CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION 2020
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
JUNE 24, 2020

On Wednesday, June 24, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. remotely via Zoom teleconference, the Charter Revision Commission held a Public Hearing on the Commission's Draft Report.

Members Present: In attendance were Commissioners Kate Donahue, Tom Tesoro, Susan Gilson, Nancy Gardiner, J.C. Cinelli, and Martin McCann (joined the meeting at 7:14 p.m.). In addition to the Commission members were Town Attorney Dan Schopick and Chief Administrative Officer and Commission Clerk Cindy Katske.

The Chair opened the public hearing 7:02 p.m. and proceeded to outline the Commission's activities to date and stated that the Commission would take the public feedback from this public hearing and make changes to the Draft Report before submitting it to the Town Council next week. She then outlined the process to be followed for those who wish to comment.

Public Comments:

Rich Deecken, 679 Garden Street (comments attached to minutes)
-Against the four-year executive terms.
-Concerned about low voter turnout in years when the First Selectman is not on the ballot.
-As land use commissioner and candidate, popularity of the First Selectman on the ticket influenced the voters.

Mark Smith, 8 Kitcher Court
-Against seven districts.
-Seven districts will allow political parties to control a larger share of the Town Council, rather than the voters.

Christine El Eris, 4955 Madison Avenue
-In favor of increasing size of Board of Education and staggered terms.
-Supports seven districts due to above average turnout.
-Suggests a compromise of three-year terms of office rather than two or four years.

Keith Klain, 16 Copper Kettle Road (comments attached to minutes)
-Opposes four-year terms for First Selectman, Treasurer and Town Clerk.
-Town should gain approval for the change to seven districts first and then change to four-year terms to avoid an unaccountable First Selectman with a supermajority on the Town Council.

Brandon Cousins, 20 Jamestown Road
-Believes the Commission has gone too far by completely redesigning town government.
-Against four-year terms for First Selectman, Town Clerk, and Treasurer.
-Against seven districts.

Jean Rabinow, Fairview Avenue
-Speaking as a resident and not as a member of the League of Women Voters
-Strongly favors seven districts due to smaller size.
-Divided on four-year terms for top of executive branch; running for First Selectman is very expensive, but doesn't want to get stuck with a bad First Selectman for four years.

Fred Garrity, 4112 Avalon Gates (Chairman of Planning & Zoning, but speaking as a resident)
-Favors four-year term for the First Selectman and has done so for 20 years due to the cost, time and effort of a political campaign.

Town Attorney Dan Schopick gave a brief explanation of the charter revision process. The Charter Revision Commission may make changes to its report after the public hearing tonight. The Commission will vote tonight and will deliver its report to the Town Clerk, who will in turn deliver it to the Town Council. The Town Council will receive it at its meeting on July 9 and may have questions about the report. The Town Council has a 45-day window to send the report back to the Commission and make its recommendations. After it goes back to the Charter Revision Commission, the Commission has the option of making changes or not, and it goes back to the Town Council, which has the final say on whether the matters in the proposed revisions go the voters, which items go the voters, and in what form. It can be one question to the voters, or more likely can be broken up into different questions. It will be on the ballot in November to get the maximum number of participants, and if approved, the parts that are approved will go into effect in December, and the parts that are not approved will remain as is.

Further public comments:

Tony D'Aquila, 29 Valley View Road (currently an elected member of Planning & Zoning Commission and a former appointed member of the Civil Service Board) (comments attached to minutes)
-Against removing requirement of publishing information and replacing with posting on the Town website, because not every member of the public has internet access. Recommends publishing in newspapers, posting on the town website, and posting in the Town Clerk's office.
-Against four-year terms for First Selectman, Treasurer, and Town Clerk.
-Chapter III, Section 2, Powers and Duties of First Selectman: should clearly limit the First Selectman's authority to appoint department heads beyond the First Selectman's term of office.
-Chapter VII, Section 1, Board of Finance: should eliminate all alternate appointed members of the Board of Finance and let the voters choose all members.
-Chapter VII, Section 3, Board of Education: in favor of maintaining a seven member Board of Education with two year terms and no more than four members from the same political party.

