

CHAPTERS II, III, & IV: Summary of Revisions

Section 201. Elections.

- **Option 1:** Added Subsection 6., Registrar of Voters
- **Option 2: ONLY IF OPTION 2 OF SECTION 302 IS SELECTED**
 - Added Subsection regarding Mayor election
 - Revised Town Council member election down to eight (8) (Mayor would be ninth)
 - Added Subsection 6., Registrar of Voters

Section 301. The council.

- Removed reference to “without compensation”

Section 302. Mayor.

- **Option 1:** Highest vote-getter in Town Council election becomes Mayor. No TC majority vote to confirm
- **Option 2:** Mayor is elected in a separate election. All other processes remain the same

Section 308. Referendum on certain ordinances and certain appropriations.

- **Option 1:**
 - Petitions for referendum require signatures from four percent (4%) of qualified electors (previously 7.5%)
 - Qualified electors defined
 - Qualified ballots defined
 - Referendum requires a majority vote to pass
 - Also requires that at least fifteen percent (15%) of qualified electors participate
- **Option 2:**
 - Petitions for referendum require signatures from four percent (4%) of qualified electors (previously 7.5%)
 - Qualified electors defined
 - Qualified ballots defined
 - Referendum requires a majority vote to pass
 - Also requires that at least seven and one-half (7.5%) of qualified electors participate

Section 310. Obligatory referendum on bond issues and appropriations.

- **Option 1:**
 - Petitions for referendum require signatures from four percent (4%) of qualified electors (previously 7.5%)
 - Qualified electors defined
 - Qualified ballots defined
 - Referendum requires a majority vote to pass
 - Also requires that at least fifteen percent (15%) of qualified electors participate
 - Upper limit of sixty (60) days added for referendum (previously only included lower limit of ten [10] days), with an exception in case there is already a general election scheduled within ninety (90) days
- **Option 2:**
 - Petitions for referendum require signatures from four percent (4%) of qualified electors (previously 7.5%)
 - Qualified electors defined
 - Qualified ballots defined
 - Referendum requires a majority vote to pass
 - Also requires that at least fifteen percent (15%) of qualified electors participate
 - Upper limit of sixty (60) days added for referendum (previously only included lower limit of ten [10] days), with an exception in case there is already a general election scheduled within ninety (90) days

Section 401. Other elective officers.

- Revised typo (“on” the Council to “of” the Council)

Section 201. Elections.

Option 1

Nomination and election of state officers, including registrars of voters, and such elective municipal officers, boards, and commissions as are provided for in this charter shall be conducted in the manner prescribed in the Constitution and general laws of the State of Connecticut, except as hereinafter provided.

Town officers shall be elected biennially, at the regular election held on the Tuesday after the first Monday of November in odd-numbered years.

At said municipal elections, the following town officers shall be elected:

- a. Town Council: Nine (9) members of the Town Council, each to serve for two (2) years.
- b. Board of Education: At such meeting to be held in 1967 there shall be elected four (4) members of the seven-member board of education, one for a term of two (2) years, and three (3) for terms of four (4) years. Thereafter at each biennial town election there shall be elected one member for a term of two (2) years, and three (3) members for terms of four (4) years to succeed those whose terms expire.
- c. Town Plan and Zoning:
 1. At the first such municipal election occurring after the effective date of this charter amendment, four (4) members of the seven (7) member town plan and zoning commission, each to serve for four (4) years, to succeed those whose terms expire. At the next municipal election in odd-numbered years, three (3) members of the town plan and zoning commission shall be elected, each to serve for four (4) years, to succeed those whose terms expire. At each subsequent municipal election, there shall be elected the same number of members of the town plan and zoning commission as the number of current members whose terms expire that year, each to serve for four (4) years, to succeed those whose terms expire.
 2. At the first such municipal election occurring after the date of this charter amendment, one (1) alternate to the town plan and zoning commission, to serve for four (4) years to succeed the alternate whose term expires. At the next municipal election two (2) alternates to the town plan and zoning commission, each to serve for four (4) years, to succeed those alternates whose terms expire. At each such subsequent municipal election, there shall be elected the same number of alternates to the town plan and zoning commission as the number of current alternates whose terms expires that year, each to serve for four (4) years, to succeed those whose terms expire.
- d. Board of Library Directors: At each biennial election there shall be elected three (3) members of the six (6) member board of library directors for terms of four (4) years to succeed those whose terms expire.
- e. Zoning Board of Appeals: At each biennial town election there shall be elected five (5) members and three (3) alternate members of the zoning board of appeals for terms of two (2) years.
- f. Registrar of Voters: At each biennial town election there shall be elected two (2) Registrars for terms of four (4) years. Only one (1) Registrar may be elected from any one political party.

