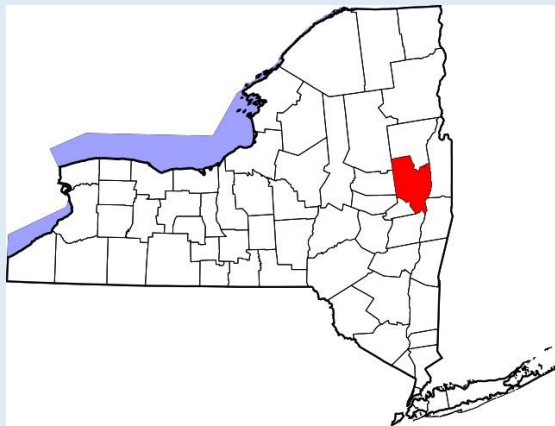




County Government and Executive
May 20, 2020

Saratoga County

Saratoga County is a county in the U.S. state of New York. As of the 2018 U.S. Census estimate, the county's population was 230,163, representing a 4.8% increase from the 2010 population of 219,607, representing one of the fastest growth rates in the northeastern United States and the fastest-growing county in Upstate New York.



Saratoga County

19 Towns

2 Cities Mechanicville and Saratoga Springs

8 Villages

13 School Districts

Numerous Special Districts (Fire, Ambulance, Water, Sewer, Rec.)

County Seat is Ballston Spa

Board of Supervisors

Is the Legislative Body for the County.

Town Supervisors

- Elected by the voters in their Town
- Chair their Town Board
- Represent their Town on the Board of Supervisors

Two Hats

- *Supervisors who have joint responsibility for running their towns and serving on the County Board spend considerably more time on their towns than the county. They wear two hats.*



One Hat

- *Supervisors who have no town or city duties could spend more time on county governance but do not seem to: some because of County Structure and some because of partisan concerns. They wear only one hat.*
- *Saratoga has four “one hat” supervisors*
- *2 from City of Saratoga, 1 from city of*
- *Mechanicville and 1 from Clifton Park*



The Chair of the BOS serves a one year term and appoints

- **The County Administrator**
- **The Department Heads, except those elected by the public.**
- **The chairs and members of all Board Committees**

Supervisors have a weighted voting system.

- Baker v. Carr
 - US Supreme Court 1965
- One Person- One Vote



List of Saratoga County Supervisors

- Town – Weighted Vote- Incumbent
- [Ballston](#) – 9,776 Eric Connolly
- [Charlton](#) – 4,133- Alan Grartidge
- [Clifton Park](#) – 18,352 - Jonathan Schopf *
- [Clifton Park](#) – 18,352 - Philip Barrett
- [Corinth](#) – 6,531 - Richard B. Lucia
- [Day](#) – 856- Preston Allen
- [Edinburg](#) – 1,214- Jean Raymond
- [Galway](#) – 3,545 - Michael Smith
- [Greenfield](#) – 7,775- Daniel Pemrick
- [Hadley](#) – 2,048- Arthur M. Wright
- [Halfmoon](#) – 21,535- Kevin Tollisen
- [Malta](#) – 14,728- Darren O’Connor
- [Mechanicville](#) –5,196- Thomas Richardson *
- [Milton](#) – 18,575- Benny Zlotnick
- [Moreau](#) – 14,728- Theodore Kusnierz
- [Northumberland](#) – 5,087- Willard Peck
- [Providence](#) – 1,995- Sandra Winney
- [Saratoga](#) – 5,674- Thomas N. Wood III
- [Saratoga Springs](#) – 13,293- Tara Gaston *
- [Saratoga Springs](#) – 13,293- Matthew Veitch *
- [Stillwater](#) – 8,287- Edward D. Kinowski
- [Waterford](#) – 8,423- John E. Lawler
- [Wilton](#) – 16,173- John Lant
- *These Supervisors have no administrative duties in their Town or City. All other Supervisors wear two hats: one as Supervisor of their Town and one as a member of the Board of Supervisors.

Committees of the Board

- Much of the work of the Board of Supervisors is done by the committees.
- Chairs and members are appointed by the Chair of the Board of Supervisors.
- Chairmanship of committees usually changes yearly.



Committees of the Board

- Supervisors each serve on four committees.
- Committees usually meet once a month.
- Meetings are held during the day.
- Meetings are open to the public.

Committees of the Board

- *Committees are where the “real work of the Board of Supervisors is done”.*



Committees of the Board

- *“Only Republicans can expect to chair a committee”.*



The Law and Finance Committee

- *This is the “most powerful” committee of the board.*
- *The Law and Finance Committee as a body does not appear to review the proposed County Budget before its presentation to the Board of Supervisors by the County Administrator.*
- *The Chair does meet with the County Administrator to provide some input or get some advanced knowledge of the budget.*

If Committees were “weighted” by population...