Lainie McHugh, 132 Fresh Meadow Drive (Chair of the Board of Finance speaking as a resident)
-Supports increasing the Board of Education to eight members.

Tony D'Aquila, 29 Valley View Road, continued

-Chapter VII, Section 5, Planning & Zoning Commission: should eliminate all alternate appointed members. All commissioners should be elected. Increase the number of members to seven members with no more than four from the same political party.
-Chapter VII, Section 3, Zoning Board of Appeals: Eliminate alternate members and increase number of members to seven.
-Chapter VII, Section 8, Police Commission: Consider elimination of Police Commission. Chief of Police shall be appointed by, and report directly to, the First Selectman. Chief of Police shall have general management and control of the Police Department and current responsibilities given to the Police Commission should be transferred to the Chief of Police. The Traffic Authority should be transferred from the Police Department to the Engineering Department.
-Chapter VII, Section 10, Board of Health: The Town should create a regional Board of Health with Monroe to be more cost-effective.
-Chapter VII, Section 15, Civil Service Commission: Should reinstate the powers and duties of this Commission as stated in the 1981 Charter.

Fred Garrity, 4112 Avalon Gates, continued
-The Commission's duty is to put forth ideas for the electorate to vote on.

The Chair closed the Public Hearing at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Katske, Clerk

Chairman and members of the Commission, my name is Rich Deecken, residing at 679 Garden Street.

I appear before you tonight to speak to the proposed change to four-year executive terms.

Citizen government exists in Trumbull largely as it has since Colonial times. Trumbull, like the majority of other Connecticut towns, held annual municipal elections in October until 1941, when we switched to two-year terms. In 1943, for reasons unclear, but likely due to the war, we switched to a May Election Day, and finally adopted the traditional November date in 1965.

We have abolished the RTM and Board of Selectmen, and replaced them with a Town Council and what is effectively a mayor, although in deference to that past, we retain the name "First" Selectman although since 2003, the first selectman is the only selectman.

It has been claimed that the learning curve for a new chief executive is too steep to deliver effective governance during their first two-year term. However, if the three branches of government are truly equal, then our judgment of such a learning curve should be equal as well.

Rulings issued by rookie judges are not looked upon with more doubt than those of experienced jurists. Our state sees it fit to elect state senators and state reps biennially. Likewise, we cannot assume that new town executives are unable to fulfill their duties properly without what is essentially a free pass to mess up their first two years.

I would rather have good, but inexperienced, leadership, than bad leaders who are entrenched or otherwise stuck in office. When impeachment is the only option to remove bad leadership, the system has failed. To what public outcry is the proposed four-year term answering? What widely known problem is it solving?

The top of the ticket is also the only reason that many voters come out to the polls. Will the exciting Constable race drive a record turnout in the off-year election? Will the intricacies of property taxation disputes turn the Board of Assessment Appeals into a blockbuster political event? With the proposal to move the Board of Education from a competitive election to what is essentially predetermined appointments by each Town Committee, now there will be even less magnetism pulling the average voter to the polls.

Without an executive candidate carrying the flag, under whom will the underticket candidates now rally? Look no further than the drop-off in votes from First Selectman down to the underticket. Voters already have less interest in voting for the underticket, even with a First Selectman on the ballot, and they prove it by leaving those spots blank. Now without a First Selectman, these voters will likely not show up at all.

Actions which knowingly lead to low voter turnout are the poorest form of governance a town government can engage in.

As a land use commissioner and candidate, I knew that my fortunes at the polls were influenced not only by my hard work campaigning in the field, but by the popularity of my first selectman running mate. Some may claim that a popularity contest is not how politics should be governed. I counter that politics is the ultimate popularity contest, one in which the future of all communities, great or small, is determined, and if that is the case, I want the largest possible electorate to determine the result, whether they vote for me or not.