The terms of all the aforesaid officers shall commence on the first Monday following their election and they shall hold office until their successors are elected and qualified. Except as otherwise provided in this charter, all elective town officers, boards, and commissions shall have the powers and duties prescribed by law.

State law reference(s)—Elections generally, Gen. Stats. Title 9.

Section 201. Elections.

Option 2

Nomination and election of state officers, including registrars of voters, and such elective municipal officers, boards, and commissions as are provided for in this charter shall be conducted in the manner prescribed in the Constitution and general laws of the State of Connecticut, except as hereinafter provided.

Town officers shall be elected biennially, at the regular election held on the Tuesday after the first Monday of November in odd-numbered years.

At said municipal elections, the following town officers shall be elected:

- a. Mayor: At the first such municipal election occurring after the effective date of this charter amendment, there shall be elected a Mayor, who shall also serve as Chairperson of the Council, to serve for two (2) years. Thereafter at each biennial town election there shall be elected a Mayor to succeed the prior Mayor.
- b. Town Council: Eight (8) members of the Town Council, each to serve for two (2) years.
- c. Board of Education: At such meeting to be held in 1967 there shall be elected four (4) members of the seven-member board of education, one for a term of two (2) years, and three (3) for terms of four (4) years. Thereafter at each biennial town election there shall be elected one member for a term of two (2) years, and three (3) members for terms of four (4) years to succeed those whose terms expire.
- d. Town Plan and Zoning:
 1. At the first such municipal election occurring after the effective date of this charter amendment, four (4) members of the seven (7) member town plan and zoning commission, each to serve for four (4) years, to succeed those whose terms expire. At the next municipal election in odd-numbered years, three (3) members of the town plan and zoning commission shall be elected, each to serve for four (4) years, to succeed those whose terms expire. At each subsequent municipal election, there shall be elected the same number of members of the town plan and zoning commission as the number of current members whose terms expire that year, each to serve for four (4) years, to succeed those whose terms expire.
 2. At the first such municipal election occurring after the date of this charter amendment, one (1) alternate to the town plan and zoning commission, to serve for four (4) years to succeed the alternate whose term expires. At the next municipal election two (2) alternates to the town plan and zoning commission, each to serve for four (4) years, to succeed those alternates whose terms expire. At each such subsequent municipal election, there shall be elected the same number of alternates to the town plan and zoning commission as the number of current alternates whose terms expires that year, each to serve for four (4) years, to succeed those whose terms expire.
- e. Board of Library Directors: At each biennial election there shall be elected three (3) members of the six (6) member board of library directors for terms of four (4) years to succeed those whose terms expire.
- f. Zoning Board of Appeals: At each biennial town election there shall be elected five (5) members and three (3) alternate members of the zoning board of appeals for terms of two (2) years.
- g. Registrar of Voters: At each biennial town election there shall be elected two (2) Registrars for terms of four (4) years. Only one (1) Registrar may be elected from any one political party.

The terms of all the aforesaid officers shall commence on the first Monday following their election and they shall hold office until their successors are elected and qualified. Except as otherwise provided in this charter, all elective town officers, boards, and commissions shall have the powers and duties prescribed by law.

State law reference(s)—Elections generally, Gen. Stats. Title 9.

Section 302. Mayor.

Option 1

The individual receiving the highest number of votes in each biennial election for Town Council shall have the title of Mayor and serve as Chief Elected Official for the Town of Bloomfield and as Chairperson of the Council for a term of two (2) years. In addition, the Council shall meet on the call of the Town Manager within two (2) weeks after election and organize by electing by majority vote of all of its members one of its members to have the title of Deputy Mayor who shall serve as Vice-Chairperson of the Council. The Mayor shall preside over all meetings of the Council. A vacancy in the office of the Mayor from whatever cause arising, shall be filled within three (3) weeks after such vacancy arises by said Council electing, by majority vote of all its members, one of its members to have the title of Mayor and serve as Chairperson of said Council for the remaining unexpired portion of the Council term. If the election of a Mayor for the unexpired portion of the term creates a vacancy in the office of Deputy Mayor, then said Council shall then elect, by majority vote, a Deputy Mayor who shall serve as Vice-Chairperson of the Council for the unexpired portion of the Council term. A vacancy in the office of the Deputy Mayor from whatever cause arising, shall be filled within three (3) weeks after such vacancy arises by said Council electing, by majority vote of all its members, one of its members to have the title of Deputy Mayor and serve as Vice Chairperson of said Council for the remaining unexpired portion of the Council term. In the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor shall preside over the meetings of the Council and have the duties and responsibilities of the Mayor. The Council may by its Rules of Procedure define the duties of the Mayor.

