







CHARTER REVISION ISSUES – 2010-2015 - SMALL TOWNS

ANSONIA	Form of Gov't.	Term - Alderman	# of Alderman	Terms - BOF	Selection of BOF Chair	Eligibility	Term - BOE	How Elected	Term Limits	Party Rep. Req.
Nov. 2013										
	Term Town Clerk	Elect/Appoint	Term- Tax Collector	Elect/Appoint	Bid Threshold	Audit Comm.	Budget Auth.	Other	Other	Other
							Authorize public to vote directly on city budget with net tax increase of 3% or more	Allow abbrev. legal notices In newspapers with full copies in town offices/web site	Adopt absentee policy for boards and commissions	
App/Rej										
ANSONIA	Form of Gov't.	Term Alderman	# of Alderman	Terms - BOF	Selection of BOF Chair	Eligibility	Term - BOE	How Elected	Term Limits	Party Rep. Req.
Nov. 2014			Reduce the # of alderman to 9							
App/Rej										
	Term Town Clerk	Elect/Appoint	Term- Tax Collector	Elect/Appoint	Bid Threshold	Audit Comm.	Budget Auth.	Other	Other	Other
							Req. Mayor to submit annual budget proposal; req. BOA to approve budget recommended by appointed Bd of	Reduce the # of wards to 3	Clarify/modify the powers of Mayor & BOA	



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							Apportionment/Taxation; provide BOA with oversight of budget transfers			
<i>App/Rej</i>										
BETHEL	Form of Gov't.	Term - Selectmen	# of Selectmen	Term - BOF	BOF Chair	Eligibility	BOE Terms of Office	How Elected	Term Limits	Party Rep. Req.
Nov. 2014		4 years	From 3 to 5							
<i>App/Rej</i>										
	Term Town Clerk	Elect/Appt	Term - Tax Collector	Elected/a ppt.	Bid Threshold	Audit Comm.	Budget Authority	Other	Other	Other
					Inc. from \$30,000 to \$50,000 (Approved)			Authorize BOF to set compensation for municipal officials	Inc. threshold for town meeting actions from \$25,000 to \$50,000	Inc. special appropriations from \$25,000 to \$50,000
<i>App/Rej</i>										
BROOKFIELD	Form of Gov't.	Term - Selectmen	# of Selectmen	Terms - BOF	Selection of BOF Chair	Eligibility	Term - BOE	How Elected	Term Limits	Party Rep. Req.
Nov. 2012	Change to Town Manager		Increase from 3 to 5					Should 1 st selectmen be elected separately from other selectmen		
<i>App/Rej</i>										
	Term Town Clerk	Elect/Appoint	Term - Tax Collector	Elect/Appt	Bid Threshold	Audit Comm.	Budget Auth.	Other	Other	Other




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								Modify the # of electors required to sign a petition on a referendum to overrule BOS	Allow non-binding questions on the ballot for the town and education portions	Provide for the right to petition actions of the BOF or transfer to a special town meeting or referendum re: special appropriations
<i>App/Rej</i>										
BROOKFIELD	Form of Gov't.	Term - Selectmen	# of Selectmen	Term - BOF	Selection of BOF Chair	Eligibility	Terms of Office - BOE	How Elected	Term Limits	Party Rep. Req.
Nov. 2014										
<i>App/Rej</i>										
	Term Town Clerk	Elect/Appt	Tax Collector	Elect/Appt	Bid Threshold	Audit Comm.	Budget Authority	Other	Other	Status
								Bifurcate votes on town budget and education budget	Allow non-binding advisory questions on budget amounts, i.e. too high, adequate	
<i>App/Rej</i>										
BURLINGTON	Form of Gov't.	Term - Selectmen	# of Selectmen	Terms - BOF	Selection of BOF Chair	Eligibility	Term - BOE	How Elected	Term Limits	Party Rep. Req.