Town	Current	“Weighted”
Halfmoon	4	10
Clifton Park 1	4	9
Waterford	4	5
Edinburg	4	1
Day	4	1

County government in NY State

- NY 's Counties outside of NY City have generally adopted one of 3 methods of county organization
 - The traditional Board of Supervisors
 - Some with appointed Managers or Administrators
 - County Legislatures
 - Some with appointed Managers of Administrators
 - County Legislatures with Elected County Executives

Board of Supervisors Alone

- This traditional form of governing counties is where all NY State counties started.
- Of NYS' 62 counties only 6 retain this form of government.



Board of Supervisors

Columbia	62245
Chenango	49503
Delaware	46722
Wyoming	41531
Schoharie	31844
Hamilton	4733

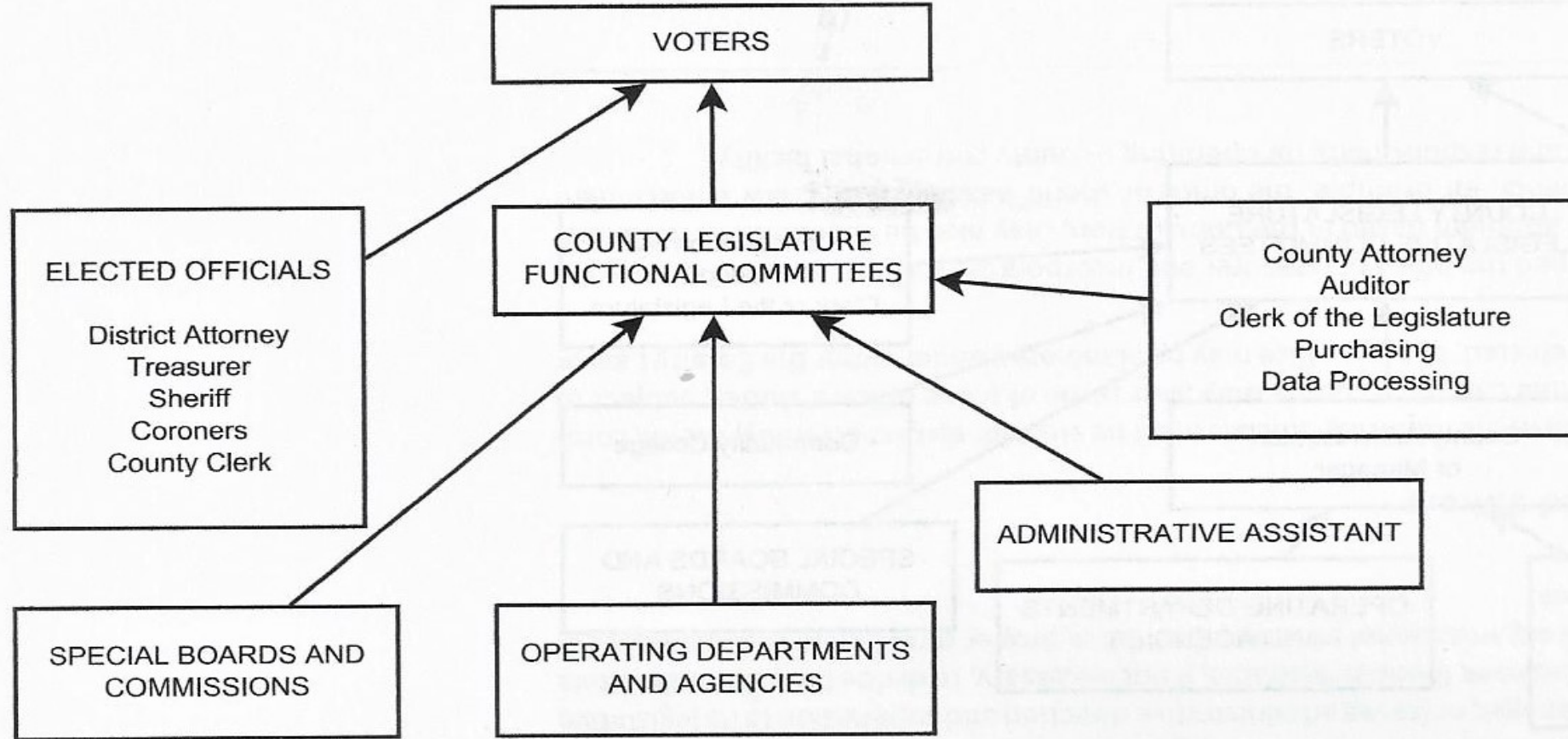


Figure 5.1: County Law Form Organization Chart

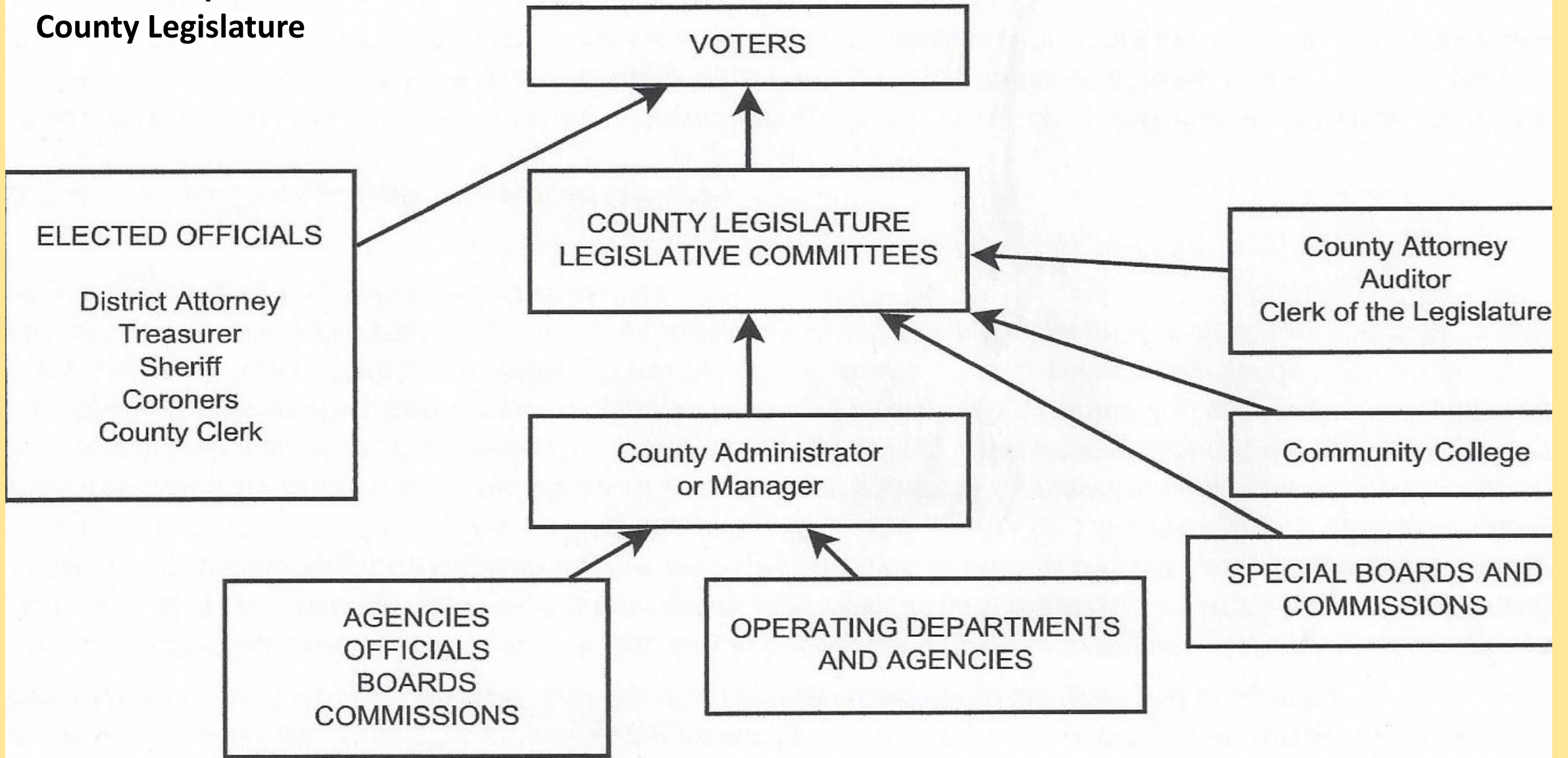
Board of Supervisors with Manager or Administrator

- This modified form of governing counties is where all NY State counties started.
- Of NYS' 62 counties only 10 have added managers or administrators reporting to the Board of Supervisors

Board of Supervisors with *Manager or Administrator

Saratoga	223865
Ontario	109103
Wayne	92473
Madison	72382
Warren	65337
Livingston	64705
Washington	63093
Fulton	54586
Essex *	38762
Seneca*	35409

**Board of Supervisors is the
County Legislature**



Legislatures

- Of NYS' 62 counties 39 have changed from the Board of Supervisors to an Elected Legislature. The Charter Movement began in the 1930's. But change has been slow



County Legislature Administration

Chair of the Legislature	1 County
County Manager	7 Counties
County Administrator	13

In all of these, the Legislative Body is responsible to the Voters, and the appointed manager or administrator is responsible to the Legislature as a whole.

