



TOWN OF MADISON

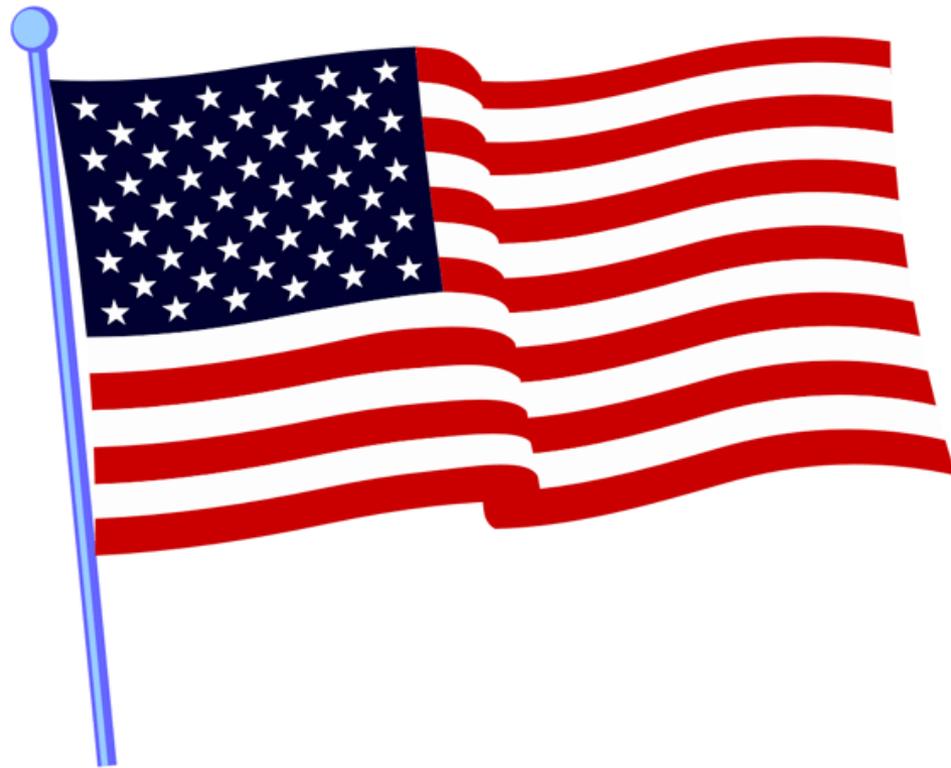
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**Public Information Session Regarding
Town Charter Revisions**

Board of Selectmen

August 22, 2022

Pledge of Allegiance



Introductions

Board of Selectmen

- Peggy Lyons, First Selectwoman
- Al Goldberg
- Noreen Kokoruda
- Scott Murphy
- Bruce Wilson

Charter Review Commission

- Joseph MacDougald, Chair
- Mark Casparino
- Liz Daly
- Matthew Gordon
- Robert O'Connor
- David Osterman
- Joan Walker

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What is the Town Charter?

- A municipal charter is the basic document that defines the organization, powers, functions and essential procedures of Madison's Town government
- Charters are granted by a higher authority – Madison's Charter is granted through a referendum passed by eligible voters
- Madison's current Town Charter dates back to 2006
 - Revisions proposed in 2015 failed at referendum
- State requires towns to review its Charter at least every 10 years
- Process is dictated by state statute and requires creation of a Charter Review Commission (CRC)
- Madison's Board of Selectmen (BOS) established a commission in January 2021
- The proposed amendments to the Charter are based on recommendations by the CRC after an 18 month public process and have been approved by the BOS

Why Change the Town Charter?

- Modernize Charter to reflect current nomenclature, regulatory changes, public access needs, timeline constraints, and lessons learned from COVID
- Clean up language to remove errors, omissions, statutory repetitions
- Pare down to meaningful essentials - take out things regulated by state statute or better handled by Town ordinance/policies
- Clearly communicate and define roles of Elected and Appointed Boards / Commissions to remove ambiguities
- Update Town Meeting scope for dollar amounts, quorum thresholds, etc. to make more meaningful, align with population and budget size
- Address community concerns about participation and effectiveness of Madison's Town Meeting form of government
 - Concern over limited public participation in Town Meetings
 - Trend of towns converting to Town Manager/ other forms

Process Timeline

- **January 2021** – CRC appointed by BOS. CRC begins weekly meetings, interviewing current and past elected / appointed board members, meeting with staff, and getting community feedback
- **February 2021** - First CRC Public Hearing
- **November 2021** - Second CRC Public Hearing
- **April 2022** – Final CRC Public Hearing. CRC recommends to the BOS proposed Charter Revisions
- **May 2022** – BOS deliberates on proposed Charter Revisions
- **June 2022** – BOS amends proposed Charter Revisions, holds Public Hearing, and recommends to CRC selected changes
- **July 2022** – CRC deliberates, amends and approves revised draft. BOS approves the final revised Charter draft
- **August 2022** – BOS approves ballot questions for proposed amendments to the Charter and adds them to November 8th ballot
- ***November 8, 2022 – Town votes YES/NO on Charter questions***

Selected Revisions

Topic	Revision	Rationale
Town Meeting Form of Government	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CRC prioritized making current Charter more effective, efficient and meaningful• Changing government would require entirely new Charter, lengthy public process
Quorum for Town Meeting	Increases quorum from 75 electors to 150	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Makes attendance more meaningful relative to size of electorate (13K+ today)
Board of Selectmen/ First Selectman Term	Increases term from 2 years to 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aligns term with other elected boards• Improves continuity in Town leadership, management, and planning• Follows state-wide trend
Board of Finance Membership	Increases members from 6 members to 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eliminates potential for tie votes, gridlock• Aligns with majority of towns

Selected Revisions (cont.)

Topic	Revision	Rationale
Town Meeting approval of Special Appropriation	Increases threshold from \$50K to \$250K (in aggregate from one Town department)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Makes purpose of town meeting more meaningful• Low threshold relative to current budget size (\$90M+)• All Board approvals still required
Boards / Commissions designated in Charter	Includes only statutorily required Boards / Commissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current existing Boards / Commissions to be established through Town ordinance• Simpler process to make changes to charges, eliminate defunct boards
Authority of First Selectman, Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance	Makes descriptive changes to clarify roles and responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Removes ambiguity over member roles and responsibilities• Aligns authorities with state statute

Selected Revisions (cont.)

Topic	Revision	Rationale
Annual Budget Timeline	Increases flexibility for budget approval process and timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allows more flexibility for scheduling board votes and setting Budget Referendum date• Budget Referendum must still be held by end of May, in line with state statute
Nomenclature	Allows BOS to determine nomenclature for elected officials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gives BOS authority to change titles to be gender neutral, other changes, if desired
Election of Chair for Appointed Boards	Election of Chair required annually. Term limited to four consecutive years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encourages broader participation in Board / Commission leadership• Does not apply to elected Boards

Questions/Concerns?