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Nov. 2012		Increase from 2 to 4 years for 1 st and BOS								
<i>App/Rej</i>										
	Term Town Clerk	Elect/Appoint	Term - Tax Collector	Elect/App t	Bid Threshold	Audit Comm.	Budget Auth.	Other	Other	Other
<i>App/Rej</i>										
CANTON	Form of Gov't.	Term Selectmen	# of Selectmen	Term - BOF	Selection of BOF Chair	Eligibility	Term - BOE	How Elected	Term Limits	Party Rep. Req.
May 2011		Provides that the 1 st selectman and 2 other selectman shall serve 4 year terms and the remaining 2 selectmen serve 2 year terms	Previous charter revision increased to 5							Clarifies that not more than 3 members, excluding the 1st Selectman, shall be of the same political party. In determining minority representation, the total membership of the BOS shall not include the 1st








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										Selectman.
<i>App/Rej</i>										
	Term Town Clerk	Elected/App pt.	Term Tax Collector	Elect/App t	Bid Threshold	Audit Comm.	Town Council – Budget Authority	Other	Other	Other
								Clarifies the authority of selectman to declare emergency		
<i>App/Rej</i>										
CLINTON	Form of Gov't.	Term Selectmen	# of Selectmen	Term - BOF	Selection of BOF Chair	Eligibility	Term - BOE	How Elected	Term Limits	Party Rep. Req.
Nov. 2012			BOS rejected recommendation of Charter Revision Commission to inc from 3 to 5	Change term from 6 to 4 years						
<i>App/Rej</i>										
	Term Town Clerk	Elected/App pt.	Term Tax Collector	Elect/App t	Bid Threshold	Audit Comm.	Town Council – Budget Authority	Other	Other	Other
								Removed alternates from BOF		
<i>App/Rej</i>										
CROMWELL	Form of	Term	# of	Term -	Selection	Eligibility	Term - BOE	How Elected	Term Limits	Party Rep.



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	Gov't.	Selectmen	Selectmen	BOF	of BOF Chair					Req.
Nov. 2011	Change to Town Manager									
App/Rej										
	Term Town Clerk	Elected/Apt.	Term Tax Collector	Elect/App t	Bid Threshold	Audit Comm.	Town Council – Budget Authority	Other	Other	Other
App/Rej										
EAST HAMPTON	Form of Gov't.	Term – Town Council	# of Selectmen	Term - BOF	Selection of BOF Chair	Eligibility	Term - BOE	How Elected	Term Limits	Party Rep. Req.
Nov. 2010		Move to 4 year staggered terms								allow voters to vote for as many candidates as there were seats on a board.
App/Rej										
	Term Town Clerk	Elected/Apt.	Term Tax Collector	Elect/App t	Bid Threshold	Audit Comm.	Town Council – Budget Authority	Other	Other	Other
								Clarify Role of BOF	Increase threshold requiring town mtg approval of special approps	
App/Rej										
ELLINGTON	Form of	Term	# of	Term -	Selection	Eligibility	Term - BOE	How Elected	Term Limits	Party Rep.



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	Gov't.	Selectmen	Selectmen	BOF	of BOF Chair					Req.
Under Review	Town Manager									
	Term Town Clerk	Elect/Appt	Term Tax Collector	Elect/Appt	Bid Threshold	Audit Comm.	Town Council – Budget Authority	Other	Other	Other
App/Rej										
ENFIELD	Form of Gov't.	Terms - Selectmen	# of Selectmen	Term BOF	Selection of BOF Chair	Eligibility	Term - BOE	How Elected	Term Limits	Party Rep. Req.
Nov. 2014										Provides that no more than 5 instead of 6 BOE members may be of the same party
App/Rej										
	Term Town Clerk	Elect/Appt	Term Tax Collector	Elect/Appt	Bid Threshold	Audit Comm.	Budget Authority	Other	Other	Other
						Provides that independent public accountant shall not serve for more than 3 consecutive years.		Provides that the electors shall have the power to propose to the council any ordinance or repeal of a vote, resolution or		





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								ordinance except appointing or removing officials, compensation or hours of work of officials and employees, appropriating money, authorizing the levy of taxes, or fixing the tax rate.		
<i>App/Rej</i>										
GRANBY	Form of Gov't.	Term - Selectmen	# of Selectmen	Terms - BOF	Selection of BOF Chair	Eligibility	Term - BOE	How Elected	Term Limits	Party Rep Req.
Nov. 2012										
	Term Town Clerk	Elect/Appoint	Term - Tax Collector	Elect/App t	Bid Threshold	Audit Comm.	Budget Auth.	Other	Other	Other
							Annual town budget be adopted by automatic referendum			
<i>App/Rej</i>										
HEBRON	Form of Gov't.	Term Selectmen	# of Selectmen	Terms of Office - BOF	Selection of BOF Chair	Eligibility	Terms of Office - BOE	How Elected	Term Limits	Party Rep. Req.