County Legislature with Elected Executive

Executive	16 Counties



Counties with elected executives

Albany	306,949	Oneida	233,585
Broome	197,534	Onondaga	468,387
Chatauqua	133,080	Orange	375,592
Dutchess	296,916	Putnam	133,080
Erie	919,866	Rensselaer	159,918
Monroe	749,606	Suffolk	1,499,738
Montgomery	49,879	Ulster	180,998
Nassau	1,352,196	Westchester	968,802

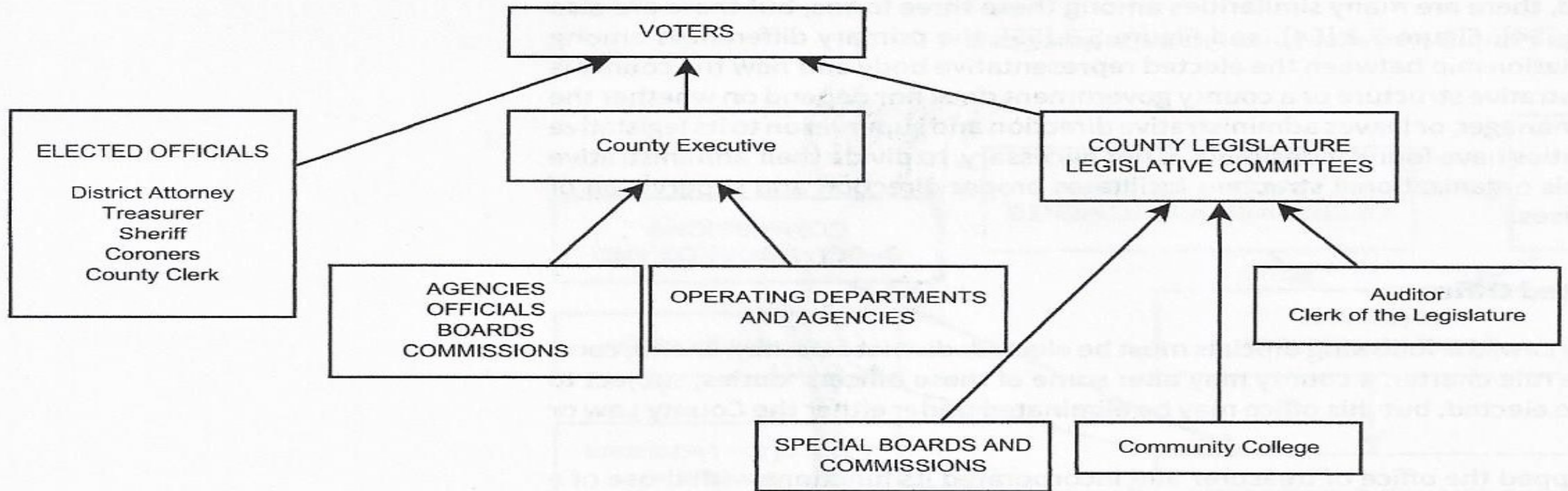


Figure 5.2: County Executive Form Organization Chart

How does a county charter get adopted?

- Initiated through resolution of a legislative body
 - Draft a charter under its direct supervision'
 - Delegate to a committee of the legislative body
 - Through a commission established to draft a charter resolution
- A petition process of county voters
 - Requires signatures of 10% of the voters in the last gubernatorial election (in our case 9735)
 - Board may accept it and then initiated it as above, or it must be put to a vote by the county at an election. If the vote is yes, proceed as above.
- Then the charter goes to a vote by the whole county

Our Position (adopted in 2017)

- The League of Women Voters of Saratoga County believes that it is important to have a clear separation of powers, and checks and balances in County Government and therefore we support having an elected County Executive. Additional reasons for supporting a County Executive are that because the County Executive would be elected county-wide, the Executive would be focused on the needs of the County as a whole, and because the term of office would be longer than the current one-year term of the Chair of the Board of Supervisors, continuity and long range planning would be enhanced.



What components should be in our action plan?



- Virtual Public meetings
- letters to the editor
- Talk to Supervisors privately
- Start a petition process
- Get more information on how other counties made the change
- Ask the Board of Supervisors to establish a Charter Commission