

Addendum B
Recent Charter Revision Ballot Questions

November 2004

CLINTON

1. Shall the Town Clerk and Tax Collector be hired rather than elected?
2. Shall the following Boards be added to the Town Charter: Board of Assessment Appeals Alternates and Design Review Board?
3. Shall the Open Space Advisory Board be added to the Town Charter?
4. Shall all meetings of Town Boards, Commissions, and Committees be held at a Town facility whenever possible, and shall comply with all requirements of the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act?
5. Shall Section 4-1 be amended to provide that the Annual Budget Meeting shall be held no later than the first Wednesday in May?
6. Shall Section 5-7 be amended to permit the Board of Selectmen to add a new subsection (P) to allow the Board of Selectmen to accept grants subject to certain limitations?
7. Shall Section 7-7(F) be amended to revise the duties and responsibilities of the Public Works Commission?
8. Shall Sections 4-5 (A) and 10-4 (B) be amended to increase the maximum appropriation that may be made without Town Meeting approval to \$15,000?
9. Shall Section 10-6 (B) be amended to increase the amount for which informal bids are required to \$3,000, and to increase the amount for which sealed bids or proposals are required to \$7,500?
10. Shall Section 10-6(E) allowing volume purchasing be added to the Town Charter?
11. Shall Section 10-6(F) regarding Books and Records of Town Aided Organizations be added to the Town Charter?
12. Shall all proposed revisions be made to the Town Charter which would (a) clarify; (b) simplify; (c) delete outdated material; (d) conform to the remainder of the Charter and/or the Connecticut General Statutes as amended, as recommended by the Charter Revision Commission?

DERBY Shall the charter of the city of Derby be amended regarding the Board of Education as recommended by the Charter Revision Commission and adopted by the Board of Aldermen on July 8, 2004?

EAST HARTFORD

1. Shall the proposed amendments to the East Hartford Town Charter that were recommended by the Charter Revision Commission and approved by the Town Council, including technical and minor revision, providing for removal of town officials and audits of certain projects, be approved?
2. Shall the proposed amendments to the East Hartford Town Charter that were recommended by the Charter Revision Commission and approved by the Town Council concerning budget referendum be approved?

EAST LYME

1. Shall the term of office for the First Selectman be increased from two to four years?
2. Shall the terms of office for members of the Board of Selectmen be staggered and increased from two years to four years and the number of members on the Board of Selectmen be increased from the First Selectman and five Selectmen to the First Selectmen and six Selectmen?
3. Shall votes for an unsuccessful candidate for First Selectman continue to be counted as votes for that candidate as a member of the Board of Selectmen?
4. Shall the Board of Selectmen be allowed, without town meeting approval but with the approval of the Board of Finance, to make special appropriations for a project in amounts up to \$150,000 when the town receives state or federal grants in aid thereof and the town's share of the total appropriation for the project is less than \$35,000?
5. Shall the number of electors required to petition for a special town meeting be increased from 2% to 5% of the total electors of the Town?
6. Shall a provision be added to the Charter requiring that 500 persons or 5% of the total number qualified to vote in town meetings, whichever is less, may petition to adjourn a town meeting to a referendum vote on the voting machines?
7. Shall language establishing the positions of alternates on the Planning Commission and the Zoning Commission be added to the Charter?

GREENWICH Shall Section 2 of the Town of Greenwich Charter be amended under Section 66 of the Charter to provide the Selectmen ex -officio membership, without vote, on the Board of Estimate and Taxation?

NORTH BRANFORD

1. Shall the non-binding annual town budget meeting, but not the public hearings on the budget, be replaced by an advisory referendum at which electors may vote to accept the annual budget, reject it because it is too high, or reject it because it is too low?

2. Shall C4-6 be amended to allow for the publication of ordinances in full or as a summary, instead of a full publication only?