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Nov. 2014										
<i>App/Rej</i>				Reduced # of BOF members from 6 to 5, consisten t with BOS						
										
	Term Town Clerk	Elect/Appt	Term Tax Collector	Ethics	Bid Threshol d	Audit Comm.	Budget Authority	Other	Other	Other
								Include mandatory ballot questions on the annual budget referendu m (Had considered bifurcating budget vote)		
<i>App/Rej</i>										
KILLINGLY	Form of Gov't.	Term – Town Council	# of members	Term - BOF	Selection of BOF Chair	Eligibility	Term - BOE	How Elected	Term Limits	Party Rep. Req.
Nov. 2013			Allow 4 members to be elected at-large and 1 to be							







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			elected from each of 5 voting districts							
<i>App/Rej</i>										
	Term Town Clerk	Elect/Appoint	Term Tax Collector	Elect/Appoint	Bid Threshold	Audit Comm.	Town Council – Budget Authority	Other	Other	Other
								Eliminate elected constables	Appt. of town atty – date change	
<i>App/Rej</i>										
MADISON	Form of Gov't.	Term Selectmen	# of Selectmen	Terms of Office - BOF	Selection of BOF Chair	Eligibility	Terms of Office - BOE	How Elected	Term Limits	Party Rep. Req.
Nov. 2015	Makes it possible for a referendum to be held to possibly hire a town manager									
<i>App/Rej</i>										
	Term Town Clerk	Elect/Appt	Term Tax Collector	Ethics	Bid Threshold	Audit Comm.	Budget Authority	Other	Other	Other
							Allow the BOS to have a supermajority to	Authorize extended town	Increase the threshold for special	



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							bring a town meeting should the BOS and the BOF be unable to agree on expenditures over special appropriations.	meeting to provide residents with 4 days following attending a Town meeting or viewing on cable access to vote on a proposed resolution.	appropriations	
<i>App/Rej</i>										
NEW LONDON	Form of Gov't.	Term Selectmen	# of Selectmen	Terms of Office - BOF	Selection of BOF Chair	Eligibility	Terms of Office - BOE	How Elected	Term Limits	Party Rep. Req.
Nov. 2010	Move to elected Mayor Form of Gov.t									
<i>App/Rej</i>										
	Term Town Clerk	Elect/Appt	Term Tax Collector	Ethics	Bid Threshold	Audit Comm.	Budget Authority	Other	Other	Other
								Adopt separate city and education appropriation ordinances	Make changes to Clerk and Fire Dept.	



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<i>App/Rej</i>										
NEWINGTON	Form of Gov't.	Term Selectmen	# of Selectmen	Terms of Office - BOF	Selection of BOF Chair	Eligibility	Terms of Office - BOE	How Elected	Term Limits	Party Rep. Req.
Nov. 2012										
<i>App/Rej</i>										
	Term Town Clerk	Elect/Appt	Term Tax Collector	Ethics	Bid Threshold	Audit Comm.	Budget Authority	Other	Other	Other
					Inc. from \$10,000 to \$30,000		Inc. the amount the town can spend without going to referendum from \$350,000 to \$1 million; Increase the amount of appropriations that requires public hearing from \$125,000 to \$375,000			
<i>App/Rej</i>										
NEWTOWN	Form of Gov't.	Term Selectmen	# of Selectmen	Terms of Office - BOF	Selection of BOF Chair	Eligibility	Terms of Office - BOE	How Elected	Term Limits	Party Rep. Req.
Nov. 2008/2012/On going							In 2008, increased from 6 to 7 members			In 2008, changes the existing 3-3 division of the 6 seats between Ds and Rs to allow a 4-3 partisan





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										bare majority
<i>App/Rej</i>										
	Term Town Clerk	Elect/Appt	Term Tax Collector	Ethics	Bid Threshold	Audit Comm.	Budget Authority	Other	Other	Other
							In 2012, all budget votes will go to referendum instead of allowing Town Meeting to resolve after 2 failed votes; Budget votes will include 2 non-binding questions, i.e. is BOS/BOE budget too low/high	In 2012, Bifurcate votes on town budget and education budget; results of each individual vote are binding	In 2016, considering eliminating town meeting needed to adopt expenditures > \$10 million.	
<i>App/Rej</i>									Under Review	
NO. BRANFORD	Form of Gov't.	Term Council	# of Council Members	Terms of Office - BOF	Selection of BOF Chair	Eligibility	Terms of Office - BOE	How Elected	Term Limits	Party Rep. Req.
Nov. 2012	Allow coin toss in the event of a tie for Mayor of Deputy Mayor						Inc. from 6 to 7, change term of office to commence on Tuesday following election rather than December			Inc. total # of BOE members from 6 to 7 under minority representation
<i>App/Rej</i>										
	Term Town	Elect/Appt	Term Tax Collector	Ethics	Bid Threshold	Audit Comm.	Budget Authority	Other	Other	Other