Option 2

At the first such municipal election occurring after the effective date of this charter amendment, and at each biennial town election thereafter, there shall be elected a Mayor to serve for a term of two (2) years. The elected Mayor shall serve as the Chairperson of the Town Council and as Chief Elected Official for the Town of Bloomfield.

The Council shall meet on the call of the Town Manager within two (2) weeks after election and organize by electing by majority vote of all of its members one of its members to have the title of Deputy Mayor who shall serve as Vice-Chairperson of the Council. The Mayor shall preside over all meetings of the Council. A vacancy in the office of the Mayor from whatever cause arising, shall be filled within three (3) weeks after such vacancy arises by said Council electing, by majority vote of all its members, one of its members to have the title of Mayor and serve as Chairperson of said Council for the remaining unexpired portion of the Council term. If the election of a Mayor for the unexpired portion of the term creates a vacancy in the office of Deputy Mayor, then said Council shall then elect, by majority vote, a Deputy Mayor who shall serve as Vice-Chairperson of the Council for the unexpired portion of the Council term. A vacancy in the office of the Deputy Mayor from whatever cause arising, shall be filled within three (3) weeks after such vacancy arises by said Council electing, by majority vote of all its members, one of its members to have the title of Deputy Mayor and serve as Vice Chairperson of said Council for the remaining unexpired portion of the Council term. In the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor shall preside over the meetings of the Council and have the duties and responsibilities of the Mayor. The Council may by its Rules of Procedure define the duties of the Mayor.

Section 308. Referendum on certain ordinances and certain appropriations.

Option 1

- a. Upon the filing with the town clerk of a petition as set forth below, any appropriation or any ordinance passed pursuant to Section 307 shall be submitted to the electors of the town at a special election which the council must hold not less than ten (10) days and no more than sixty (60) days after the filing of the petition with the town clerk.
 1. Such petition must be filed with the town clerk within ten (10) days after the publication of the passage of said appropriation or ordinance.
 2. The town clerk shall find and certify that such petition has been validly signed by at least four percent (4%) of the total number of qualified electors of the Town.
- b. For the purposes of this section, the qualified electors shall be those residents of the Town of Bloomfield who are currently registered to vote with the Registrars of Voters.
- c. When such appropriation or ordinance shall be so submitted to the electors, it shall not take effect until such election has been held but shall take effect at the conclusion of such election unless a majority of qualified ballots cast at any referendum conducted pursuant to this Section shall be cast in favor of the referendum.
 1. Qualified ballots shall be construed to mean ballots cast by qualified electors of the Town as defined herein.
 2. If the number of qualified electors voting at any referendum conducted pursuant to this Section shall be less than fifteen percent (15%) of the qualified electors of the Town, the appropriation or ordinance shall be deemed approved notwithstanding that a majority of qualified ballots cast shall be in favor of the referendum.
- d. If a town or general election is to be held within ninety (90) days after the filing of the petition, such vote or ordinance may be submitted to the town or general election instead of a special election.
- e. The provisions of this section shall not apply to a vote making an emergency appropriation as defined in this Charter.

Section 308. Referendum on certain ordinances and certain appropriations.

Option 1

- a. Upon the filing with the town clerk of a petition as set forth below, any appropriation or any ordinance passed pursuant to Section 307 shall be submitted to the electors of the town at a special election which the council must hold not less than ten (10) days and no more than sixty (60) days after the filing of the petition with the town clerk.
 1. Such petition must be filed with the town clerk within ten (10) days after the publication of the passage of said appropriation or ordinance.
 2. The town clerk shall find and certify that such petition has been validly signed by at least four percent (4%) of the total number of qualified electors of the Town.
- b. For the purposes of this section, the qualified electors shall be those residents of the Town of Bloomfield who are currently registered to vote with the Registrars of Voters.
- c. When such appropriation or ordinance shall be so submitted to the electors, it shall not take effect until such election has been held but shall take effect at the conclusion of such election unless a majority of qualified ballots cast at any referendum conducted pursuant to this Section shall be cast in favor of the referendum.
 1. Qualified ballots shall be construed to mean ballots cast by qualified electors of the Town as defined herein.
 2. If the number of qualified electors voting at any referendum conducted pursuant to this Section shall be less than seven and one-half percent (7.5%) of the qualified electors of the Town, the appropriation or ordinance shall be deemed approved notwithstanding that a majority of qualified ballots cast shall be in favor of the referendum.
- d. If a town or general election is to be held within ninety (90) days after the filing of the petition, such vote or ordinance may be submitted to the town or general election instead of a special election.
- e. The provisions of this section shall not apply to a vote making an emergency appropriation as defined in this Charter.