OLD SAYBROOK Shall the charter revisions recommended by the Charter Revision Commission and approved by the Board of Selectmen on August 5, 2004 in accordance with the provisions of Section 7-191 of the General Statutes of Connecticut be approved?

OXFORD Shall the Town of Oxford adopt the proposed charter revision which was approved by the Board of Selectmen on 9/1/04?

PLAINFIELD

1. Shall the Plainfield Charter be amended to increase the term of office of the Tax Collector from two to four years?
2. Shall the Plainfield Charter be amended to increase the term of office of the Town Clerk from two to four years?
3. Shall the Plainfield Charter be revised to add the following language: In preparing and presenting the Town Budget, the Board of Finance will also include provisions for voting on a Capital Improvement Program?
4. Shall the Plainfield Charter be revised to allow for the newspaper publication of proposed town budgets and ordinances to be in summary form as allowed by statute?
5. Shall the Plainfield Charter be revised to allow removal of appointed Board or Commission members based on 3 unexcused absences from regular meetings or attendance at less than 50% of the meeting in a 12 month period?
6. Shall the Plainfield Charter be revised to allow for more than two questions on a Town Budget Referendum or Town Meeting, including non-binding advisory questions?
7. Shall the Plainfield Charter be revised to delete the provision regarding Recall of Elected Officials which is inconsistent with state law?

PLAINVILLE Shall Chapter VII FINANCIAL PROVISIONS of the Charter of the Town of Plainville be amended to provide an amended procedure for conduct of the Town Meeting, as proposed by the Charter Revision Commission?

PORTLAND

1. Shall the Charter be amended to increase the number appointed to the Conservation Commission; Parks and Recreation Commission; and Youth Services Advisory Board by appointing two (2) alternate members to each?
2. Shall the Charter be revised to establish a five (5) member Ethics commission, appointed by the Board of Selectmen, to oversee the conduct of all officers and employees?

SALEM Shall the Town of Salem adopt the Salem Town Charter as approved by the Board of Selectmen on August 19, 2004?

SEYMOUR Shall the charter of the town of Seymour adopted on November 2, 1982, and amended on November 5, 1985, and amended on November 6, 1990 and amended on November 8, 1994, be further amended in the manner recommended by the Charter Revision Commission and approved by the Board of Selectmen?

STAMFORD

1. Shall the term for Town and City clerk be changed from two to four years?
2. Shall the term for Constables be changed from two to four years?
3. Shall the Mayor be a non-voting member of the Board of Education?
4. Shall there be an operating reserve fund, also know as a rainy day fund?
5. Shall there be a Bureau of Transportation with a Director of Transportation who shall be appointed by the Mayor?
6. Shall there be a Superintendent of Parks & Recreation who shall be appointed by the Mayor?
7. Shall the Board of Representatives have the authority to retain independent legal counsel?
8. Shall there be changes to part 7 - Pensions- of the Charter of the City of Stamford to make it conform to current practices and labor law?

STRATFORD

1. Shall the current Stratford term limitation ordinance section 32-1 of the town code be amended by increasing the number of terms a Councilman may serve from three to four consecutive two-year terms?
2. Shall the current Stratford term limitation ordinance section 32-1 of the town code be amended by increasing the number of terms elected members of the Planning Commission, Zoning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals and Board of Education may serve from one to two consecutive four-year terms?
3. Shall the current Stratford term limitation ordinance section 32-1 of the town code be amended by adding a provision that states any individual who serves any portion of an elected or appointed term shall be considered as serving an entire term?
4. Shall the current Stratford term limitation ordinance section 21-1 of the town code be amended by adding a provision that allows for an individual who has already served the maximum number of terms under the ordinance as an elected member of the Council, Board or Commission to seek reelection after a break from that same office for at least one (1) term?

WATERBURY

2. Shall the Charter be revised so the Mayor and Charter Officers serve four-year terms?
3. Shall the Charter be revised to set salaries for the Mayor and Charter Officers with raises subject to rejection by the Aldermen?

