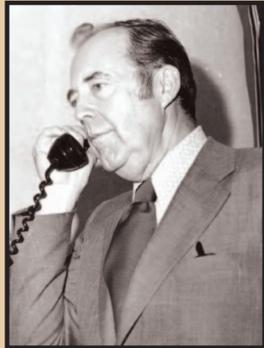




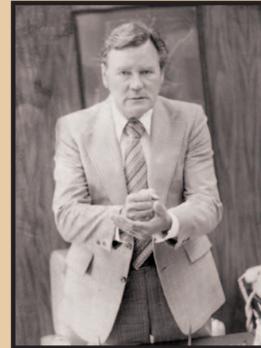
# The County Executive | The Charter in Practice



COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
WILLIAM H. BARTLES, 1972-1975

*Courtesy of Linda B. Clarke*

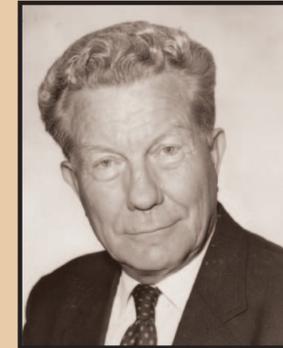
Seen here in his office in 1975, William H. Bartles charted the limits of executive authority during his service in the 1970s. After defeating David C. Schoentag's re-election bid in 1971, Bartles faced significant hostility from his own party and the board of representatives. Among Bartles' accomplishments was establishing the Office for the Aging as a county department, offering services to a hitherto neglected portion of the Dutchess community.



COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
EDWARD C. SCHUELER, 1976-1978

*Courtesy of the Poughkeepsie Journal*

Edward C. Schueler succeeded Bartles as county executive in January 1976 and spent most of his two years in office attempting to close budget gaps. On December 6, 1977, Schueler was formally indicted on the charges of accepting a bribe and perjury. His resignation in April 1978 tested the county charter's succession clause, a key feature for insuring the successful operation of county government.



COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
JAMES D. BENSON, 1978

*Courtesy of the Poughkeepsie Journal*

County Attorney James D. Benson succeeded Schueler as interim county executive in April 1978, until a special election could be held. Benson's service as county executive successfully tested the charter's succession clause.



COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
LUCILLE PATTISON, 1979-1991

*Courtesy of the Dutchess County Executive*  
Lucille Pattison gained extensive political experience in the county legislature before successfully running for county executive in 1978. She was the first female county executive in the state and the only Democrat to hold that post in Dutchess, which she retained until 1991.



COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
MARCUS J. MOLINARO, 2012-PRESENT

*Courtesy of the Dutchess County Executive*

Serving as the seventh county executive, Marcus J. Molinaro has a diverse background in government with tenures as Tivoli Village Mayor, Dutchess County Legislator, and New York State Assemblyman before being elected to this post. In his first term, Molinaro sought organizational and cultural change in county government by stressing the decision-making principles of focus, inclusion, logic, and fairness.

After David C. Schoentag's election as county executive in 1967, Dutchess had a single executive officer for the first time since 1719. Since then, a period of experimentation has occurred as successive county executives have molded the operations of county government in response to real world challenges. After a tenuous period in the charter experience in the 1970s and 1980s, the county executive's role enjoyed decades of stability through the Pattison and Steinhaus Administrations. The county executive model continues to operate and manage Dutchess County Government with the 2011 election of its seventh executive as the office adapts to keep pace with the ever-changing nature of the modern world.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
WILLIAM R. STEINHAUS, 1992-2011

*Courtesy of the Dutchess County Executive*

William R. Steinhaus was already a Dutchess institution by the time of his successful bid for the executive office in 1991, having served as county clerk since 1978. With 20 years in office, Steinhaus is thus far the longest serving county executive in Dutchess. His legacy includes defining the important role of the executive branch in county government.