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	Clerk				d		Allow a plurality of votes to accept budget or recommend rejection regardless of the # of qualified electors voting	Permit the Town Council by affirmative vote of not less than 6 members to modify the residency requirement of town manager		
<i>App/Rej</i>										
OLD SAYBROOK	Form of Gov't.	Term - Selectmen	# of Selectmen	Terms - BOF	Selection of BOF Chair	Eligibility	Term - BOE	How Elected	Term Limits	Party Rep. Req.
Nov. 2013										
	Term Town Clerk	Elect/Appoint	Term - Tax Collector	Elect/Appoint	Bid Threshold	Audit Comm.	Budget Auth.	Other	Other	Other
							Changes timing of the budgetary dates for presentation by departments to BOS; BOS presents town government budget to BOF by 3/1; BOE gives proposed budget to BOS by 3/1 for total amount of the budget; There will be a mandatory referendum.	Advisory questions may be added to the budget referendum ballot from time to time as desired by the BOS		



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<i>App/Rej</i>										
OXFORD	Form of Gov't.	Term Selectmen	# of Selectmen	Term - BOF	Selection of BOF Chair	Eligibility	Term - BOE	How Elected	Term Limits	Party Rep. Req.
Nov. 2015										
	Term Town Clerk	Elected/Appt.	Term Tax Collector	Elect/Appt	Bid Threshold	Audit Comm.	Budget Authority	Other	Other	Other
					Requires all bids >\$10,000 to be sealed in envelopes			Requires BOF to act on all requests for special approps within 60 days of approval by BOS	Made changes to timing of posting minutes/notices of BOE, consistent with FOIA	
<i>App/Rej</i>										
PLAINVILLE	Form of Gov't.	Term - Council	# of Council	Terms of Office - BOF	Selection of BOF Chair	Eligibility	Terms of Office - BOE	How Elected	Term Limits	Party Rep. Req.
2012										
<i>App/Rej</i>										
	Term Town Clerk	Elect/Appt	Term Tax Collector	Ethics	Bid Threshold	Special Approps	Budget Authority	Other	Other	Other
				establish a municipal ethics commission, appt. by the		Require referendum on any special appropriation >1% of the	Other changes to budget process, incl. use of an advisory question at each budget; elimination of the 3rd budget vote.	Bifurcate votes on town budget and education budget	Allow the town council to investigate any town dept., office,	Allows for the consolidation of the town and school finance and








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				Town Council.		town budget; allow the town council to appropriate \$50,000 per emergency rather than per year.			board, commission and agency, including BOE.	human resources departments
<i>App/Rej</i>										
RIDGEFIELD	Form of Gov't.	Term Selectmen	# of Selectmen	Terms of Office - BOF	Selection of BOF Chair	Eligibility	Terms of Office - BOE	How Elected	Term Limits	Party Rep. Req.
Nov. 2010										
	Term Town Clerk	Elect/Appt	Term Tax Collector	Ethics	Bid Threshold	Audit Comm.	Budget Authority	Other	Other	Other
							Eliminate the ability of the town meeting to delete or decrease operating line items; Annual town budget be adopted by automatic referendum	Prohibit town meeting from making proposed amendment to alter the call of a meeting	Grant authority to town annual budget meeting to delete a capital item <\$100,000 from capital budget	Eliminate power of BOF to restore line items rejected at a referendum