4. Shall the Charter be revised to set the Aldermanic stipend at 10% of the Mayor's and subject to referenda?
5. Shall the Charter be revised to create an eleven (11) member Board of Education with six (6) elected and five (5) appointed solely by the Mayor?
6. Shall the Charter be revised to allow the Board of Education to hire the Superintendent without using Civil Service?
7. Shall the Charter be revised to require the Aldermen to establish standards for negotiation and implementation of Inter-local Agreements?
8. Shall the Charter be revised to eliminate provisions, including Minority Leader appointments and clarify languages?

WETHERSFIELD Shall the amendments to the Wethersfield Town Charter recommended by the Charter Revision Commission and approved by the Town Council be adopted?

WINDHAM Shall the revisions proposed by the Charter Revision Commission be adopted?

WOLCOTT Shall the Wolcott Charter be amended as provided in the Charter Revision Commission's final report dated August 16, 2004 to become effective January 1, 2005?

November 2003

BETHEL Shall the electors of the town of Bethel approve for adoption the proposed amendments to the town of Bethel charter recommended by the Charter Revision Commission and approved by the Board of Selectmen?

BROOKFIELD Shall the amendments to the town's Charter as recommended by the Charter Revision Commission and approved by the board of Selectmen and published on August 15, 2003 be approved?

COLUMBIA Shall the proposed revised Charter be approved?

CROMWELL Shall the amendments to the Cromwell Town Charter as proposed by the Cromwell Charter Revision Commission be approved?

FARMINGTON

1. Shall the Town Charter be amended to modify the budget approval process?
2. Shall the Town Charter be amended from \$100,000 to \$200,000 to allow the Town Council to appropriate funds up to \$200,000 without a Town Meeting, and shall the Town Charter be amended from \$350,000 to \$400,000 to allow a Town Meeting to appropriate funds up to \$400,000 without a referendum?
3. Shall the Town Charter be amended to increase the length of the term of the office of the Town Clerk from two (2) to four (4) years effective with the results of the

2005 election?

4. Shall the Town Charter be amended to address items of elective office residency, making its language gender neutral, and other technical and clerical changes?

GREENWICH Shall the Town of Greenwich Charter be amended under Section 66 of the Charter to provide for First Selectman review and revision of proposed Town budgets and operations plans?

HEBRON Shall the Town of Hebron adopt the amendments to the Hebron Town Charter as approved by the Board of Selectmen on August 21, 2003?

MANCHESTER

3. Shall the Town of Manchester amend Sections 16-1, 16-2, and 16-3 of the Town Charter to redefine the powers and duties of the Library Board?
4. Shall the town of Manchester create a section 3-12 in the town charter to require an annual joint meeting of the Board of Directors and Board of Education to discuss the consolidation of operational functions and that any action to consolidate efforts will require a two-thirds vote of each Board to implement and repeal?
5. Shall the town of Manchester amend the town charter to make certain technical and administrative changes?

NORWALK

1. Shall sections 1-77, 1-78, 1-78A, 1-79B, 1-79C, 1-81, 1-84 and 1-85 of the district charter be amended to combine the Electric Commission with the District Commission to create a single seven member Commission to manage the affairs of the Second Taxing District, its Water Department and its Electric Department?
3. Shall Sections 1-79C of the District Charter be amended to modify the procedure used at each annual meeting to elect members to the Ethics Commission; and to allow the District Commission to fill vacancies on the Ethics Commission?

PLAINVILLE

1. Shall the Charter of the Town of Plainville be amended to reflect the technical changes as proposed by the Charter Revision Commission except the amendments proposed in questions 2, 3, and 4 which follow?
2. Shall Chapter III, Section 5 of the Charter of the town of Plainville be amended to require the appointment of the Town Counsel and Town Treasurer be by at least 4 affirmative votes, as proposed by the Charter Revision Commission?
3. Shall the Chapter III, Section 11 of the Charter of the Town of Plainville be amended to require referenda on bond issues and appropriations exceeding \$500,000, as proposed by the Charter Revision Commission?
4. Shall Chapter VII, Section 11 of the Charter of the Town of Plainville be amended to require sealed bids or proposals for purchases and contracts of \$7,500 or more as proposed by the Charter Revision Commission?

