

## **Erie County Charter Revision Commission Talking Points- Confidential 02.24.25**

- **Legislative Power for Investigations Needs to Be Clarified and Less Ambiguous:**
  - Section 202(8): Powers and Duties of Legislative Branch: “To make such studies and investigations as it deems to be in the best interest of the County, and in connection therewith to obtain professional and technical advice, appoint temporary advisory boards of citizens, subpoena witnesses, administer oaths and require the production of books, papers and other evidence, deemed necessary or material to the study or inquiry.”
  - Far too broad of a power- used to justify assigning an external audit of the Clerk’s Office to the Law Department.
- **Term Limits for all Elected Officials and Legislators**
- **Call for Periodic, Mandatory Audits of All County Departments**
  - Not just audits the Comptroller’s Office feels like doing.
- **Update the Language of the Charter- remove any remaining references to “Board of Supervisors”.**
- **Clarification on the separation of powers of elected officials**
- **Staffing of Legislative meetings by County Attorney- enforce rules of order.**
- **Clarification on ability of County Executive to declare a holiday- need Leg. approval for non-emergency days (i.e. President Carter Day of Mourning)**
- **New proposed section: Heads of local political parties should not appointed Commissioners of the Board of Elections.**
- **New proposed section: allow the public to speak at Legislature and Committee meetings**
  - Something the Buffalo Common Council permits.