

# **CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION 2020**

## **Summary of the DRAFT REPORT TO THE TOWN COUNCIL**

At its meeting on March 2, 2020, the Trumbull Town Council passed Resolution TC28-59, creating the Charter Revision Commission 2020 (“the Commission”). The members of the Commission appointed by the Town Council are J.C. Cinelli, Kate Donahue, Nancy Gardiner, Susan Gilson, Martin McCann, and Tom Tesoro.

The Commission held meetings on March 11, April 15 (public hearing), April 22, April 29, May 6, May 13, May 20, May 27, June 3, June 10, and June 17, 2020, The Commission solicited input from members of the public, town employees, former and current Board and Commission chairs, a former Registrar of Voters, the League of Women Voters of the Bridgeport Area, the First Selectman, the Trumbull Democratic Town Committee, and the Trumbull Republican Town Committee. Input was received from many of those stakeholders and was taken into account.

The Draft Report was posted, and a second public hearing was held on June 24, 2020 to receive input from the public. Nine individuals spoke at the public hearing, and emailed comments were received from eight other individuals. The Commission held a meeting immediately after the public hearing to make revisions to the Draft Report.

All minutes of the Commission’s meetings are available on the Town website. Residents may also view the meetings recorded by Trumbull Community Television by going to their website <https://www.trumbullps.tv> and clicking “Watch now” for video-on-demand viewing.

It is important to note that the Commission discussed and seriously considered the issue of changing to four-year terms for the First Selectman, Treasurer, and Town Clerk. That recommendation was included in the Draft Report posted prior to the public hearing on June 24, 2020. However, based on feedback provided during the public hearing, the Commission decided to remove that change from its recommendations.

After considering all suggestions and information provided, the Commission recommended almost 40 changes to the Charter falling into two main categories. First, changes that fix administrative issues, modernize terms, clarify definitions or bring the Charter into alignment with state statutes and second, substantive changes. Examples of the first category include:

Proposed Change	Chapter	Section	Charter Page	Report Page
Numerous clarifications of the definition of “days” – either calendar or business (many references throughout the Charter)	Chapter I	4B	Numerous	2
Meeting and other posting requirements shifted to the town website	Numerous			
Updating bonds and employee dishonesty insurance coverage language	Chapter III	15	18-19	12
Process for holding referendums for bonded debt	Chapter VIII	9	52-53	25-26

Substantive changes recommended include:

Proposed Change	Chapter	Section	Charter Page	Report Page
Establishment of seven (7) voting districts for the Town Council	Chapter II	2	3	5
Clarification of the process for replacing the First Selectman should the position become vacant	Chapter III	3	7-9	8-9
Aligning purchasing policies and procedures with current practice while ensuring key provisions are managed appropriately	Chapter III	6G	12-14	10-11
Expanding the Board of Education to 8 members with no more than four (4) members from one party	Chapter VII	3	27-28	14-15
Addition of two (2) Commissions – one on Aging and the other on Youth	Chapter VII	New sections	38-39	18-19

**Ballot Questions**

The Commission recommends three separate ballot questions: one on the establishment of seven voting districts, one on expanding the Board of Education to eight members with no more than four from one party, and one for all other changes.