SHELTON. Shall the Charter of the city of Shelton be adopted in accordance with the report and recommendation of the Charter Revision commission of 2003?

SOUTHBURY Shall the revised Town Charter in the form filed with the Town Clerk of August 29, 2003, and therefore published as required by law, be approved?

STRATFORD

1. Shall the Town Charter be amended to change the form of town government from the present Council/Manager form to a Mayor/Council form as recommended by the Charter Revision Commission in its final report dated June 23, 2003?
2. Shall the proposed corrections regarding grammar, spelling, terminology, consistency and other corrections of a technical nature, which include revision of outdated provisions of the Town Charter, be approved as recommended by the Charter Revision Commission in its final report dated June 23, 2003?

TOLLAND

1. Shall the annual budget process require a Budget Presentation Meeting followed by a mandatory referendum?
2. Shall the membership of the Board of Education be changed from nine (9) to seven (7)?
3. Shall non-resident taxpayers and resident taxpayers, who are not registered to vote, be allowed to vote at budget and bonding referenda?
4. Shall the Town Charter be changed to prohibit non-resident taxpayers from serving as appointed members on town boards and commissions?
5. Shall the Charter be amended to reflect various statutory, language and format changes which update, clarify and correct outdated provisions?

TRUMBULL

1. Shall there be a general revision of the charter of the town of Trumbull?
2. Shall the membership of the Board of Education of the town of Trumbull be expanded from six (6) to seven (7) members?

WATERFORD

1. Shall the Town Charter be amended to add section 1.3 which shall read as follows:
GENDER NEUTRALITY. Consistent with Connecticut General Statutes, throughout the Charter whenever a title denoting gender or words importing gender are applied to an individual the title and words shall suit the gender of the individual?
2. Shall the Town Charter Section 3.2.1 be amended to include Upon election, each member of the board of selectmen may choose to be referred to as 'First Selectman', 'First Selectwoman', or 'First Selectperson', or as 'Selectman', 'Selectwoman', or 'Selectperson'?

3. Shall the Town Charter Section 3.1.11(c) be amended to read The town clerk shall notify all representatives of the time, place and purpose of said [representative town] meeting by providing a copy of the warning to each member at least five days before the date of the meeting in the manner specified by the Representative Town Meeting Rules of Procedure... instead of by mailing a copy of the warning to each member at least five days before the date of the meeting...?
4. Shall the Town Charter be amended to correct references to the Connecticut General Statutes and to correct typographical and scrivener's errors identified by the Charter Revision Commission and the Town Attorney?

WEST HAVEN

1. Shall there be an increased minority representation on the City Council?
2. Shall the City be empowered to consolidate, maintain and operate a fire department should consolidation or termination of the three existing fire districts be effectuated pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes?
3. Shall all other changes recommended by the Charter Revision Commission, excluding 1 and 2, be adopted?

WESTON

2. Shall the charter of the town of Weston, Section 2.7 Petition for Special Town Meeting for Enactment of Ordinances or Other Action, be amended to change the required personal signatures to not less than 5% of qualified voters?
3. Shall the charter of the town of Weston, Section 2.7 Petition for Special Town Meeting for Enactment of Ordinances or Other Action, be amended to give the Board of Selectmen the discretion to reject a petition that is materially the same as a matter that previously has been voted upon by referendum?

WINCHESTER Shall the town of Winchester Charter be amended to change the method of adoption of the annual town budget?

November 2002

ANDOVER Shall the Town replace the First Selectman as Town Administrator with an appointed Town Administrative Officer?