Keep Trumbull under biennial executive elections, just as we've done for 79 years without issue, nor outcry. Thank you for your consideration.

Rich Deecken

First Selectman Tesoro and members of the Committee;

I am here to express my opposition to the proposed changes to Trumbull's charter to extend the First Selectman, Town Clerk, and Town Treasurer terms from two to four years.

Frankly, the gravity of these revisions has not been seriously considered by this committee or their potential to further distance the Executive Branch from the residents of the Town and shield them from the direct consequences of their actions through regular elections.

These changes have also been proposed alongside a return to seven voting districts, a suggested benefit of which is the elimination of political party "super-majorities" on Town Council. Unfortunately, as every revision to the charter is voted on individually, there exists the possibility that the 4-year term revision could pass, and the district changes could fail. This would create the unacceptable possibility of an unaccountable First Selectman holding a super-majority on Town Council.

That scenario also undermines this Committees own rational for the revision, that an effective "check and balance on the Executive Branch" is voting in a Council to oppose the First Selectman. Trumbull would be better served by first gaining the Towns approval for the change to seven districts, and only if successful, lobby the newly formed Town Council for Executive office term changes.

A perfect example is this Committee that only exists because the Democrats hold a Town Council super-majority. And as we've recently seen with the Board of Education budget vote, the incentive for super majorities to listen to constituents is greatly degraded.

This committee has also rationalized term increases because campaign activities "distract an incumbent from their duties" and two-year terms "encourage short term thinking rather than the long term good of the community." That logic is just treating the "symptoms" of individual poor time management instead of the "disease" of the demands of political campaigns, which are outside the scope of the Executive Branch and not a legitimate basis to alter the Town charter.

One would also hope that such a serious charge would have been supported by examples of duties unfulfilled due to campaigning or an accounting of what Town decisions have been compromised by short term political reasoning. Unfortunately, at the April 22nd meeting of this committee which adopted the language to move to four-year terms, the entire discussion lasted a mere twelve minutes without serious debate or a single example offered other than an anecdotal reference to how hard it is to "get things done" in government.

Finally, Trumbull's charter does not have a recall provision or any method to remove elected officials other than through ethical violations. Upon review of the minutes, this committee has not recommended any changes to the removal process of elected officials to compliment the extension in terms, therefore it could be concluded that part of the intention of this revision is to insulate the Executive branch from regular accountability to the people.

I encourage First Selectman Tesoro and this committee to remove the proposed term changes to the Executive branch as they have not been seriously considered and have significant implications for how Trumbull governs itself. I would rather they refocus on meaningful work that will encourage bi-partisan co-operation, accountability through regular elections, and a deeper connection to the people they represent.

Thank you

Keith Klain
Town Council D2 (Unaffiliated)

2020 CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

Proposed 2020 Charter Public Hearing Testimony

June 24, 2020

For the record, my name is Tony D'Aquila. I reside at 29 Valley View Road in Trumbull, CT.

In the interest of full disclosure, I am notifying this Commission that I am currently an elected Commissioner of the Trumbull Planning and Zoning Commission and formerly an appointed member on the Trumbull Civil Service Board (approximately 20 years ago).

1. The Town Council and other Town agencies are required to publish information, including but not limited to notice of meetings, including public hearings, non-privileged supplemental materials, adapted legislation and proposed annual budgets. Unfortunately, this Commission has decided to shift the posting requirement from publishing in a newspaper to posting on the Town Website. I don't understand what the compelling reason was for this change.
    a. Access to the town website requires the public to have a computer and internet service. Computers and internet access are not readily available to some members of the public. This revised charter needs to promote fairness and justice for all members of the public. Restricting access to important town government information is definitely not fair.
    b. I propose that this commission should consider the posting of this information to all three of the following locations:
        i. Newspaper
        ii. Town Website
        iii. Town Clerk's Office

2. The current two year term of office for the First Selectman, Town Clerk and Town Treasurer should **not** be changed to four years as proposed by this Commission.
    a. A two year term of office for these three paid elected officials may result in more accountability.

