

**WEST GREENWICH, RI
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
WEST GREENWICH HOME RULE CHARTER AMENDMENTS**

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing on proposed Amendments to the West Greenwich Home Rule Charter is scheduled for a Town Council Meeting to be held on

**Monday, August 2, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.,
At the West Greenwich Town Hall, 280 Victory Highway, West Greenwich, RI.**

These proposed amendments to the Charter include, but are not necessarily limited to:

1. A proposal that would subject all elected town officials, regardless of the length of their term, to removal by recall petition after six months in office. Currently, only those officials elected to four year terms are subject to removal procedures.
2. A proposal that would eliminate restrictions on reappointments and provide that all appointees become regular employees, subject to removal only for good and sufficient cause, after serving one 2-year term and one subsequent 5-year term. Currently, those officials are considered regular employees from the commencement of their employment. This provision would also remove the limitation of a maximum five year term for reappointments.
3. A proposal that would make the position of Town Clerk one that is appointed by the Town Council, and not limited to electors of the town. Currently, the Town Clerk is an elected official, and officeholders are limited to electors of the Town of West Greenwich.
4. A proposal to extend the terms of alternate members of the Planning Board from one year to two years. Additionally, those terms would be staggered, such that the term of one member shall expire and one appointment be made every year.
5. A proposal to extend the terms of alternate members of the Zoning Board of Review, from one year to two years. All terms would be staggered, so that the term of one member shall expire and one appointment be made every year.
6. A proposal to extend the terms of alternate members of the Conservation Commission from one year to two years.
7. A proposal requiring that all protested taxes or valuations be paid before appeals may be heard by the Board of Assessment Review.

8. A proposal requiring the Louttit Public Library to have an annual financial statement prepared by a Certified Public Accountant for review by the Town Treasurer along with the Library's tax return. No such oversight of the Library's finances is currently in place.
9. A proposal requiring the Fire Board of Engineers and each individual fire and rescue company to have an annual financial statement prepared by a Certified Public Accountant for review by the Town Treasurer along with their tax returns. No such oversight of the Board of Engineers or each individual company's finances is currently in place.
10. A proposal that would rename the position of Highway Supervisor "Public Works Director," and eliminate residency requirements for that position.
11. A proposal that would heighten ethics standards for members of the Town Council by prohibiting them from voting on any proposal from which they may, directly or indirectly, derive some financial benefit.
12. A proposal that would require a Charter Review Commission to be appointed every ten years to review the Town Charter and make proposed revisions and amendments. This process currently occurs every five years.
13. A proposal that would allow the Town Council to fill any vacancies on town boards and commissions for the balance of the unexpired term.
14. A proposal that would require that any publication of a proposal, document or public notice be made in the Town Hall, and on the websites of both the Secretary of State and the Town. Currently, publication is required in newspapers as well.

If approved by the Town Council, any one or all of the above proposals, or any new proposal that may be brought forth at the Public Hearing, would be placed on the November General Elections Ballot, and would only become effective upon voter approval.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE that the proposed amendments may be altered or further amended so long as they are raised and presented for comment prior to the close of the public hearing.

A copy of the Charter Amendment proposals listed above are available for public inspection and/or may be obtained at the Office of the Town Clerk between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. Anyone wishing to be heard on proposed Charter revisions should be present at the aforementioned date and time.

Janet Olsson, Town Clerk.

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