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RIDGEFIELD	Form of Gov't.	Term - Selectmen	# of Selectmen	Terms - BOF	Selection of BOF Chair	Eligibility	Term - BOE	How Elected	Term Limits	Party Rep. Req.
Nov. 2014										
	Term Town Clerk	Elect/Appoint	Term - Tax Collector	Elect/Appoint	Bid Threshold	Audit Comm.	Budget Auth.	Other	Other	Other
				Should tax collector be appt			Should BOS be given authority for capital budget subject to BOF authority to eliminate/increase any capital item with BOS concurrence	Should Treasurer be appointed	Require any town agency incl BOE to seek BOS approval for any additional approp. For capital expense	Req. env. Review of any property in the discretion of BOS; Make Park/Rec a dept. of town
App/Rej										
ROCKY HILL	Form of Gov't.	Term Selectmen	# of Selectmen	Terms of Office - BOF	Selection of BOF Chair	Eligibility	Terms of Office - BOE	How Elected	Term Limits	Party Rep. Req.
Nov. 2015										
App/Rej										
	Term Town Clerk	Elect/Appt	Term Tax Collector	Elect/Appoint	Bid Threshold	Other	Budget Authority	Other	Other	Other
					Threshold for sealed bids on purchases from \$4,000 to \$25,000 .	# of voting districts would be reduced from four to three, reflecting the existing	Allow the town manager, with council approval, to transfer unencumbered appropriations between dept. beginning 7months before the end of the fiscal year. The	A mandatory review of the charter is called for every 15 years.	Makes the town clerk subject to apt. by town manager rather than council, like other dept. heads;	The threshold for an obligatory referendum on borrowing would increase from






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						number of polling places.	current charter allows such transfers only during the final 3 months.		eliminates obsolete selectmen and constable positions	\$150,000 to \$300,000
<i>App/Rej</i>										
SEYMOUR	Form of Gov't.	Term Selectmen	# of Selectmen	Terms of Office - BOF	Selection of BOF Chair	Eligibility	Terms of Office - BOE	How Elected	Term Limits	Party Rep. Req.
Nov. 2012	Shall the next charter revision consider town manager form of govt.									
<i>App/Rej</i>										
	Term Town Clerk	Elect/Appt	Term Tax Collector	Ethics	Bid Threshold	Audit Comm.	Budget Authority	Other	Other	Other
							Clarify town meeting and budget process, including quorum requirements and provision allowing adoption of a budget following referendum	Shall next charter revision consider a return to single vote on town and education budgets	Change Bd. Of Planning & Zoning regular members from appointed to an elected board	Change powers & duties of various boards and time within which vacancies are filled
<i>App/Rej</i>										



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SIMSBURY	*Form of Gov't.	Term Selectmen	# of Selectmen	Terms of Office - BOF	Selection of BOF Chair	Eligibility	Terms of Office - BOE	How Elected	Term Limits	Party Rep. Req.
Nov. 2012	In 2016, considering Town Manager Form of Gov't.									
App/Rej	Under review									
	Term Town Clerk	Elect/Appt	Term Tax Collector	Ethics	Bid Threshold	Audit Comm.	Budget Authority	Other	Other	Other
							Eliminating town meetings to vote on budget items less than \$1.8 million	extending the time between charter revisions from five to seven years	Granting the BOF authority to supervise town pensions/post-employment benefit funds	
App/Rej										
SOMERS	Form of Gov't.	Term - Selectmen	# of Selectmen	Terms - BOF	Selection of BOF Chair	Eligibility	Term - BOE	How Elected	Term Limits	Party Rep. Req.
Nov. 2015										
App/Rej										
	Term Town Clerk	Elect/Appoint	Term - Tax Collector	Elect/Appt	Bid Threshold	Audit Comm.	Budget Auth.	Other	Other	Other
								Change from volunteer fire chief to		










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								paid		
<i>App/Rej</i>										
SOMERS	Form of Gov't.	Term - Selectmen	# of Selectmen	Terms - BOF	Selection of BOF Chair	Eligibility	Term - BOE	How Elected	Term Limits	Party Rep. Req.
Nov. 2013							4 years		Provides that any appt. to a board shall not exceed 4 years	
<i>App/Rej</i>										
	Term Town Clerk	Elect/Appoint	Term - Tax Collector	Elect/Appoint	Bid Threshold	Audit Comm.	Budget Auth.	Other	Other	Other
			2 years	Appointed by BOS			If budget is not approved at first referendum, the BOS must schedule subsequent referendum at 14 day intervals	Provide that an unsuccessful candidate for 1 st selectman is ineligible for a seat on BOS	Provides that terms shall be 4 years, including planning commission, zoning comm, ZBA	Provides for a Treasurer and Assessor to be apt. by BOS for 2 year term
<i>App/Rej</i>										
SOUTHBURY	Form of Gov't.	Term - Selectmen	# of Selectmen	Terms - BOF	Selection of BOF Chair	Eligibility	Term - BOE	How Elected	Term Limits	Party Rep. Req.
Nov. 2014										
	Term Town Clerk	Elect/Appoint	Term - Tax Collector	Elect/Appoint	Bid Threshold	Audit Comm.	Budget Auth.	Other	Other	Other
								Prohibit		



