

GLOCESTER VOTERS

THE QUESTIONS BELOW ARE THE LOCAL QUESTIONS WHICH APPEAR ON THE BALLOT FOR NOVEMBER 3, 2020

There is a brief description for each question. These descriptions are language provided by the Charter Review Commission as part of their recommendation (# 2 -12)

Question 13 is added by the Town Council for voter consideration.

**Questions 2 - 13
Amendments to the Gloucester
Home Rule Charter**
(Resolution of the Town Council
Adopted July 23, 2020)

2. COUNCIL AUTHORIZATION OF CONTRACTS

Shall the Gloucester Town Charter be amended with the addition of language to Article I, Section C1-8, Contracts with other bodies: to include that all contracts or cooperative agreements must be reviewed by the Town Council and executed by the Town Council President or designee, by vote of Town Council?

Approve
Reject

This question is to determine if the Town Council shall review and vote on all Town contracts and agreements before they are signed.

3. LIMITATION ON ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURES

Shall the Gloucester Town Charter be amended with the addition of language to Article III, Section C3-1, Financial Town Referendum, to include: "Once the electors of the Town have voted on the expenditure of money at Financial Town Referendum, no additional expenditures or increases to approved expenditures shall be added without the vote of the electors with the exception of emergency expenditures made pursuant to Article VIII Section C8-10"?

Approve
Reject

***This will prohibit Councils from adding expenditures or increasing expenditures without the electors having a chance to vote on additional funding.**

4. REGIONALIZATION PROPOSALS

Shall the Gloucester Town Charter be amended to include the following language to Article VI Section C6-7, Regionalization: "Any proposal for regionalization must be approved by the Town Council and placed on a referendum, by the Town Council, for elector approval"?

Approve
Reject

*** This amendment would assure that the Town Council and electors have a say in any regionalization proposal**

5. SCHOOL OVER SPENDING NOTIFICATION

Shall the Gloucester Town Charter be amended to include the following language to Article VI, Section C6-10, Over Spending of School Department: After "shall advise the Town Council and the Director of Finance" add "within thirty (30) days of knowing that expenditures, encumbrances and accruals would result in excess of appropriations"?

Approve
Reject

***This addition is because the Charter is not specific as to when the School Committee will advise of overspending.**

6. HR POSITION ELIMINATED FROM FINANCE DEPT.

Shall the Gloucester Town Charter be amended with the repeal of Article VII. Dept. of Finance, Section C7-11. Director of Human Resources, to reflect the position of Director of Human Resources shall be a separate department and not a collateral duty of the Finance Department?

Approve
Reject

***The situation has changed and there is now a Director of Human Resources separate from the Finance Director. Rewording necessary.**

7. NON-PROFIT BUDGET REQUESTS

Shall the Gloucester Town Charter be amended to include language in Article VIII Section C8-2 Budget Board: 1. Duties a. add "and non-profit organization serving the Town of Gloucester residents"?

Approve
Reject

***The Town has historically funded non-profits without apparent authority within the charter. This would add the authority to the charter.**

8. COPIES OF BUDGET

Shall the Gloucester Town Charter be amended to change Article VIII Section C8-3 Budget Board Item 3 and Item 5 to state that sufficient copies of the budget, before and after adoption, shall be made available by the Finance Director and not the Town Clerk?

Approve
Reject

***This would "replace the Town Clerk with Finance Director" as the person to hand out copies of the budget.**

9. LANDTRUST Appropriation

Shall the Gloucester Town Charter be amended to replace language in Article VIII. Section C8-9, Land Trust, to reduce the appropriated amount to the Land Trust from 75% of revenue generated from the payment of Real Estate Conveyance Taxes to 45%?

Approve
Reject

***The Land Trust revenues for the pass three fiscal years have exceeded typical expenditures and those funds are being accumulated by the Land Trust. The reduced percentage would cover historical expenses and generate revenue to the Town to help offset taxes.**

10. FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION INCLUDED

Shall the Gloucester Town Charter be amended to include language in Article XIV Section C14-8, Item 1 Prohibition, to include all forms of discrimination and should include Sex, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Marital Status, National Origin and Disability?

Approve
Reject

***This section does not include all forms of discrimination and should include those listed in question**

11. APPOINTED TOWN PLANNER

Shall the Gloucester Town Charter be amended to include language adding the position of an appointed Town Planner?

Approve
Reject

***There is no mention of a Town Planner in the Charter, which is a position the Town has.**

12. APPOINTED RECREATION DIRECTOR

Shall the Gloucester Town Charter be amended to include language adding the position of an appointed Recreation Director?

Approve
Reject

***There is no mention of a Town Recreation Director in the Charter, which is a position the Town has.**

13. APPOINTED TOWN MANAGER

Shall the Gloucester Town Charter be amended to change language in Article I., C1-2. Form of Government, to change from a Town Council form of government to a Town Council/Appointed Manager form of government (employment requirements, powers, and duties, of said manager, shall be determined by an enactment in the Gloucester Code of Ordinance)?

Approve
Reject

This question would determine if the form of government should be changed to include a Town Council appointed Town Manager. If approved the requirements, powers, and duties would be determined after a Public Hearing. If not approved the form of government would remain as is.

***Language used by the 2020 Charter Review Commission when recommended to the Town Council**