

PUBLIC COMMENT SOUGHT ON CITY OF LEWISTON CHARTER AMENDMENTS/REVISIONS

The Lewiston Charter Review Committee is seeking public comments on potential changes/revisions to the City Charter. The Committee has identified the following major issues on which public comment is sought:

- Should the Mayor be able to vote on all issues before the Council, and, if so, should the number of Councilors be reduced to six or increased to eight with the addition of a Councilor at Large?
- Should the Mayor continue to have exclusive authority to appoint members to City Boards and Commissions and Ad-hoc Committees, or should such appointments be either made by the City Council or subject to confirmation by the City Council?
- Should the age requirement for elective city office be reduced from 20 to 18 to match the voting age?
- Should the City Council and School Committee be elected for staggered terms, and, if so, should term length be extended to three years with one-third of the positions up for election each year or four years with one-half of the positions on the ballot every two years?
- Should the City adopt instant run-off (rank choice) voting for the office of Mayor, for all elective offices?
- Should there be term limits on elected officials, and, if so, how long should they be for?
- Should the Charter include a provision for recalling an elected official?
- Should the current five-year term for members of the Planning Board and Board of Appeals be reduced to four years, and should the current associate members on these Boards be eliminated or transferred to full membership?
- Given that state law has pre-empted the Charter's provisions on adopting the school budget, should this change be reflected in the Charter, and should other changes be made in the budget process including the current expenditure limitation language?
- Should the current provision that requires a public referendum when bonds in an amount above 15% of the prior year's tax levy are required for a capital project be revised or eliminated?

The Committee would also be interested in any other comments or suggestions members of the public might have on issues that should be reviewed and addressed as the review process continues.

A Public Hearing has been scheduled for the next meeting of the Charter Review Committee. That meeting will be held on May 3, 2021, at 5 p.m. and can be viewed at <http://www.lewistonmaine.gov/2021charter> In addition, written comments are encouraged and will be shared with all members of the Committee. Such comments should be addressed to publiccomment@lewistonmaine.gov