

TOWN OF SIMSBURY
PUBLIC INFORMATION BROCHURE
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
PROPOSED REVISED SIMSBURY TOWN CHARTER
REFERENDUM DATE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2016

September 12, 2016

TOWN OF SIMSBURY
PUBLIC INFORMATION BROCHURE
PROPOSED REVISED CHARTER

Dear Simsbury Resident:

This brochure provides background information about the Proposed Revised Charter. The Proposed Revised Charter is under consideration for a public referendum on November 8, 2016. The ballot questions at the referendum will appear as follows:

- a. Shall the Charter be amended to change the form of government from First Selectman/Board of Selectmen to the Town Manager form of government to take effect December 4, 2017?

YES_____

NO_____

- b. Shall the Charter be amended to make certain amendments to the Economic Development Commission to take effect December 4, 2017?

YES_____

NO_____

- c. Shall the Charter be amended to eliminate the Human Relations Commission to take effect December 4, 2017?

YES_____

NO_____

- d. Shall the Charter be amended to expand the membership of the Open Space Committee to take effect December 4, 2017?

YES_____

NO_____

- e. Shall the Charter be amended to make technical changes to the Town Budget and appropriations process to take effect December 4, 2017?

YES_____

NO_____

- f. Shall the Charter be amended to use gender neutral language throughout the Town Charter to take effect December 4, 2017?

YES_____

NO_____

The following proposed changes to the Simsbury Town Charter have been recommended by the Simsbury Charter Revision Commission and approved by the Board of Selectmen. The proposed changes in the Town Charter are not final unless approved by Simsbury voters at referendum.

1. **Form of Government – Town Manager:**

Based on the testimony it received, other input from the public and its own considerable deliberations, the Commission recommended, by a vote of 7-4, that a change to the Simsbury form of government to a Town Manager-Board of Selectmen be made.

2. **Changes to the Provisions Governing the Economic Development Commission:**

The Commission voted to revise the Charter to require the Board of Selectmen to create an Economic Development Commission by ordinance and further to provide the Board of Selectmen with the authority to set, by ordinance, its membership, terms, duties and responsibilities.

3. **Elimination of the Human Relations Commission:**

Based on the testimony it received from Town Staff, the lack of activity on the Human Relations Commission for years, and the difficulty finding volunteers to serve on the Commission, the Charter Revision Commission voted to eliminate the Human Relations Commission. The Charter Revision Commission also took note of the availability of state remedies for alleged violations of the state's equal rights laws.

4. **Open Space Committee Expansion of Membership:**

The Commission recommended that the Open Space Committee be expanded to include three public members.

5. **Town Budget and Appropriations Process: Sections 808 and 809:**

The Commission recommended changes to the Town budget and appropriations process outlined in Charter Sections 808 and 809 to reflect the recommendations of the Finance Director and Bond Counsel. The changes made to Section 808 allow cost savings in the publication requirements for the annual town budget and provide clarification of budget preparation deadlines. The changes recommended by the Bond Counsel clarify the appropriations process outlined in Section 809.

6. **Gender Neutral Language for Town Public Offices:**

The Commission recommends that the Town Charter should be revised to incorporate gender neutral language for public offices.

A complete copy of the Proposed Revised Charter, including a black-lined version outlining each proposed revision, and of the Final Report of the Charter Revision Commission

are available in the Simsbury Town Clerk's office during regular business hours and can be reviewed on the Town of Simsbury's website at www.town.simsbury.ct.us. The Town Clerk will mail or otherwise provide a copy upon request.

**THIS PUBLIC INFORMATION BROCHURE WAS APPROVED
BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN TO PROVIDE A GENERAL
OVERVIEW OF THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION'S
PROPOSED REVISED TOWN CHARTER**