

RESOLUTION OF THE FAIRFIELD BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS

ACITON ON FINAL REPORT OF THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION, PURSUANT TO C.G.S. §7-191(d)

WHEREAS, the Commission conducted (1) an organizational meeting on September 22, 2021; (2) its first statutory public hearing on October 6, 2021, as required by C.G.S. §7-191(a); (3) twenty-two public meetings; and, (4) a second statutory hearing on June 2, 2022; and,

WHEREAS, on June 13, 2022 the Commission completed its deliberations and voted to send a draft Report, including a proposed revised Town Charter to the Board of Selectpersons (“Draft Report”); and,

WHEREAS, on June 20, 2022, the Commission transmitted said Draft Report to the Town Clerk, as required by C.G.S. §7-191(b); and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectpersons engaged in public conferral meetings with members of the Commission and, on June 29, 2022, conducted a Public Hearing on the Draft Report in accordance with C.G.S. §7-191(b) and considered and reviewed said Draft Report; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.G.S. §7-191(c) the Board of Selectpersons, as the appointing authority of the Charter Revisions was authorized to make recommendations to Commission for modifications of the Draft Report; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectpersons made 22 recommendations to the Charter Revision Commission July 12, 2022; and,

WHEREAS, on July 27 and 28, 2022, the Charter Revision Commission conferred with members of the Board of Selectpersons pertaining to said recommendations, in accordance with C.G.S. §7-191(c); and,

WHEREAS, on August 1, 2022 following said conferral the Charter Revision Commission approved a Final Report, acting in accordance with many of the recommendations of said Commission; and,

WHEREAS, the Commission submitted its Final Report to the Town Clerk on August 5, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectpersons received said Final Report on August 5, 2021, in accordance with C.G.S. §7-191(d); and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectpersons is required to act upon the Final Report not later than fifteen (15) days after receiving the Final Report.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Selectpersons approves the Final Report of the Charter Revision Commission, dated August 1, 2022, in its entirety.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Board of Selectpersons, in accordance with C.G.S. §7-191(e) and (f) hereby adopts the following question to be placed on the ballot for a referendum to be held on the general election of November 8, 2022:

Shall the Town of Fairfield Charter be reorganized to: (A) make it easier to use and understand; (B) modernize language and references throughout; (C) update and expand definitions; and (D) make substantive changes, including but not limited to the following: (1) uniform standards of conduct, civility and operations; (2) streamlined budget and contract approval procedures; (3) allow for greater competition in Board of Education elections; (4) modify Board of Selectperson vacancy process; (5) codify the current forty-member RTM with ten districts; (6) appointment of Constables; (7) codify the positions of Town Administrator and Chief of Staff; (8) modify residency and qualification standards for certain department heads; (9) update the Board of Library Trustees responsibilities; and (10) amend the process for updating the Town Seal.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Charter or such portions thereof as may be approved by the Electors of the Town shall take effect on November 27, 2022, with the exception of provisions pertaining to the term of office, or the composition of an entity or functions of an elected official, which shall be adjusted as set forth in the Charter; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Board of Selectpersons authorizes Town Clerk to publish the proposed revised charter in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality with a notice that a complete copy of the charter is available in the Town Clerk's office and that a copy shall be mailed to any person who request a copy, as required by C.G.S. §7-191(d) and, moreover, a copy of said charter shall be available on the website of the Town; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Board of Selectpersons authorizes the Town Attorney and Charter Counsel to continually review the document for errata and non-substantive editorial revisions through publication; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that pursuant to C.G.S. §9-369b(a) the Board of Selectpersons authorizes the Town Clerk, with the assistance of Charter Counsel, to prepare an explanatory text specifying the intent and purpose of the Proposed Revised Charter that is the subject of the ballot question that will be voted upon on November 8, 2022. Said final text is subject to approval of the Town Attorney.

For Consideration at a Special Meeting of the Board of Selectpersons, August 11, 2022.

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