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								unsuccessful 1 st selectman from serving on BOS		
<i>App/Rej</i>										
STONINGTON	Form of Gov't.	Term - Selectmen	# of Selectmen	Terms - BOF	Selection of BOF Chair	Eligibility	Term - BOE	How Elected	Term Limits	Party Rep. Req.
Nov. 2015				Increased # from 6 to 7			Created more opportunities for an unaffiliated voter to serve on BOE		Imposed term limits on BOF members	Enacted party representation requirements for the BOF
<i>App/Rej</i>										
	Term Town Clerk	Elect/Appoint	Term - Tax Collector	Elect/Appoint	Bid Threshold	Audit Comm.	Budget Auth.	Other	Other	Other
	Increased from 2 to 4 years		Increased term of Town Clerk from 2 to 4							
<i>App/Rej</i>										
SUFFIELD	Form of Gov't.	Term - Selectmen	# of Selectmen	Terms - BOF	Selection of BOF Chair	Eligibility	Term - BOE	How Elected	Term Limits	Party Rep. Req.
Nov. 2015										
<i>App/Rej</i>										
	Term Town	Elect/Appoint	Term - Tax Collector	Elect/Appoint	Bid Threshold	Audit Comm.	Budget Auth.	Other	Other	Other



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	Clerk				d					
								Allows the BOS to call a town meeting where there's a guaranteed referendum to follow.	Lowers from 10 to 6 % of voters needed to petition; changes the petition timeline for a referendum from 10 to 21 days.	Allow non-substantive changes to be made to the charter by a two-thirds majority vote at a town meeting
App/Rej										
WASHINGTON	Form of Gov't.	Term - Selectmen	# of Selectmen	Terms - BOF	Selection of BOF Chair	Eligibility	Term - BOE	How Elected	Term Limits	Party Rep. Req.
Nov. 2013		4 years from when term begins until successors are elected Approved								
App/Rej										
	Term Town Clerk	Elect/Appoint	Term - Tax Collector	Elect/Appoint	Bid Threshold	Audit Comm.	Budget Auth.	Other	Other	Other
			4 years from when term begins until successors are elected					Treasurer Term - 4 years from when term begins until		







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								successors are elected		
<i>App/Rej</i>										
WATERFORD	Form of Gov't.	Term Selectmen	# of Selectmen	Terms of Office - BOF	Selection of BOF Chair	Eligibility	Terms of Office - BOE	How Elected	Term Limits	Party Rep. Req.
Nov. 2010		Increase from 2 to 4 years								
<i>App/Rej</i>										
	Term Town Clerk	Elect/Appt	Term Tax Collector	Ethics	Bid Threshol d	Audit Comm.	Budget Authority	Other	Other	Other
							Allow appeals from annual budget decisions made by BOF to be heard by Representative Town Meeting during next regular meeting at which budget scheduled to be reviewed	Increase term of town treasurer from 2 to 4 years	Require all boards, commission s, etc. to submit annual budgets to BOS prior to BOF in manner in such manner as may be provided by ordinance	
<i>App/Rej</i>										
WATERTOWN	Form of Gov't.	Term - Selectmen	# of Selectmen	Terms - BOF	Selectio n of BOF Chair	Eligibility	Term - BOE	How Elected	Term Limits	Party Rep. Req.





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Nov. 2011		4 year staggered terms for Town Council members								
										
	Term Town Clerk	Elect/Appoint	Term Tax Collector	Elect/Appoint	Bid Threshold	Audit Comm.	Budget Auth.	Other	Other	Other
								Selection of Town Attorney	Require Town Council to consider charter revision every 10 years	Expedite the referendum process/restrict town to previous budget until new one approved
App/Rej										
WESTON	Form of Gov't.	Term - Selectmen	# of Selectmen	Terms - BOF	Selection of BOF Chair	Eligibility	Term - BOE	How Elected	Term Limits	Party Rep. Req.
Nov. 2014										
App/Rej										
	Term Town Clerk	Elect/Appoint	Term - Tax Collector	Elect/Appoint	Bid Threshold	Audit Comm.	Budget Auth.	Other	Other	Other
							Provides that If fewer than 130 Qualified Voters are present, the Annual Town			






