



**2011 Charter Committee  
Board of Representatives**

John Mallozzi, Co-Chair

Mary Fedeli, Co-Chair

## **Committee Report**

The 2011 Charter Committee of the Board of Representatives met on:

**Date:** Monday, April 23, 2012  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Place:** Democratic Caucus Room  
888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT

Present were Co-Chairs Mallozzi and Fedeli and Committee Member Reps. Summerville, Taylor, Day, Layton and Savage. Excused were Reps. DePina and Sklover. Also present were Donna Loglisci, City & Town Clerk and Charter Commission Co-Chairs Sandak and Freccia.

Co-Chair Fedeli called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. [C28.009](#) REVIEW; timeline for Draft Report from Charter Commission. **REPORT MADE**

Chair Fedeli circulated a [timeline](#) prepared by Valerie Rosenson in the Board Office; she then invited Donna Loglisci to speak. Ms. Loglisci stated:

- September 15 is the day she starts printing the ballots, which must be available on October 5<sup>th</sup>. They are sent to the printer no later than September 21<sup>st</sup>.
- The wording for the ballot should begin in mid August.

Chair Fedeli noted that by holding the charter revision referendum during the presidential election, Stamford will be assured of meeting the required minimum number of voters to approve any changes.

Mr. Sandak stated:

- The Commission is ready to keep to the May 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. While additional time would be appreciated, the Commission has kept to this deadline all along.
- He consulted with the Commission's attorney, who advised that the Commission disbands at the submission of its final report to the Board.

- The Commission needs to approve a Draft Report, hold a public hearing, reconvene to discuss the public input received, and then issue a Final Report.
- Mr. Sandak does not see it as the Charter Commission's responsibility to prioritize the items that will be referred to the BOR.
- The Commission will not be submitting agreed-upon charter language. It will be submitting a spreadsheet that lists the charge, the Commission's recommendation and a brief statement as to the Commission's intent. The Final Report will be in the same format, so the BOR will have to draft the actual charter language along with the ballot questions.
- The Commission's committee work will be completed by next week, at which time the full Commission will begin voting on items. This should not take too long as most of the items have been thoroughly discussed at Commission meetings already.
- The Commission's public hearing will need to be held at least one week before May 15<sup>th</sup>, and he intends on noticing the public hearing next week. The date will be determined at this Wednesday's (April 25) Commission meeting.

Clerk Summerville stated that the Board will hire an attorney to help it with this work. She also added she would not be in favor of hiring the same attorney. Mr. Sandak noted that the BOR should immediately start the process of interviewing and/or selecting an attorney who will be ready to go as soon as the Draft Report is issued.

Rep. Taylor asked Mr. Sandak if he felt that given more time the Commission could do a better job. Mr. Sandak stated that the Commission has worked steadily over the last several months, and no item has received short shrift. Commission members are very familiar with the details related to each charge. For example, in addition to several committee meetings, the Commission met with bond counsel for an entire evening and again with Mr. Privitera for an entire evening to discuss city bonding issues. In this case, as others, no additional time is needed.

The Committee members briefly spoke about the number of questions on the ballot. Five to six questions seemed to be the general consensus.

Ms. Taylor mentioned her concerns regarding having adequate time to do voter education prior to the election. Ms. Fedeli stated that the Commission has already reached out to some neighborhood groups, as she and Rep. Layton have also done. Clerk Summerville stated that many constituents are not going to be familiar with the Charter, are not going to actively educate themselves, and that in the past, there were always enough voters interested and knowledgeable about the process to reach the number of votes required for passage. Clerk Summerville added that in the past, the Board has not really ever had much more

time than this for voter education.

Co-Chair Mallozzi moved to suspend the rules to take up an item not appearing on the Agenda; said motion was seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.

1. [C28.010](#) RESOLUTION; extending the deadline for the Charter Commission's final report from May 15, 2012 to May 22, 2012. **COMMITTEE APPROVED 7-0-0**

Chair Mallozzi moved to extend the Charter Commission deadline by one week, until May 22, 2012; said motion was seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Submitted by,

Mary Fedeli, Co-chair

*This meeting is on [video](#).*