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Ballot Questions and Explanatory Text

Shall the Charter be amended to correct grammatical errors, spelling mistakes, and format inconsistencies throughout the document? *S. Bailey*

Explanatory Text:

During their review of the Charter, the Charter Revision Commission noticed several grammatical and spelling errors as well as several format inconsistencies throughout the document. The amendments to various sections throughout the Charter are proposed to correct these issues.

Shall §§ C5-4 and C6-1 be amended to grant the Town Council the authority to determine the residency requirement and terms of employment for the Town Manager?

Explanatory Text:

Currently, the Charter requires the Manager to be a resident of the Town and be a full-time employee of the Town which may greatly limit the pool of applicants in the event there is a vacancy. The proposed amendment will give the Council the power to determine the residency requirement and terms of employment of the Manager. An amendment to § C5-4 is proposed to include "Town Manager" for consistency with the proposed amendment to § C6-1.

Shall § C3-2 be amended to provide staggered two and four year terms to the Board of Education?

Explanatory Text:

Currently, the nine members of the Board of Education serve for two years and are elected at each biennial municipal election. The proposed amendment will change six of the members' terms to four years and three of the members' terms to two years. Accordingly, at each biennial election, three members shall be elected to four year terms and three members will be elected to two year terms, with three members remaining on the Board. The amendment is proposed to limit turnover and promote the preservation of institutional knowledge amongst the members on the Board.

Shall the definitions of "employee", "non-registered voter", and "public hearing" as well as §§ C3-1, C3-2, C4-1, C4-5, C5-1, C9-2, C9-4, C9-6, C9-7, and C9-14 be amended for clarity and conciseness and shall various sections in Chapters II through VI be amended to conform to the Connecticut General Statutes?

Explanatory Text:

Amendments are proposed for clarity, conciseness, and/or conformity with the Town Code and State statutes.

Shall sections in Chapters III through VI be amended to grant the Town Council the authority to designate the same independent accountant to annually audit the books and accounts of the Town; to appoint members to boards, commissions, and offices within the same timeframe despite changes in the days of certain months; to remove members of appointive boards, commissions, committees or agencies for cause; to join a Health District in addition to appointing a Director of Health; and to delete the term provision for the Zoning Enforcement Officer?

Explanatory Text:

The proposed amendments are administrative changes to the Charter that allow the Town to run more efficiently and cut unnecessary costs.

Shall §§ C2-4, C3-5, C4-2, and various sections in Chapter IX be amended to provide the Town Manager and Town Council the flexibility to adjust the fiscal year and budget timeline; to extend the date by which elected persons start office from the day after the election to the Tuesday following the election; and to adjust the deadlines for certain aspects of the budget process?

Explanatory Text:

The proposed amendments will allow the Town to adjust the fiscal year or dates within the budgetary process to accommodate changes or delays at the State level and to allow sufficient time for the completion of various requirements.

Shall §§ C9-4, C9-14, C9-15, and C9-16 be amended to allow the Town Manager to include itemized estimates of actual expenditures for each department, office, agency, or activity for up to the last three completed fiscal years in his or her proposed budget; to allow the Town Manager to move funds between departments up to 3 % without the need of Town Council approval; to allow the Council to appropriate funds up to an aggregate of ½ of 1% of the General Fund Budget; to conform the Charter to current practices used by the Town employees; and to require that estimated tax ramifications and fiscal impacts be included in the explanatory text at budget referendum?

Explanatory Text:

The proposed amendments will modernize the Charter and allow it to adapt to future changes in the economic landscape as well as provide for more efficient and informed budgetary and financial processes.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT THE TOWN CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION PAGE ON THE WEBSITE AND REFER TO MINUTES OF THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION AND TOWN COUNCIL.