



## **Office of the Chairman of the Legislature**

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#### **Chemung County Legislature Considers**

#### **Legislative Re-Districting and Government Efficiency**

The Chemung County Legislature is moving forward with two related initiatives to address government efficiency and operations.

On Monday January 25, 2021 the Personnel Committee passed a resolution authorizing the formation of a special committee to study the size and structure of the legislative districts and government as a whole.

On Monday February 1, 2021 the Budget Committee passed a resolution engaging CGR (a Rochester-based group renowned for government research) to work with the special committee to study and benchmark the number of County Legislators, government structure, and the cost of government compared to similar counties.

On February 8, 2021 the full Legislature approved both resolutions.

“Every ten years Chemung County uses the new census data to re-shape the legislative districts”, notes David Manchester, Chairman of the Legislature. The Legislature has had 15 districts since the Charter was adopted in 1974. “A lot has changed since 1974, in terms of the County’s population, demographics and economy”, Manchester said. “The question is whether what was right in 1974 still fits Chemung County today and into the future. Our duty to the public, as elected leaders, is to provide the public with efficient and responsive government.”

“Not unlike other Upstate NY communities, Chemung County has lost a good share of its population in the last five decades. It’s time we look to see how our current government size and structure compares with other similar counties”. CGR has established itself as a leader in government operation and efficiency research, and has provided many communities (including Chemung County) with informative studies to help government leaders shape direction and policy decisions.

Meetings of the Legislative Committee charged with overseeing this important project will be Live Streamed with opportunity for public input. The final report will be made available to the public and public information meetings will be held. Any plan that re-shapes the legislative districts will be on the November 2021 ballot. “We have a lot of work to do in the coming months. Having CGR conduct a benchmark study is vitally important to assist the Legislature as we look to the future, notes Manchester.