

**CHARTER REVISION BALLOT QUESTION AND  
EXPLANATORY TEXT OF THE PROPOSED REVISIONS  
TO THE TOWN CHARTER ON THE NOVEMBER 7, 2017 ELECTION BALLOT**

**QUESTION:** Shall the revisions to the Wallingford Town Charter recommended by the Charter Revision Commission, and approved by the Wallingford Town Council on June 27, 2017, be adopted?

EXPLANATORY TEXT of the Proposed Revisions to the Town Charter:

1. Throughout the Proposed Revised Charter, language has been updated and revised. This includes making the Charter gender neutral. It also includes removing language/provisions which are no longer required, deemed necessary or appropriate. It also refines and simplifies many sections within the Charter. Many changes are self-explanatory and are not specifically discussed in this Text.

The revisions also provide that any required public notice may be accomplished by alternative means to publication in a newspaper, if established by ordinance.

2. Chapter II, Section 9: Removal of elected officials has been deleted in that there is no legal authority for such a provision. The remaining section provides for the removal of appointed officials by the Town Council. The procedure for removal is to be created by ordinance.
3. Chapter IV, Section 1; Chapter XIII: All land use commissions/boards are referenced in one section as opposed to three different sections in the current Charter. There is also a new section for the Planning Department with the requirement for a Town Planner and an Environmental Planner. The Environmental Planner is, in the Proposed Revised Charter, appointed by the Mayor in accordance with the Classified Service system. The current Charter provides for such appointment by the Inlands Wetlands and Watercourses Commission.
4. Chapter VI: The Proposed Revised Charter provides for the appointment of a Town Clerk by the Mayor in accordance with the Classified Service system. The Classified Service system requires that a position be filled based upon proper qualifications and a selection process. A person holding a position in the classified service can only be removed for cause.

Under the current Charter, the Town Clerk is appointed by the Town Council and serves a two-year term. The position is not within the Classified Service system.

5. Chapter XI, Section 3(b): The Proposed Revised Charter provides for the appointment of the Fire Marshal and deputy fire marshals by the Fire Chief. Under the current Charter, the Town Council makes the appointment.
6. Chapter XXI: Ethics and Conflicts of Interest Section reorganizes the current Ethics section. It also removes procedural language which was deemed better suited for an ordinance.