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							Budget Meeting shall be adjourned and machine voting on the Annual Town Budget proposed by the BOF (Since adoption, town has recognized problems with this provision)			
<i>App/Rej</i>										
WESTBROOK	Form of Gov't.	Term Selectmen	# of Selectmen	Terms of Office - BOF	Selection of BOF Chair	Eligibility	Terms of Office - BOE	How Elected	Term Limits	Party Rep. Req.
Nov. 2012	Change to Town Manager Form of Gov't. & Town Meeting		Increase to 5 member BOS							
<i>App/Rej</i>										
	Term Town Clerk	Elect/Appnt	Term Tax Collector	Ethics	Bid Threshold	Audit Comm.	Budget Authority	Other	Other	Other
<i>App/Rej</i>										
WETHERSFIELD	Form of Gov't.	Term - Selectmen	# of Selectmen	Terms - BOF	Selection of BOF Chair	Eligibility	Term - BOE	How Elected	Term Limits	Party Rep. Req.
Nov. 2015										
<i>App/Rej</i>										
	Term Town Clerk	Elect/Appoint	Term - Tax Collector	Elect/Appnt	Bid Threshold	Audit Comm.	Budget Auth.	Other	Other	Other






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								Make thresholds for bidding, bonding and referenda a % of the town budget instead of specific numbers.	Incorporate Ethics provisions in charter as opposed to separate ordinance	
<i>App/Rej</i>										
WINCHESTER	Form of Gov't.	Term Selectmen	# of Selectmen	Terms of Office - BOF	Selection of BOF Chair	Eligibility	Terms of Office - BOE	How Elected	Term Limits	Party Rep. Req.
Nov. 2010										
<i>App/Rej</i>										
	Term Town Clerk	Elect/Appt	Term Tax Collector	Ethics	Bid Threshold	Audit Comm.	Budget Authority	Other	Other	Other
								Allow the duties of the Finance Director to include the financial affairs of the BOE		
<i>App/Rej</i>										
WINCHESTER	Form of Gov't.	Term - Selectmen	# of Selectmen	Terms - BOF	Selection of BOF Chair	Eligibility	Term - BOE	How Elected	Term Limits	Party Rep. Req.
Nov. 2013										
<i>App/Rej</i>										



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	Term Town Clerk	Elect/Appoint	Term - Tax Collector	Elect/Appoint	Bid Threshold	Audit Comm.	Budget Auth.	Other	Other	Other
								Eliminate Water/Sewer Commission and authorize BOS to assume powers		
<i>App/Rej</i>										
WINCHESTER	Form of Gov't.	Term - Selectmen	# of Selectmen	Terms - BOF	Selection of BOF Chair	Eligibility	Term - BOE	How Elected	Term Limits	Party Rep. Req.
Nov. 2014	Allow Mayor to be apt. by BOS									
<i>App/Rej</i>										
	Term Town Clerk	Elect/Appoint	Term - Tax Collector	Elect/Appoint	Bid Threshold	Audit Comm.	Budget Auth.	Other	Other	Other
							Allow electors to decrease only any line item in the budget prior to adjournment to referendum			
<i>App/Rej</i>										
WINDHAM	Form of Gov't.	Term - Selectmen	# of Selectmen	Terms - BOF	Selection of BOF Chair	Eligibility	Term - BOE	How Elected	Term Limits	Party Rep. Req.



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Nov. 2014								Allow electors to vote for total # of candidates		Ensure minority party representation on BOE
App/Rej										
	Term Town Clerk	Elect/Appoint	Term Tax Collector	Elect/Appoint	Bid Threshold	Audit Comm.	Budget Auth.	Other	Other	Other
							Confirm Finance Dept. to implement general, education, water and WPCA budgets Approved	Authorize any property tax payer of \$1000 or more to vote in budget referendum		
App/Rej										
WOODBURY	Form of Gov't.	Term - Selectmen	# of Selectmen	Terms - BOF	Selection of BOF Chair	Eligibility	Term - BOE	How Elected	Term Limits	Party Rep. Req.
Nov. 2015									5 consecutive years on any board or commission	
App/Rej										



