

BALLOT EXPLANATORY TEXT

Two questions on the ballot pertain to the Newtown charter. The two questions are independent and the outcome of one does not impact the outcome of the other. Each question can pass even if the other fails.

1. QUESTION NO# 1: Shall the Charter be amended to provide that the maximum number of members from any one Political Party permitted to serve on the seven (7) member Board of Education shall not exceed four(4), (the current Charter provides that the limitation is five (5) members from any one Political Party)?

Yes _____ No _____

EXPLANATION: Approval of Question #1 limits the number of members of the Board of Education from one political party to four (4). This changes the maximum from five (5) to four (4).

2. QUESTION NO# 2: Shall the remaining Charter Amendments adopted by the Legislative Council on November 18, 2015 be approved notwithstanding the results of question number 1 above?

Yes _____ No _____

EXPLANATION: Approval of Question #2 accepts the rest of proposed changes in their entirety, comprised of organizational, non-substantive, and substantive changes made to the document including but not limited to:

- a) It adds eleven (11) existing Boards and Commissions to the Charter; Water and Sewer Authority; Lake Lillinonah Authority; Lake Zoar Authority; and Newtown Health District Board, Commission on Aging, Economic Development Commission, Inland Wetlands Commission, Pension Commission, Public Safety Commission, Self-funded Health Insurance Fund Commission, Sustainable Energy Commission. It gives each Board or Commission a definition and gives a method for filling vacancies.
- b) It specifically spells out the advisory roles played by the Board of Finance.
- c) It revises the language of the advisory question provision set forth in Section 6-14(a) of the present Charter.
- d) It eliminates the Town Meeting and changes the annual appropriation authority of the Legislative Council from \$500,000 to \$1,500,000, with a maximum aggregate authority of 1 mil (currently about \$3,000,000). Appropriations equal to or in excess of \$1.5 million shall be voted on in a referendum.
- e) It replaces the Town Meeting for disposing of real property with a multi-board approval process. It also removes the use of sealed bid as a method of sale.