

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Maureen Barrows, Chair

Katharin K. Pratt, Vice-Chair

C. Donald Stritch, Clerk

Rockingham County continues to flourish both in population and employment opportunities. As County Commissioners, it is our duty to provide essential services to the taxpayers of Rockingham County in the most efficient, cost effective manner.

The County has been cited on numerous occasions as one of the best locations to call home and establish a thriving business. Portsmouth was recently identified by Money Magazine as the fifth best place to live in the United States. This has been accomplished by providing residents with outstanding opportunities in education, strategic business location, a skilled labor force, and an excellent quality of life. The New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning estimated the population of the county to be 295,948 and the trend continues to show population growth.

The Commissioners are pleased to welcome Steven E. Woods as Long Term Care Services Director. Mr. Woods came from the private sector and is our first new Long Term Care Services Director in over twenty five years. The nursing home and assisted living facility have again received excellent reviews.

We continue to seek ways to reduce the pre-trial population at the jail and with the addition of the Supervised Community Release from Incarceration Program (SCRIP) and an adult diversion program. Both initiatives are having a positive impact. We are providing contracted services to the New Hampshire Department of Corrections for the Academy Program, which is a diversion program for felons.

Finances are in order and Moody's rating service has once again awarded Rockingham County the highest short term borrowing rating available however Moody's has expressed concern about the long term effects on county finances of the cost shifting by the State of New Hampshire to the counties. The Commissioners continue to work diligently against increasing unfunded mandates by the legislature.

District 1 Commissioner Pratt	District 2 Commissioner Barrows	District 3 Commissioner Stritch
<u>Serving:</u> Danville, East Kingston, Greenland, Hampton, Hampton Falls, Kensington, Kingston, New Castle, Newington, Newton, North Hampton, Plaistow, Portsmouth, Rye, Seabrook, South Hampton, Stratham	<u>Serving:</u> Atkinson, Brentwood, Epping, Exeter, Fremont, Hampstead, Newfields, Newmarket, Raymond, Salem, Sandown	<u>Serving:</u> Auburn, Candia, Chester, Deerfield, Derry, Londonderry, Northwood, Nottingham, Windham