3. **Chapter III, Section 2. Powers and Duties of First Selectman**. The First Selectman acting as the Chief Executive Officer of the town is directly responsible for the administration of all departments headed by persons appointed by the First Selectman.
    a. The proposed Charter should clearly limit the First Selectman's authority to appoint department heads only to a term of office that is coincident with the First Selectman's term of office.

4. **Chapter VII, Section 1, Board of Finance, Paragraph A, Composition and Election**
    a. I would suggest that the Charter eliminate all appointed alternate members. The Charter should allow the electorate to decide who makes critical financial decision for the Town, and not the politicians.

5. **Chapter VII, Section 3, Board of Education, Paragraph A,**
    a. I propose to maintain the seven member board each having a two year term of office with no more than 4 members from the same political party.
    b. The Board of Education has had a seven member board for the last 17 years. It has been alleged that an even-numbered board will make possible a non-political Board of Education. I don't see any clear and convincing evidence that the 7 member board, commonly referred to as "political" board, has negatively impacted the education of students attending the Trumbull Public schools.
    c. Another reason to have an odd-number board is to insure that the electorate, and not the politicians on the political Town Committees, decides on the make-up of the Board of Education.

6. **Chapter VII, Section 5, Planning and Zoning Commission**
    a. I would suggest that the Charter eliminate all appointed alternate members. Again, the electorate should decide who is making the critical decisions on our regulatory commissions, not the politicians. All commissioners should be elected
    b. Increase membership to 7 members with no more than 4 members from the same political party. The increase in membership will insure that the Commission will more than likely have a quorum.

7. **Chapter VII, Section 6, Zoning Board of Appeals**
    a. I would suggest that the Charter eliminate all appointed alternate members.
    b. Increase membership to 7 members with no more than 4 members from the same political party.

8. **Chapter VII, Section 8, Police Commission**
    a. I would encourage the Charter Revision Commission to consider the elimination of the Police Commission, in addition to the following changes:
        i. The Chief of Police shall be appointed by and report directly to the First Selectmen.
        ii. The Chief of Police shall have general management and control of the Police Department. All current responsibilities given to the Police Commission shall be transferred to the Chief of Police.

iii. Transfer the Traffic Authority from the Police Department to the Town Engineering Department. The Engineering Department currently has three licensed Professional Engineers. The Town is very fortunate to have so many very talented engineers having the required technical skills to understand complex traffic analysis reports.

9. Chapter VII, Section 10, Board of Health

a. Create a regional Board of Health with the Town of Monroe that will be more cost effective.

10. Chapter VII, Section 15, Civil Service Commission

a. Reinstate the Powers and Duties of the Civil Service Commission as was defined in the November 3, 1981 Charter.

CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION 2020
MINUTES
JUNE 24, 2020

A meeting of the Charter Revision Commission 2020 was held on Wednesday, June 24, 2020 remotely via Zoom teleconference. The meeting was called to order by Chair Kate Donahue at 7:46 p.m.

Members Present: In attendance were Commissioners Kate Donahue, Tom Tesoro, Susan Gilson, Nancy Gardiner, J.C. Cinelli, and Martin McCann. In addition to the Commission members were Town Attorney Dan Schopick and Chief Administrative Officer and Commission Clerk Cindy Katske.

Prior Minutes: Moved by Nancy Gardiner, seconded by J.C. Cinelli to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2020 meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Contents of Draft Report: The Commission reviewed the following topics.

1. Chapter VIII, Section 7D, regarding references to ballot labels and voting machines. The Commission discussed proposed language drafted by Attorney Schopick, eliminating those references. Moved by Tom Tesoro, seconded by J.C. Cinelli to approve the following language for Chapter VIII, Section 7D:

"(ii) Voting in such election shall be recorded by voting in such method as may be required by the General Statutes.

