

**EXPLANATORY TEXT AND BALLOT QUESTIONS FOR
THE PROPOSED REVISION OF THE
CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
TO BE VOTED ON IN THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
AT THE ELECTION TO BE HELD
ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2025**

Pursuant to §9-369b(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.), as amended, the following is explanatory text concerning ballot questions as to proposed amendments to the Charter of the Town of Fairfield, in accordance with C.G.S. §7-188. Said proposals were prepared by the Fairfield Charter Revision Commission and approved for submission to the electorate by the Board of Selectmen.

There are seven questions on the ballot. If a majority of the electors voting on these amendments to the Charter approve same, they shall become part of the Town's Charter.

Attest: Elizabeth P. Browne, MMC, MCTC, Town Clerk

QUESTION 1

Shall the Town Charter be amended to allow the RTM to retain its own legal counsel upon the affirmative vote of at least 77.5% of the entire membership of the RTM?

The existing Charter does not allow the RTM to retain its own legal counsel. This amendment would allow the RTM to retain its own legal counsel upon the affirmative vote of a super majority of at least 77.5% of its entire membership. Based on the current 40-member RTM, a vote of 31 RTM members would be required for the RTM to retain its own legal counsel.

QUESTION 2

Shall Sections 1.4, 9.1, 9.28 and 10.12 of the Town Charter be amended to (i.) include the General Manager of the Water Pollution Control Utility as a Charter position with defined

responsibilities; and (ii.) clarify the water pollution control function, roles, and responsibilities in the town by including both a Water Pollution Control Utility as a department of the Town and a Water Pollution Control Authority Board of Commissioners?

This would add to the Charter the general manager of the water pollution control utility who is appointed by the Board of Selectmen and reports to the First Selectman. It would also clarify and detail the responsibilities of the Utility and WPCA Board of Commissioners.

QUESTION 3

Shall Sections 1.4, 9.1 and 9.14 of the Town Charter be amended to include the position of Chief Operating Officer as a Charter position?

This would add the Chief Operating Officer position to the Charter.

QUESTION 4

Shall the Town Charter be amended to remove requirements to mail and/or publish in a newspaper having general circulation in the Town (unless required by Connecticut General Statutes) notice of meetings, ordinances, and/or final budgets, and to require that such items be posted on the Town's website?

This would amend the Charter to allow the Town to dispense with publishing certain notices in a newspaper unless required to do so pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes.

QUESTION 5

Shall Section 6.3.B of the Town Charter be amended to require that any Selectman appointed pursuant to that section during the first 18 months of the term of office of the Selectman being replaced shall stand for election at the next municipal election to fill the office for the remaining two years?

This would amend the Charter to require that the person appointed to the Board of Selectmen due to a vacancy during the first 18 months

of a term to stand for election at the next municipal election for the remainder of the full 4-year term.

QUESTION 6

Shall the Town Charter be amended to allow the Town to adopt or change the Town Seal by ordinance?

The official seal of the Town was adopted at a Town Meeting in 1935. This question asks whether the Charter should be amended to allow the Town to adopt or change the Town Seal by ordinance.

QUESTION 7

Shall the remaining proposed Charter amendments contained in the Charter Revision Commission's Final Report, which report was approved by the Board of Selectmen on August 6, 2025, be adopted?

Approval of Question 7 would accept the remainder of the proposed Charter changes in their entirety, comprised of organizational, non-substantive, substantive, technical and administrative changes. These changes include, but are not limited to, modernization of language, updates to statutory references, gender neutral references, enhanced ethics reporting, clarification of certain board, commission and officer duties and terms, standardization of certain appointments and functions, and other matters included in the Final Report as approved by the Board of Selectmen.