

**NOTICE OF FIRST AND SECOND PUBLIC HEARINGS**  
**ON PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS**  
**FOR MARCH 3, 2020 ANNUAL CITY MEETING**

Pursuant to the requirements of 17 V.S.A. Sec. 2645, the first public hearing concerning proposed amendments to the Burlington City Charter by the City Council will be held Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in Contois Auditorium, City Hall, Burlington, Vermont. The second public hearing concerning these proposed charter amendments will be held on Monday, January 27, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in Contois Auditorium, City Hall, Burlington, Vermont.

These charter amendments are proposed to be voted on at the Tuesday, March 3, 2020 Annual City Meeting.

The following changes (deleted matter in brackets and strikeout and new matter underlined) are being proposed by the City Council:

1. *“Shall the Charter of the City of Burlington, Acts of 1949, No. 298 as amended be further amended to add a new section 102f as follows:*

**102f Annual assessment for Housing Trust Fund use authorized.**

The city council shall annually assess upon the property grand list of the city to assist in meeting the appropriation made for distributions and uses of the Housing Trust Fund as set forth in Article 18-404 of the Code of Ordinances that will, in the judgment of the city council, be sufficient to assist in meeting such appropriation, but the rate shall not exceed one cent upon the dollar of the property grand list, except when a larger rate shall be authorized by the legal voters of the city. The tax shall not be included within the limitations of the amount of tax for city purposes prescribed in section 99 of this chapter.?”

2. *“Shall the City of Burlington charter, as amended, be further amended to change the dates for submission of petitions, warnings, and availability of ballots for local elections, as follows:*

§3. Election of Mayor and City Councilors

Election of Mayor. On the first Tuesday in March 2003 and triennially thereafter, the legal voters of the City shall, from among the legal voters thereof, elect a Mayor. Notwithstanding any provision of this charter or the general statutes, no person shall be eligible to have his or her name printed on the ballot as a candidate for the Office of Mayor who has not submitted a nominating petition signed by at least 150 registered voters of the City [~~within the time limits specified in 17 V.S.A. chapter 55, as the same may be amended from time to time~~]. Nominations of the municipal officers shall be by petition as specified in 17 V.S.A. Chapter 55 excepting 17 V.S.A. § 2681(a)(1)(A). Instead, the petition shall be filed with the municipal clerk, together with the endorsement, if any, of any party or parties in accordance with the provisions of this

title, not later than 5:00 p.m. on the ninth Monday preceding the day of the election, which shall be the filing deadline.

...

#### § 6. Requirements generally

(a) All warnings for meetings for the election of City or ward officers, and for general meetings of all the legal voters of said City, for any purpose, shall be issued by the Mayor and published in the manner and for the length of time designated in 17 V.S.A. chapter 55 relating to local elections as the same may be amended from time to time.

(b) Upon request of the City Council by resolution or upon petition signed by five percent of the legal voters, filed with the Chief Administrative Officer no later than 60 days prior to the election [~~the deadline established in 17 V.S.A. chapter 55 as the same may be amended from time to time~~], the Mayor shall insert in the warning for the annual City meeting any special article for any legal purpose beyond the jurisdiction of the City Council, said purpose to be set forth in said article as stated in such resolution or petition and the Chief Administrative Officer shall prepare suitable ballots in sufficient quantities for the vote upon such article; provided, however, that any petition for the insertion of any article calling for the resubmission, reconsideration or rescission of any question previously submitted to the legal voters of said City shall be filed not later than the deadline established for requesting reconsideration or rescission of a prior vote as specified in 17 V.S.A. § 2661 as the same may be amended from time to time; and provided further, that no question previously submitted to the legal voters of said City shall be more than once resubmitted or presented for reconsideration or rescission except upon request of the City Council by resolution. Each page of a petition filed under this section shall bear the full text of the petition, each signature to such petition shall be witnessed, each signer of such petition shall set after his or her signature his or her legal address within the City, and any part of such petition not conforming to these requirements shall be invalid.

...

#### § 22. Ballots

For all City or ward or City district elections, and also for the election of justices of the peace in said City, the Chief Administrative Officer shall prepare all official ballots, consistent with the requirements of any regulation adopted under section 5 of this chapter, and otherwise in the same manner and subject to all the provisions of the laws of this State providing for and regulating the preparation and distribution of official ballots in towns and cities with the exception that ballots will be prepared at least 45 days before the local election; provided, however, that said Chief Administrative Officer shall cause to be printed for every ward or City district in said City not less than 60 ballots for every 50 names or fractional part thereof on the voting list prepared and posted in such ward or City district for any such election; and further provided that said Chief Administrative Officer shall deliver to the inspectors of election in each ward on the day of such election and before the hour for opening the polls in said ward, such number of blocks of ballots containing 100 each as shall nearest represent two thirds of the whole number required to be

printed for such ward or City district, and shall retain the balance of the ballots for each ward or City district so prepared.?”

3. *“Shall the City of Burlington charter, Acts of 1949, No. 298, as amended, be further amended to add a Section 8a to Article 4 as follows:*

8a Requirements for Non-Citizen Voters

(a) Notwithstanding section 7 above, a non-citizen shall be a legal voter at a local City of Burlington or Burlington School District election if the individual is a legal resident of the United States, who is not less than 18 years of age, has taken the Voter’s Oath, resides in the City of Burlington, and has registered to vote with the Board for Registration of Voters no later than the deadline established by Vermont law for that election or meeting.

(b) For purposes of this section, a legal resident of the United States means any non-citizen who resides in the United States on a permanent or indefinite basis in compliance with federal immigration laws.

(c) This section does not change a non-citizen’s ability to vote in any state or federal election.

(d) A non-citizen legal voter shall vote only in the City ward or district of which the individual is a resident at the time of voting.

(e) Any non-citizen legal voter shall vote on a ballot containing only local Burlington questions and candidates, except for justices of the peace. The Chief Administrative Officer shall develop all necessary forms and procedures for implementation of this section.?”

\* Material underlined added.

\*\* Material stricken out deleted and bracketed.

**The official copy of the proposed charter amendments with the specific changes being proposed shall be posted in or near the Clerk’s Office and at least two public places in the city by Saturday, January 11, 2020 for public inspection; copies will also be made available to members of the public upon their request.**