(iii) Form of ballots:

(a) The question(s) to be voted on at each referendum with respect to any appropriation of one hundred thousand dollars ($100,000.00) or more or the annual budget shall state separately each appropriation or budget item referred to in substantially the following form: "Shall an appropriation (or budget item) adopted by the Council on (date of appropriation or budget item) in the sum of $_____ for (here state the purpose of said appropriation or budget item) be increased (or decreased) to the sum of $_____?" (or such other form as shall in the opinion of the Town Clerk appropriately state the question to be voted on).

(b) There shall appear upon the official ballot the question to be voted on, which may be distinct from the legal title of any such proposed measure, and which shall be a clear, concise statement without argument or prejudice, descriptive of the substance of the measure. Ballot questions shall be prepared by the Town Clerk, subject to the approval of the Town Attorney as to form, in such a manner as to present as clearly as possible the issue to be voted upon.

(iv) The ballot shall provide a means of voting "yes" or "no" on each question so presented." Moved by Martin McCann, seconded by Nancy Gardiner to change the title of Chapter VIII, Section 7D(iii) to "Ballot content." The motion to amend carried unanimously, and the motion as amended carried unanimously.

2. Chapter VIII, Section 8D, regarding references to ballot labels and voting machines. The Commission discussed proposed language drafted by Attorney Schopick, eliminating those references. Moved by Tom Tesoro, seconded by Nancy Gardiner to approve the following language for Chapter VIII, Section 8D:

"D. Form of Question. The ballots shall state the following question: "Shall the annual budget of $_____ [amount of adopted budget], as adopted by the Trumbull Town Council on _____ [date of adoption] be rejected and replaced with a budget that does not exceed $_____ [amount of current year budget, as of the same date the Town Council adopted next year's budget, plus three and one half percent (3.5%)]?" The ballot shall provide means of voting "yes" or "no" on the question so presented."

The motion carried unanimously.

3. From the public comment, regarding replacing publication with posting on the town website: Tom Tesoro suggested that the Commission reconsider that decision since many citizens may not have access to the website. After discussion, it was determined to leave that recommendation in the draft report for now. To change it back at this point, the Commission would have to go back and look at each instance and its impact. Either the Town Council can give direction on this issue, or the people can vote on it.

4. From the public comment, Tom Tesoro stated that the Commission heard arguments on both sides of the issues regarding moving to seven districts and four-year terms, and those comments were appreciated. J.C. Cinelli agreed and questioned whether the Commission should reconsider four-year terms or possibly add a recall provision. Recall provisions are not an option under state law. The reason this Commission considered four-year terms was because it had been proposed by the last Charter Revision Commission in 2014. It was also recommended in 2011 but never went to the voters. There is a concern about low voter turnout in the off years. Moved by J.C. Cinelli, seconded by Tom Tesoro to remove the recommendation to go to four-year terms for the First Selectman, Treasurer, and Town Clerk and to go back to two-year terms. The motion carried unanimously. The draft report will indicate that the Commission looked at it strongly.

5. From the public comment, regarding terms of appointed department heads: The Commission discussed the positions that this issue applies to, and no action was taken.

6. From the public comment, regarding eliminating appointed alternate members on elected boards and commissions, eliminating the Police Commission, making the Engineering Department the town's traffic authority, moving to a regional health district, and giving the Civil

Service Commission the powers and duties it had in the 1981 charter: The Commission discussed these issues and no action was taken.

7. From the public comment, regarding Chapter VII, Section 1, alternates on the Board of Finance: The suggestion was made that clarification is needed that major parties must have one alternate member. The Commission discussed this suggestion and agreed that clarification is necessary. Moved by Martin McCann, seconded by Susan Gilson to replace the language previously approved at the end of Chapter VII, Section 1 with the following: "There shall be at least one alternate member from the Democratic party and one alternate member from the Republican party." The motion carried unanimously.

