

The following Ballot Question and Summary will appear on the ballot for the election to be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2017. It is reproduced here to give voters an opportunity to become familiar with it prior to Election Day. Please note that the summary is necessarily brief and describes the most significant of the proposed changes. The Final Report of the Charter Commission on the pages that follow contains the entire proposed charter.

BALLOT QUESTION AND SUMMARY

Shall this city approve the new charter recommended by the charter commission, summarized below?

_____ **Yes** _____ **No**

SUMMARY

Effective at the 2019 municipal election, voters will continue to elect a mayor, a 9 member city council, and 6 members of the school committee, all at-large. The mayor shall continue to serve as chair of the school committee. All elected officials will be elected by the voters citywide for 2-year terms.

The charter contains procedures for adoption of an annual operating budget, a long-term financial forecast, a debt management plan and a capital improvement plan. The council will review and approve all proposed mayoral appointments. There is a public comment provision applying to all elected and appointed bodies. The mayor is responsible for assuring that the planning and management needs of the city are examined on a regular basis. Free petition, initiative petition, referendum, and recall provisions are included allowing for direct voter participation. An elected official convicted of a state or federal felony while holding office must vacate the office. Candidates may seek only one office at each election. Members of the city council and school committee will be prohibited from holding any other city position while in office. The charter will be initially reviewed after 5 years. After that review, the charter will be reviewed in 10-year intervals in each year ending in a 7. Ordinances will be reviewed at 5-year intervals in years ending in a 3 and 8.