

QUESTION

Question 1: Charter

Shall this Town approve the Charter Amendment proposed by the Town Meeting, as summarized below?

The proposed Charter Amendment retains the representative town meeting form of government. Proposed changes include updates to conform more closely to existing state law; to reflect current municipal practice; and to simplify, clarify and modernize language. The proposed Amendment also includes several technical corrections.

Major changes include:

- Finance Committee term limits would be amended to exclude any partial terms served by a Committee member that are less than two years.
- The Board of Assessors would be changed from an elected board to an appointed board. The number and term of members would remain the same, but the Board of Selectmen would be responsible for appointing the Board of Assessors.
- The Town Manager would be responsible for appointing the Town Appraiser, subject to confirmation by the Board of Assessors.
- A new Charter Review Committee would be created and charged with reviewing the Charter every 10 years.
- The power to create new boards or committees for specific purposes would be extended to all elected boards and committees. Currently, only the Board of Selectmen has this authority.
- A new section would be added to authorize associate membership on appointed boards and committees.
- Town Counsel appointment would be changed from annually to “at will.”
- Budget deadlines for the Town Manager and School Committee would be amended to reflect current practice.
- Procedures would be included to clarify the removal process of members of appointed boards and committees.

Because certain types of Charter changes are beyond the power of Town Meeting and the local voters, implementation of the Town Meeting’s proposals requires two separate processes. Those sections that may be sent to the local voters by Town Meeting are included in this Question. Those sections that are beyond the power of Town Meeting to recommend to the voters are being sent to the State Legislature in a request for a Special Act and are not included in this Question.

YES
NO

YOU HAVE NOW COMPLETED VOTING