

Vote on the revised Watertown Charter

November 2, 2021

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F O R W A R D

Since October 2020, Watertown's Charter Review Committee has, with resident input, been working on revisions to our Home Rule Charter.



What is the Home Rule Charter?

It is our "constitution."

- It determines how our local government's legislative & executive branches work.
- It sets the rules & guiding principles
- It provides checks & balances.
- We review & revise it every 10 years by law.

Not registered?

Go here!



Ballot Question #1: Changing the Name of Watertown

Change our name from "The City Known as the Town of Watertown" to "The City of Watertown."

Ballot Question #2: All other Charter revisions, including:



Balance of power between Council & Manager

The Council will have a stronger role in

- Setting department priorities.
- Recruiting department heads.

The Council will hire a Municipal Analyst, who will help the Council with legislative research and analysis.

Resident engagement & empowerment

- The Manager will appoint a Community Engagement Officer, who will create ways for all residents to share their opinions about needs and opportunities in Watertown.
- The Manager will create a Residents' Advisory Committee, which will help recruit, evaluate, & recommend candidates for appointment to advisory boards & committees.

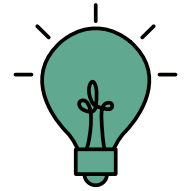
Communication with residents



- The Council President & the Manager will give an annual address on the condition of Watertown & plans for the next year.
- The Council will hold an annual forum to hear from residents about Watertown's policies.
- All Councilors will hold yearly meetings to speak with residents about their priorities, concerns, & ideas for Watertown.

Transparency & accountability with the community

- The Council President will develop Council goals and policies and long-term goals for Watertown.
- The Council will review the Manager annually, with public input, based on measurable performance standards.



Future Charter Reviews



- The committee will be 9 members: 6 residents appointed by the Council President and 3 Councilors.
- The next charter review will occur in 2026, and then every 10 years after.

Equity & belonging for all

- The Council will adopt an ordinance creating a Human Rights Commission by June 30, 2023.
- Watertown will have a non-binding Ethic of Civic & Environmental Stewardship and a set of Guiding Principles rooted in Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.

Take action!

Educate yourself

Vote Tuesday, November 2

Information provided by Watertown Forward

A non-partisan civic action group whose mission is to educate, empower, and engage the Watertown community in our charter review process.

For more information on the Charter Review and a full summary of the proposed changes visit:

www.watertownforward.org