BRISTOL

1. Shall the proposed revisions to the City Council district boundaries, voting district boundaries and precincts in Section 5 of the City Charter be approved?
2. Shall amendments relating to the deposits and investments of the city in Section 25(x) of the City Charter be approved?

CLINTON Shall the town of Clinton have only one (1) voting district, the boundaries of which shall be the same as the municipal boundaries?

DERBY Shall the Charter of the City of Derby be amended as recommended by the Charter Revision Commission and adopted by the Board of Aldermen on August 29, 2002?

ELLINGTON

9. Shall the maximum amount of transfer for all additional appropriations be increased from \$20,000 to \$30,000?
10. Shall the Board of Finance be required to recommend to the annual budget meeting an appropriation to maintain a Capital Reserve Fund of 5-7% of the total budget?
11. Shall the maximum emergency appropriation amount be increased from \$50,000 to \$100,000?

ENFIELD Shall the altered boundaries of the council districts as approved by the Enfield Town Council Resolution #6040 be approved?

HADDAM Shall we approve the amendments to the Haddam Town Charter as recommended by the Charter Revision Committee?

HARTFORD

1. Shall the Charter be revised to change the form of city government from the present Council-Manager form of government to a Council-Mayor form of government, where Council is responsible for the legislative functions of the city and the elected Mayor is the chief executive officer of the city accountable for the administration of city department functions and services?
2. Shall the Charter be revised to establish a Board of Education consisting of nine members, (5) appointed by the Mayor and four (4) elected at-large?
3. Shall the Charter be revised to incorporate the additional changes proposed by the Charter Revision Commission in its final report dated June 11, 2002, including transferring zoning powers from the City Council to an appointed Planning and Zoning Commission, a four year term of office for elected officials and the creation of Departments, Boards and Commissions by ordinance?

LEDYARD Shall Chapter VII, Section 5, of the Town Charter be revised to reform the annual town meeting process and to include advisory questions as Section 6, as proposed?

MARLBOROUGH Shall the Marlborough town charter, as revised, and approved by the Board of Selectmen on July 16, 2002, be adopted?

NEW BRITAIN Shall the fifteen (15) members of the Common Council be elected, ten (10) by district and five (5) at-large?

NEW HAVEN Shall the proposed changes to the city charter be approved?

PLYMOUTH

1. Shall the council districts be renamed the 1st and 2nd District and shall there be two people elected from each of the new 1st and 2nd Districts and one person elected from the town at-large?
2. Shall the threshold to require price quotations for the purchase of goods be raised from \$2,000.00 to \$5,000.00 and shall the threshold to require competitive bids be raised from \$5,000.00 to \$10,000.00?

WATERBURY

1. Shall the Charter be revised to reorganize the structure of government to: establish a balance of power between the Mayor and Board of Aldermen; permit the formation and administrative regulation of city departments, boards and commissions by ordinance, subject to the right of petition referenda; and establish a Finance and Audit Review Commission for the purpose of oversight of the financial functions and reporting of the City?
3. Shall the Charter be revised to change the tax collector from an elected to a professionally qualified position in accordance with standards established by state law?

WINDSOR LOCKS

1. Shall the Town Charter be amended to eliminate the elected Board of Assessors, and provide for an Assessor appointed by the Board of Selectmen?
4. Shall the Charter be amended to include an audit of any body receiving Town funding and not already included in the Town Audit?

