

**Print****Town Charter Revision Commission - Town Administration, Staff, Board/Commission Chairs - Submission #454****Date Submitted:** 7/12/2024**First Name\***

Allison

**Last Name\***

Wilkos

**Town Department or Board/Commission\***

Bloomfield Public Library

**Email Address\***

awilkos@libraryconnection.info

**The following questions are optional:****Are you a resident of Bloomfield?**☐ Yes☒ No**Proposed Recommendation to the Town Charter**

The Bloomfield Town Charter is available

at: [https://library.municode.com/ct/bloomfield/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances?nodeId=CH](https://library.municode.com/ct/bloomfield/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=CH)**What section number of the Charter does your change affect?\***

Chapter VI, Section 604

**Proposed Recommendation \***

Retain the current language in Chapter VI, Section 604 without modification.

**Brief description of the issue addressed by the proposed change:\***

Modification of this section is not necessary because Bloomfield Public Library operates successfully under its current model of leadership appointment by the library board.



**Impact of Proposed Change****What benefits will be realized by the citizens and/or government of Bloomfield?\***

Bloomfield Public Library has a demonstrated record of high performance among Connecticut public libraries. If the library governance remains as currently written in Chapter VI, Section 604 of the town charter, Bloomfield Public Library will continue to benefit from the close and fruitful working relationship the library director and staff have with the library board, which is relied upon for its understanding of core library values, guidance in exercising best practices in the library field, and ensuring progress is made accordingly.

**What potential impacts may be associated with the proposal change?\***

Changes to the current structure of library governance could severely impede progress towards strategic goals and the maintenance of industry standards for the public library in Bloomfield. The independent judgement that the library board as a governing body brings to the table ensures that the library is a well-balanced institution. Additionally, the library board bears the burden of attending to library industry-specific issues, allowing the town manager to focus on the municipal aspects of the library as a town department.

**Can you provide data to assist in validating the impact of the proposed change?**

The Association of Connecticut Library Boards (<https://aclb.wildapricot.org/>), along with other library professional organizations like the American Library Association (<https://www.ala.org/>) and Connecticut Library Association (<https://ctllibraryassociation.org/>), provide resources and professional development for library board trustees so that they can, in turn, provide expert guidance to the libraries they serve.

**Describe any obstacles, costs, or cost savings associated with the proposed change, if any?**

None