8. From the public comment, regarding the definition of business days in Chapter I, Section 4B: The Commission discussed this issue and agreed that clarification is necessary. Moved by J.C. Cinelli, seconded by Susan Gilson to replace the second sentence in the definition of "days" in Chapter I, Section 4B that was previously approved with the following: "Business days are any days the Town Clerk's Office is open Monday through Friday." The motion carried unanimously.

9. Recommendation on ballot questions: The Commission determined that it would recommend three ballot questions. Moved by Martin McCann, seconded by Tom Tesoro to recommend three ballot questions: one on seven voting districts, one on the composition and term of the Board of Education, and one for everything else. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Chapter V, Section 2D(ii) and (iii), regarding increase of dollar amounts requiring Town Council approval of requests for supplemental appropriations: The Commission reviewed proposed explanatory language drafted by Cindy Katske. No changes needed.

11. Chapter VIII, Section 5, regarding posting notice of a vacancy: The Commission reviewed proposed explanatory language drafted by Cindy Katske. No changes needed.

Next steps are attendance at the Town Council L&A Committee meeting on July 6 at 7:00 p.m. and the full Town Council meeting on July 9 at 7:30 p.m. The Commission members should review the Draft Report when it is ready. It will be submitted on Monday, June 29.

Moved by J.C. Cinelli, seconded by Tom Tesoro to adjourn at 9:14 p.m. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Katske, Clerk

D. Voting procedure.

(i) At any such special election, the polls shall be open for voting in accordance with State law, but the hours for voting may be increased at the discretion of the Council.

(ii) Voting in such election shall be recorded by voting ~~machine or paper ballot at the discretion of the Registrar of Voters.~~in such method as may be required by the General Statutes.

(iii) Form of ballots:

(a) The ~~paper ballots or voting machine ballot labels~~question(s) to be voted on ~~used for a~~at each referendum with respect to any appropriation of one hundred thousand dollars ($100,000.00) or more or the annual budget shall state separately each appropriation or budget item referred to in substantially the following form: "Shall an appropriation (or budget item) adopted by the Council on (date of appropriation or budget item) in the sum of $_____ for (here state the purpose of said appropriation or budget item) be increased (or decreased) to the sum of $_____?" (or such other form as shall in the opinion of the Town Clerk appropriately state the question to be voted on).

(b) ~~The paper ballots or voting machine ballot labels used for any other referenda shall be submitted by ballot label.~~ There shall appear upon the official ballot ~~a ballot label~~ the question to be voted on, which may be distinct from the legal title of any such proposed measure, and which shall be a clear, concise statement without argument or prejudice, descriptive of the substance of the measure. Ballot ~~s and ballot labels~~questions shall be prepared by the Town Clerk, subject to the approval of the Town Attorney as to form, in such a manner as to present as clearly as possible the issue to be voted upon.

(iv) The ~~voting machine, paper~~ ballot shall provide a means of voting "yes" or "no" on each question so presented.

E. Requirements of referendum vote.

(i) All referenda shall be decided by a majority of the electors voting thereon, provided that the number of votes cast shall exceed fifteen percent (15%) of the number of electors on the last completed voter registration list.

F. Appropriation after referendum.

(i) If a referendum vote increases or decreases a single budget item with its own account number, the budget shall be deemed amended in accordance with said vote, and effective on said date.

(ii) If a referendum vote increases or decreases any budget item which

consists of more than one (1) single item each with its own account number then:

(a) Not later than five (5) days after said referendum vote, the Board of Finance shall make its recommendations to the Council for modification of individual items within said item so affected.

(b) Not later than ten (10) days after said referendum vote, the Council shall modify the individual items within said item so affected and shall adopt the amount budgeted, which shall be effective on said date, provided however, neither the Council, nor the Board of Finance shall modify the total appropriation as set by the referendum vote on said item.

G. *Emergency measures.* Emergency measures shall be subject to referendum in the same manner as other measures, except that they shall not be suspended from taking effect while the referendum proceedings are pending. If, upon submission to a vote of the electors, an emergency measure is rejected, all rights, privileges, powers and duties conferred by it shall be null and void; provided any payment made or expenses incurred in accordance with the measure prior to the certification of a petition thereon shall not be affected thereby.