Addendum D

Recommended Reading and Websites

- Benjamin J. Barber, *Strong Democracy: Participatory Democracy for a New Age* (University of California Press, 2004)
- _____, *A Place for Us: How to Make Society Civil and Democracy Strong* (Hill & Wang, 1998)
- _____, *A Passion for Democracy* (Princeton University Press, 2000)
- Frank M. Bryan, *Real Democracy: The New England Town Meeting* (Univ. of Chicago Press, 2003), <http://www.uvm.edu/~fbryan/RealDemocracy.html>
- Nancy Burns, *The Formation of American Local Governments* (Oxford Univ. Press, 1994)
- Connecticut Humanities Council and Connecticut Public Television, *Between Boston and New York* (1991) at http://www.simonpure.com/between_print.htm
- Frank Connolly, *Local Government in Connecticut* (Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, 2001)
- Robert Dahl, *On Democracy* (Yale University Press, 2000)
- H. George Frederickson, ed., *Ideal and Practice in Council-Manager Government* (International City-County Management Association, 1995)
- Roy E. Green, *The Profession of Local Government Management* (Praeger, 1989)
- Michael W. Homell, *Unlocking City Hall: Exploring the History of Local Government and Politics* (Krieger Publishing, 2001)
- International City-County Management Association, "Forms of Government 1986"
- Roger L. Kemp, ed. *Forms of Local Government* (Macfarland, 1999)
- Clyde D. McKee, Jr. And Paul Peterson, "Connecticut: Party Politics as a Steady Habit," in *Parties and Politics in the New England States* (Northeast Political Science Association, Polity, Inc., 1997)
- Jane J. Mansbridge, *Beyond Adversary Democracy* (University of Chicago Press, 1983)
- The Municipal Yearbook: Authoritative Sourcebook for Local Government Data and Developments* (International City-County Management Association, annual)
- National Civic League, "Guide for Charter Commissions," 1991 (5th Ed)
- _____, "Model City Charter," 2003 (8th Ed)
- Robert Putnam, *Bowling Alone* (Simon & Schuster, 2000)
- Edward Sembor, *Introduction to Connecticut State and Local Government* (University Press of America, 2003)
- Carmen Sirianni and Lewis Friedland, *Civic Innovation in America* (University of California, 2001)

Theda Skocpol et al, *Civic Engagement in American Democracy* (Brookings Institution Press, 1999)

Richard J. Stillman II, *The Rise of the City Manager* (University of New Mexico Press, 1974)

Patricia Stuart, *The Connecticut Town Meeting* (Institute of Public Service, 1973)

_____, *Units of Local Government in Connecticut* (Inst. of Public Service, 1970)

Joseph Zimmerman, *The New England Town Meeting: Democracy in Action* (Praeger, 1999)

Websites to Visit

American Society for Public Administration - www.aspanet.org

Common Cause Connecticut -

www.commoncause.org/site/pp.asp?c=dkLNK1MQIwG&b=192837

Connecticut Citizen Action Group - www.ccag.net

Connecticut Conference of Municipalities - www.ccm-ct.org

Connecticut Council of Small Towns - www.ctcost.org

Connecticut General Statutes relating to municipalities -

www.cga.ct.gov/2005/pub/Title7.htm

Connecticut League of Women Voters - www.lwvct.org

Connecticut Municipal Fiscal Indicators -

www.opm.state.ct.us/igp/MUNFINSR/FI99-03%20Final.pdf

Connecticut Municipalities - Links to town websites -

www.ct.gov/ctportal/cwp/view.asp?a=843&q=257266

Connecticut Policy and Economic Council - www.cpec.org

Connecticut Public Interest Research Group - www.ctpirg.org

Connecticut State Register and Manual - Local Government -

www.sots.state.ct.us/RegisterManual/SectionVII/SecVIITOC.htm

Connecticut State Register and Manual - List of Municipal Officials -

www.sots.state.ct.us/RegisterManual/SectionVII/townscb.htm

Connecticut Town Census 2000 - www.ct.gov/ecd/cwp/view.asp?a=1106&q=250616

Federation of Connecticut Taxpayer Organizations - www.ctact.org

International City-County Management Association - www.icma.org

Model Municipal Ordinances - www.aloha.net/~inazoo/model.htm

National Civic League - www.ncl.org

National League of Cities - www.nlc.org