

**PROPOSED REVISION OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF WATERBURY TO BE VOTED ON IN THE CITY OF WATERBURY IN THE ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2024**

Pursuant to §9-369b(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.), as amended, the following is a summary of the proposed amendments to the Charter of the City of Waterbury, in accordance with C.G.S. §7-188. Said proposals were prepared by the Waterbury Charter Revision Commission and approved for submission to the electorate by the Board of Aldermen. The proposed revisions of the Charter were published in The Waterbury Republican American on August 30, 2024.

The proposed revisions are available at the following: <https://waterburyct.org/CRC-Report>. The document is also available in the offices of the City Clerk and the Town Clerk and, upon request, a copy shall be mailed in accordance with law. Voters are urged to read this document, which explains the proposed revisions in greater detail than any ballot question can. There is no substitute for taking the time to read the revisions, as published, in their entirety in order to draw your own conclusions.

There are two **local** Questions on the Ballot<sup>1</sup>. If a majority of the electors voting on this proposed revision of the Charter approve these questions, they shall amend and be incorporated into the City Charter.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Antoinette C. Spinelli  
Town Clerk

<sup>1</sup> Please note that **BALLOT QUESTION #1** addresses a state constitutional question and is not the subject of this explanatory text.

**BALLOT QUESTION #1** addresses a state constitutional question and is not the subject of this explanatory text.

**BALLOT QUESTION #2**

Shall the Charter be revised in accordance with the recommendations of the Charter Revision Commission, as approved by the Board of Aldermen, as published, posted on the website of the City and further described in an explanatory text issued by the Town Clerk?

If approved, the Charter would be revised to include gender-neutral language throughout the Charter. Other revisions would include the following: (Note that Section numbers below refer to the Section numbers in the Charter as revised.)

**Chapter 1** revises (1) Sections 1B-1 and 1B-2, to add definitions of terms that are used throughout the Charter; (2) Section 1C-3, to clarify the actions needed by the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen to approve an abatement of taxes; (3) Section 1C-5, to confer on the Director of Finance the authority to perform the functions of the Tax Collector pertaining to liens for assessments, water charges, sewer charges, and other charges; and (4) Section 1d-5, to align with the General Statutes text pertaining to the arrest by police officers of persons taken or apprehended in the act of committing a crime “or upon the speedy information of others.”

**Chapter 2** revises (1) Section 2A-2, with respect to certain requirements relating to surety bonds; (2) Section 2B-4, to require that any vacancy in an elective office that is filled by the

Mayor must be filled by the Mayor within sixty days, subject to residency requirements; and (3) Section 2B-4, to set forth criteria for determining compliance with residency requirements.

**Chapter 3** revises (1) Section 3A-1, to amend the timeline for appointing of district reapportionment commissions; (2) Section 3A-2, to reflect the statutory function of the local legislative body to approve an external auditor and to require the Finance Director to file reports with the Board of Aldermen and the Finance and Audit Review Commission; (3) Section 3B-3, to clarify the grounds on which elective officers of the City may be expelled for cause; and (4) Section 3B-6, to clarify the provision relating override by the Board of Alderman of a veto by the Mayor.

**Chapter 4** revises Section 4-2 to clarify the process of appointments by the Mayor of members of boards and commissions, and to include certain time limits for such appointments by the Mayor. Specifically, **Section 4-2(b)(1)** revises the provisions pertaining to “Restricted and Unrestricted Mayoral Appointment of Members of Boards and Commissions” to establish an end date for Mayoral Appointments. **Sec. 4-2(b)(2)** is a recodification containing minor edits addressing “Limitations on Appointment Power to Boards and Commissions” applicable during the “first six months of a Mayor’s first nonconsecutive term of office,” and during “the remainder of the Mayor’s term.” If such an appointment is not made in a timely manner, then the Board of Aldermen shall fill the Vacancy within sixty (60)

Days thereafter by a majority vote of the Board of Aldermen present and voting.

**Chapter 5** includes clerical revisions and edits only.

**Chapter 6** revises (1) Section 6A-4, to update requirements for publications of a list of City boards and commissions; (2) Sections 6B-1 and 6B-3, to clarify that eligibility requirements applicable to members of certain boards and commissions shall apply to those members throughout their terms of office; (3) Section 6C-2, to clarify the duties of the Board of Commissioners of Public Health; and (4) Section 6E-1, to provide that members of the Board of Agents of the Silas Bronson Library shall be appointed by the Mayor subject to restrictions applicable to Mayoral appointments of boards and commissions generally, except that no more than 50% of the members of the Board of Agents of the Silas Bronson Library shall be members of the same political party.

**Chapter 7** revises (1) Section 7B-1, to make the term of office of the Corporation Counsel extend to the end of the term of office of the Mayor by whom he or she is appointed; (2) Section 7B-1, to remove the requirement that the Corporation Counsel be an elector of the City, while permitting the Mayor to take into account a preference that the Corporation Counsel be an elector of the City when appointing the Corporation Counsel; (3) Section 7C-1, to (a) require the Director of Finance to approve in writing bills submitted to the City only if those bills are for over \$25,000, instead of requiring the Director of Finance to approve

in writing all bills submitted to the City and (b) to clarify the role of the Director over City Treasurer and Tax Collector functions for the two offices that were repealed in 2003; and (4) Section 7C-5, to expand the classes of persons addressed by equal opportunity and affirmative action provisions.

**Chapter 8** revises (1) Section 8B-2, to direct the Board of Education to appoint a Superintendent of Schools by means of a contract for a period of up to three years, rather than for three years; and (2) Section 8B-2, to add a transition provision, until such time as an ordinance consistent with that provision is adopted, directing the Board of Education to appoint the Superintendent of Schools from the alphabetical listing of no less than seven (7) and up to ten (10) highest scoring candidates in the civil service process submitted by the Director of Human Resources as set forth in the current Ordinances.

**Chapter 9** revises (1) Section 9B-2, to reflect newly added definitions of Public Hearings and Public Notice; (2) Section 9B-3, to eliminate a requirement that the budget submission include data compiled by the Connecticut Policy and Economic Council or the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities; and (3) Section 9D-3, to clarify that appropriations made from resources derived from insurance proceeds received by the City be appropriated in the allocated capital improvement fund or equivalent replacement rather than the general fund.

**Chapter 10** includes clerical revisions and edits only.

**Chapter 11** revises Section 11C-3 to remove a requirement that notice relating to sewer assessments be published in two daily newspapers of the City.

**Chapter 12** revises Section 12-3 to provide that, except as otherwise set forth in the Charter, the revisions to the Charter would take effect on January 1, 2025.

**Addenda 1, 2, and 3** would be deleted. Those addenda relate to 2001 Special Acts arising from the financial crisis at the turn of the century and are no longer generally applicable to the Charter. Copies of those Special Acts would be retained by the City Clerk.

### **BALLOT QUESTION #3**

Shall the Charter be revised to eliminate the current requirement of five year residence in the City in order for a person to be eligible to run for Mayor, in accordance with a judicial determination overturning such a provision in another Connecticut municipality?

The “five year residency requirement” establishing pre-qualification to run for Mayor, in **Sec. 4-1(b)** of the Charter, would be repealed, in order to align with a Superior Court case that invalidated a similar provision in New Haven (Joel Schiavone v. John DeStefano et al., 48 Conn. Sup. 521 (2001)). The requirement that the Mayor be a resident of the City would remain intact.