



**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 will meet on:

Date: Tuesday, July 17, 2012

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Democratic Caucus Room, 4th Floor, Government Center,
888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT

The Charter Committee met as indicated above. Present were Chairs Fedeli and Mallozzi and Committee Member Reps. DePina, Savage, Sklover, Summerville, Layton and Taylor. Excused was Committee Member Rep. Day. Also present were Rep. Coppola and Steve Fogerty, Esq., attorney to the Charter Commission/Committee.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. C28.014	RESOLUTION; establishing the Charter Revision Questions for the November 6, 2012 ballot.	HELD IN COMMITTEE

Mr. Fogerty provided sample ballot questions to the Committee members earlier in the day. Co-Chair Fedeli stated that there will be adequate time during the month to ensure that everyone is comfortable with the wording of the questions.

Mr. Fogerty stated he worked closely with the Charter Commission to make sure the proposed changes were in compliance with state, Federal and constitutional law. He also assisted with the drafting of the final language (a copy of the draft charter that will be printed in the newspaper on August 3 was provided to all committee members). Mr. Fogerty stated he has reviewed ballots around the State. He also noted that the wording of the questions must pass muster with the Secretary of State.

Mr. Fogerty added that the single ballot approach has been done in several municipalities, a recent example was Woodbury. Committee members did not feel that Woodbury was similar to Stamford and were generally not in favor of the single ballot question approach.

Committee members discussed the process for education the public. Rep. Savage suggested distributing the ballot to all students so they could take them home. Chair Fedeli stated that she already has 3 speaking engagements lined up to discuss charter revision. She also noted that the League of Women Voters is going to get involved.

Clerk Summerville stated that the Committee needs to work to try and not create a situation where there are long lines at the polls. The Committee discussed at length whether people would answer all the questions or tire after answering a few. Mr. Fogerty cited statistics that indicated this might not be an issue.

Chair Fedeli noted that she wants the questions to be perceived as fair. No matter the outcome, she doesn't want one side or the other feeling the wording of the question impacted votes; to that end, she felt that the questions should have a higher level of detail. Rep. Sklover did not think the wording would have an effect; people are going to know how they are going to vote on issues prior to arriving at the polls.

Rep. Coppola stated that he believes the only fair way to present the question regarding fire service is for it to contain a reference to the "elimination of the volunteer fire departments and the creation of a single combination department."

The Committee discussed the order of the questions, and at the suggestion of Mr. Fogerty, decided to leave the "catch-all" question as the first question. The Committee then discussed the merits of leaving the fire question second on the list or whether placing it toward the end would incent voters to read through and answer more questions. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee voted 5-3-0 to leave the fire question in the Number Two position (Reps. Mallozzi, DePina, Layton, Savage and Summerville in favor; Rep. Fedeli, Sklover and Taylor opposed).

Rep. Layton moved to accept the order as presented by Mr. Fogerty. Said motion was seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Chair Fedeli stated that Question No. 7 should be separated so that voters are given the option of voting on the extension of the constables' term of office as a separate item; Mr. Mallozzi added that voters have rejected this in the past. The new No. 7 question will be related to the holding of a single elected office and the new No. 9 question will relate to the constables.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Commission voted unanimously in favor of reconvening on Tuesday, July 24, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in order to take up the wording of the questions. Mr. Fogerty was asked to provide several options for the fire service question.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Submitted by,

Mary Fedeli, Co-Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).