H. *Publication.* Prior to any referendum election the Town Clerk shall cause the text of each measure affected to be printed twice in a newspaper having a circulation in the Town, the first (1st) printing to be not less than seven (7) days prior to such election and the second (2nd) printing to be not less than two (2) days nor more than six (6) days prior to such election.

I. *Effect on Council.* Any referendum vote as provided herein rejecting any measure shall not be amended, repealed, annulled, set aside, suspended nor in any way made inoperative by the Council during the term of said Council; but such enactment may be amended or repealed at any general, regular or special election by direct vote of the people thereon. The Council may, on its own initiative, submit for referendum vote at a special or general election any measure which would amend or rescind a measure previously adopted or rejected by referendum vote during its term. Said election shall be held at the discretion of the Town Clerk at the direction of the Chairman of the Council within ninety (90) days following the vote of the Council.

Section 8. Special Referendum Requirements

A. Right of referendum.

(i) The people of the Town shall have the right to approve or disapprove any annual budget deemed adopted by the Council pursuant to chapter IV of this Charter. The right provided in this section shall be known as the Budget Referendum and may be invoked and exercised as herein provided.

~~J.~~ B Petition Requirements.

(i) Petitions for referendum may be filed with the Town Clerk within

twenty-five (25) days following publication of notice of the adoption of the annual budget.

(ii) Said petitions shall be signed by electors of the Town in a number not less than five (5%) percent of the number of electors who voted during the previous municipal election.

(iii) Said petitions shall contain the following:

(a) Signatures and addresses of the electors as they appeared on the last completed voter registration list; and

(b) The date of each signature.

(iv) Each page of said petition shall contain a statement, signed under penalties of perjury, by the person who circulated the same, setting forth such circulator's name and address, and stating that each person whose name appears on said page signed the same in person in the presence of the circulator, satisfactorily identified himself/herself to the circulator, and that the signatures on said page were obtained not earlier than the date of notice of the adoption of the annual budget. Any page of petition which does not contain such a statement by the circulator shall be invalid. Any circulator who makes a false statement on a petition shall be subject to penalties provided in the Connecticut General Statutes.

(v) Upon the receipt of any such petitions, the Town Clerk shall forthwith sign and give the person submitting the same a receipt in duplicate stating the number of pages so filed and the date and the time of filing. The Town Clerk shall indicate on each page of each such petition the date and time of filing, the number of signers thereon who were electors on the last completed voting list in the Town and shall forthwith certify, in a book to be kept for that purpose, the number of such signers and the percentage they constitute of the number of electors who voted during the previous municipal election. Such certificate shall conclude with a statement by the Town Clerk as to whether or not the petition is sufficient for the purpose intended. In checking the signatures on the petition pages, the Town Clerk shall reject any name if such name does not appear on the last-completed list of electors. Such rejections shall be indicated by placing an "R" before the names rejected. The Town Clerk shall place a check mark before each name to indicate approval. No other marks shall be placed on any petition page. Petitions shall be preserved for a period of five (5) years, or such longer period as may be required by law, and then destroyed.

(vi) If the Town Clerk shall certify the petition for referendum to be sufficient, the Town Clerk shall call a special election on the request or requests contained therein not more than thirty (30) days after said petitions are filed with the Town Clerk.

(vii) The Town Clerk shall provide standardized referendum petition forms which shall be available to the public at the Town Clerk's Office

during regular business hours.

~~K.~~ C Voting Procedure. Voting at such election shall be in accordance with state law, provided that the hours for voting may be increased at the discretion of the Town Council.

~~L.~~ D. Form of Question. The voting ballots or voting machines shall state the following question: "Shall the annual budget of $_____ [amount of adopted budget], as adopted by the Trumbull Town Council on _____ [date of adoption] be rejected and replaced with a budget that does not exceed $_____ [amount of current year budget, as of the same date the Town Council adopted next year's budget, plus three and one half percent (3.5%)]?" The ~~voting machine or paper~~ ballot shall provide means of voting "yes" or "no" on the question so presented.