Section 310. Obligatory referendum on bond issues and appropriations.

Option 1

- a. No vote authorizing the issuance of bonds or making of a nonbudgeted appropriation in excess of one and one-half percent (1.5%) of the total annual budget of the town for the then current fiscal year shall become effective until the same has been approved by a majority of qualified ballots cast at any referendum conducted pursuant to this Section.
 1. Qualified ballots shall be construed to mean ballots cast by qualified electors of the Town as defined in Sec. 308(b).
 2. If the number of qualified electors voting at any referendum conducted pursuant to this Section shall be less than fifteen percent (15%) of the qualified electors of the Town, the issuance of bonds or making of a nonbudgeted appropriation shall not be deemed approved notwithstanding that a majority of qualified ballots cast shall be in favor of said issuance of bonds or making of a nonbudgeted appropriation.
- b. Such referendum may be held at a town election, general election, or special election called by the council for that purpose. Such referendum shall be held not less than ten (10) days and no more than sixty (60) days after publication of the notice of the passage of such vote, except that if a town or general election is to be held within ninety (90) days after such vote, such referendum may be held at the town or general election instead of a special election.
- c. No appropriation for part of what is essentially a single transaction shall be made for the purpose of evading the provisions of this section.
- d. In determining whether a nonbudgeted appropriation is more than one and one-half percent (1.5%) of the total annual budget of the town for the then current fiscal year, the council shall deduct from the appropriation a sum equal to any grant received by the town, which grant has been earmarked for said appropriation and shall deduct any revenue or reimbursement to be paid to the town which is directly associated with said appropriation.
- e. Notice that such bond issue or appropriation will be submitted to a town, general or special election shall be given at least ten (10) days prior to the date of such election by publication in a newspaper having a circulation in the town and by posting in the town hall.

Option 2

- a. No vote authorizing the issuance of bonds or making of a nonbudgeted appropriation in excess of one and one-half percent (1.5%) of the total annual budget of the town for the then current fiscal year shall become effective until the same has been approved by a majority of qualified ballots cast at any referendum conducted pursuant to this Section.
 1. Qualified ballots shall be construed to mean ballots cast by qualified electors of the Town as defined in Sec. 308(b).
 2. If the number of qualified electors voting at any referendum conducted pursuant to this Section shall be less than seven and one-half percent (7.5%) of the qualified electors of the Town, the issuance of bonds or making of a nonbudgeted appropriation shall not be deemed approved notwithstanding that a majority of qualified ballots cast shall be in favor of said issuance of bonds or making of a nonbudgeted appropriation.
- b. Such referendum may be held at a town election, general election, or special election called by the council for that purpose. Such referendum shall be held not less than ten (10) days and no more than sixty (60) days after publication of the notice of the passage of such vote, except that if a town or general election is to be held within ninety (90) days after such vote, such referendum may be held at the town or general election instead of a special election.
- c. No appropriation for part of what is essentially a single transaction shall be made for the purpose of evading the provisions of this section.
- d. In determining whether a nonbudgeted appropriation is more than one and one-half percent (1.5%) of the total annual budget of the town for the then current fiscal year, the council shall deduct from the appropriation a sum equal to any grant received by the town, which grant has been earmarked for said appropriation and shall deduct any revenue or reimbursement to be paid to the town which is directly associated with said appropriation.
- e. Notice that such bond issue or appropriation will be submitted to a town, general or special election shall be given at least ten (10) days prior to the date of such election by publication in a newspaper having a circulation in the town and by posting in the town hall.

Section 401. Other elective officers.

The other elective officers, boards and commissions of the town shall, except as provided in this charter, have the powers and duties prescribed by law and by ordinance or resolutions of the Council. The members of the board of education, town plan and zoning commission and board of library directors shall serve without compensation. The compensation of other elective officers, except as otherwise provided by law, shall be fixed by the Council.