

Shall this city approve the new charter recommended by the charter commission summarized below?

YES NO

SUMMARY

Effective with the 2019 municipal election the size of the city council will be reduced from 24 members to 12, with one councilor from each of the 8 wards and 4 councilors who can live anywhere in the city. All councilors will be elected by the voters citywide for 2-year terms. Voters will continue to elect a mayor as the city's chief executive officer for a 4-year term and the school committee will continue to be a 9-member body with one member from each of the 8 wards plus the mayor, all elected citywide. Term limits, which currently exist for the school committee, will be added for the mayor (3 consecutive terms/12 years) and councilors (8 consecutive terms/16 years).

Effective with the adoption of this charter, school committee responsibilities will be updated to reflect current practice and state law. Current practices will be codified for financial reporting, including an annual financial audit. A newly required inventory of capital assets will accompany the capital improvement plan. Voters' access to initiative petition and referendum will be maintained, adding a minimum of 20 per cent participation required in such votes. Public comment policies will be established by each city body. Charter review will be required every 10 years.

These represent the major changes to the city charter.