section 105. The Erie county legislature chairperson shall introduce a local law establishing a charter review commission by February 28, 2010, to report its recommendations no later than June 1, 2011. In the event the Legislature fails to act, the County Executive shall empanel such a commission no later than April 1, 2010. A charter review commission shall be named in accordance with the above in the tenth year of each decade thereafter.