~~M.~~ E Procedure after Referendum.

(i) If the number of votes cast in the affirmative shall not constitute a majority of the votes, the annual budget as adopted by the Town Council shall be the final budget.

(ii) If the number of votes cast is at least five (5%) percent of the number of electors, and the majority of votes cast are in favor of the referendum, the budget shall be deemed rejected and returned to the First Selectman, who shall revise the budget such that the total budget shall not exceed the amount specified in the referendum. The First Selectman shall submit the Revised Budget to the Board of Finance within ten (10) days following the certification of the result of the Referendum.

(iii) Within ten (10) days following the revision of the Budget by the First Selectman, the Board of Finance shall conduct a public hearing in accordance with Chapter IV, Section 2 of this Charter, and may make further revisions as it deems appropriate, so long as the budget does not exceed the amount specified in the referendum, and shall submit the Revised Budget to the Town Council.

(iv) Upon receipt of the Revised Budget from the Board of Finance, the Town Council shall proceed in accordance with the provisions set forth in Chapter IV, Section 3 of this Charter, and complete its duties within ten (10) days of its receipt of the Revised Budget from the Board of Finance, provided, however, that the Town Council shall not increase the total Revised Budget so as to exceed the amount specified in the referendum.

~~N.~~ F The Revised Budget shall be deemed the final adopted Budget as of 5:00 p.m. of the day following the approval by the Town Council.

~~O.~~ G There shall be no further right to referendum on the Budget after the referendum and approval of the Revised Budget in accordance with this Section 8.

~~P.~~ H Any expenditure reduced pursuant to this referendum cannot be restored in part or in full by way of supplemental appropriation without a minimum two-third (2/3) approval by the Board of Finance and the Town Council.

Section 9. Bonded Debt.

A. Refinancing of existing bonded debt, at comparable or lower rates, shall not be subject to referendum. All other issuance of bonded debt (whether or not combined with a refinancing package) shall be subject to referendum as follows:

B. For debt taken out for all purposes (including but not limited to education, construction, golf course or other enterprise fund debt) referendum must be held for all projects exceeding $15 million. The $15 million amount shall be indexed annually in January using the annual Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the Northeast Region, with $15 million and the 2020 annual CPI-U for the Northeast Region used as the baseline for the calculation. If the indexing calculation results in an amount lower than $15 million, the floor for the referendum requirement will remain at $15 million. The indexed amount will be by vote of the Board of Finance and approval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Town Council. A single project cannot be bonded in multiple smaller amounts in order to avoid this referendum provision ~~For debt taken out for all purposes (including but not limited to education, construction, golf course or other enterprise fund debt): A referendum must be held for all projects exceeding $15 million. A single project cannot be bonded in multiple smaller amounts in order to avoid this referendum provision A simple majority of those voting will determine whether the issuance is approved or not.~~ Voting Procedure. Voting at such election shall be in accordance with state law, provided that the hours for voting may be increased at the discretion of the Town Council.

C. Form of Question. The voting ballot shall state the following question: "Shall the proposed bond issue in the amount of $ [amount of adopted], as adopted by the Trumbull Town Council on [date of adoption] be approved. The ballot shall provide means of voting "yes" or "no" on the question so presented.

D. Procedure after Referendum. A simple majority of those voting will determine whether the issuance of the bond issue is approved. However, if the number of votes cast is not at least five (5%) percent of the number of eligible electors, then the bond issue shall be deemed approved.

~~B.~~E. Any bonded debt proposed that is ~~not approved~~ disapproved at the ~~by~~ referendum cannot be brought up again for referendum until the later of ~~(1~~i) the~~The~~ next Municipal election, or (ii~~2~~) ~~One~~ one (1) year from the date of the referendum.