CHARTER REVISION ISSUES – 2010-2015 - SMALL TOWNS

	Term Town Clerk	Elect/Appoi nt	Term- Tax Collector	Elect/App t	Bid Thresh- hold	Audit Comm.	Budget Auth.	Other	Other	Other
							Limit the BOF authority to make interdepartmental transfers to 5% of each depts. budget allocation Approved	Prohibit unsuccessful 1st selectman from serving on BOS/Allow each elector to vote for two BOS candidates	Authorize BOF to propose salaries for 1 st selectman and other selectmen	Accelerate referendum process if first proposed budget defeated
<i>App/Rej</i>										

OVERVIEW OF RELEVANT STATUTES

TERMS OF OFFICE OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

In 2000, the General Assembly enacted legislation which broadens the circumstances under which towns can establish four-year rather than two-year terms of office for local elected officials and specifies that this covers members of boards of selectmen. By law, towns can establish four-year terms by charter for chief elected officials and the members of the legislative body. Under the act, the terms may be changed by ordinance as well, although an ordinance does not supersede the town's charter concerning terms of office.

Sec. 7-6. Eligibility to vote

At any town meeting other than a regular or special town election or at any meeting of any fire, sewer or school district or any other municipal subdivision of any town incorporated by any special act, any person who is an elector of such town may vote and any citizen of the United States



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of the age of eighteen years or more who, jointly or severally, is liable to the town, district or subdivision for taxes assessed against him on an assessment of not less than one thousand dollars on the last-completed grand list of such town, district or subdivision, or who would be so liable if not entitled to an exemption under subdivision (17), (19), (22), (23), (25) or (26) of section 12-81, may vote, unless restricted by the provisions of any special act relating to such town, district or subdivision. *(Note: Accordingly, towns do not have the authority to increase the \$1,000 threshold. Only the General Assembly may do so.)*

§ 2-1. Charter Towns

Chapter 99 of the General Statutes allows a town or city to enact a charter. The process for enacting a new charter or charter revisions is described in more detail in Sections 7-188 through 7-192. Under Section 7-193, every charter must provide for a legislative body; a chief executive officer; and all municipal officers, departments, boards, commissions and agencies required by the General Statutes.

§ 2-2. Legislative Bodies

Although the selectmen in a statutory town are the executive authority and “superintend the concerns of the town,” the legislative body of a statutory town is the town meeting [Sections 7-12 and 1-1(m)]. For a charter town, the legislative body may be: (1) a town meeting; (2) a representative town meeting; (3) a board of select-men, council, board of directors, board of aldermen or board of burgesses; or (4) a combination of a town meeting or representative town meeting and one of the bodies listed in Section (3) [Section 7-193(a)(1)]. When a combination, the body having the greater number of members shall have the power to adopt the annual budget and shall have such other powers as the charter prescribes, and the body having the lesser number of members shall have the power to adopt, amend and repeal ordinances, subject to any limitations imposed by the General Statutes or by the charter.

§ 2-3. Chief Executive Officers

In a statutory town, the first selectman is the chief executive officer (Section 7-12a). For a charter town, the chief executive officer may be: (1) the first selectman; (2) a chief administrative officer appointed by the board of selectmen; (3) a mayor elected by the electors of the municipality; (4) a warden elected by the electors of the borough; (5) a town, city or borough manager appointed by the board of selectmen, the council, the board of directors, the board of aldermen or the board of burgesses; or (6) a chief administrative officer appointed by the mayor [Section 7-193(a)(2)]. Any municipality having a manager as its chief executive officer may also have a mayor who shall be the presiding officer of its legislative body, the ceremonial head of such municipality, and have such other powers and duties as the charter prescribes.

§ 2-4. Officers, Departments, Boards, Commissions and Agencies Generally



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In a statutory town, all the municipal officers, departments, boards, commissions and agencies are determined by the General Statutes or, if permitted under the General Statutes, by ordinance. For a charter town, every municipality shall have all municipal officers, departments, boards, commissions and agencies required by the General Statutes or by a charter. Each municipality may have any municipal officers, departments, boards, commissions and agencies which are specifically allowed by the General Statutes or which are necessary to carry out any municipal powers, duties or responsibilities under the General Statutes [Section 7-193(b)].

§ 2-5. Additional Powers in Charters

Towns or cities which adopt a charter under Chapter 99 may, in addition to those powers granted in the General Statutes, manage, regulate and control the municipality's finances and real and personal property; regulate and provide for the sale, conveyance, transfer and release of municipal property; and provide for the execution of contracts and evidences of indebtedness issued by the municipality.