

**Proposed Revision of The Charter of the Town of Weston
to be voted on in the Town of Weston in the Election to be held on
Tuesday, November 3, 2026**

The information below describes revisions to the Charter that are referred to in the questions. Article and Section references are to the proposed Sections. Adoption of the changes is proposed as three (3) questions. Therefore, a **“Yes”** vote is a vote for the adoption of the proposed revision described in the question. A **“No”** vote is a vote against the adoption of the proposed revision described in the question, and to leave those Articles and Sections of the current Charter unchanged. A majority vote on the question determines whether the proposed revisions pertaining to this question are approved or not.

Copies of the current Town Charter and the proposed draft Town Charter are available on the Town of Weston website: www.westonct.gov/charter-revision and in the office of the Town Clerk. Copies of the proposed revisions and this Explanatory Text will also be available at the polling place during early voting and on Election Day, November 3, 2026.

BALLOT QUESTIONS

- #1. Shall the Charter be revised to change the limitation on majority party representation on Boards and Commission from a bare majority to the maximum number permitted under State law (C.G.S. §9-167a)(Art. 1, §1.8)?

EXPLANATORY TEXT

If approved, this proposal would change the maximum number of seats one political party can have on a board or commission from the current simple majority to the limits provided in the State law. By way of example, in a 7-member board the current charter allows one party a maximum of 4 seats (a bare majority). A “yes” vote on this question would allow one party to have a maximum of 5 seats per the State law. The maximum number of seats allowed under State Statute is as follows:

State Law (Conn. General Statutes 9-167a)

Column 1 – Total Membership	Column II – Maximum from one Party
3	2
4	3
5	4
6	4
7	5
8	5
9	6
More than 9	Two-thirds of total membership

- #2. Shall the Charter be amended to eliminate the ability of the Annual Town Budget Meeting to reduce or eliminate any item in the budget prior to the budget going directly to referendum for approval or disapproval by the voters (Art. 9, §9.5)?

EXPLANATORY TEXT

Under the current charter, electors attending the Annual Town Budget Meeting may vote to reduce or remove line items in the proposed budget before it is submitted to referendum, where all eligible voters may vote to approve or reject the budget. If approved, this proposal would change the process by providing that the proposed budget proceed directly to referendum without amendment by the Town Meeting. The Town Meeting would continue to provide an opportunity for public discussion of the proposed budget.

- #3. Shall the remaining proposed Charter amendments contained in the Final Report of the Charter Revision Commission, dated July 13, 2026, as approved by the Board of Selectmen on July 23, 2026, be approved?

EXPLANATORY TEXT

If approved, the remaining proposed revisions to the Charter address other issues raised by the Board of Selectmen in the resolution creating the Commission and items discussed under the Charter Revision Commission’s purview. These revisions include:

Preamble. The Preamble to the Charter was amended to include an additional reference to recognize the role of volunteers in the civic life of Weston.

Article 1 – The Charter; Town Code. Many changes include recodification and “Alignment Edits” which address defined terms, capitalization and errata. However, there are several significant changes, as follows:

- (a) **1.3 – Definitions.** Moves current Article 11 addressing definitions to Article I and adding a number of new definitions of terms used in the Charter.
- (b) **§1.4 – Conflict of Interest and Ethics.** Current Article 10 entitled “Ethical Standards” will be moved to Article I. The new language in §1.4 merges the current requirements with legal standards codified in the ordinances. The proposed Charter sets forth standards designed to include due process requirements and a series of remedies or penalties for violating the ethics provisions.
- (c) **§1.5 – Open Meetings and Public Records.** This provision underscores the statutory mandates for open meetings and public records.
- (d) **§1.6 – Rules of Order and Civility.** This provision addresses the need to conduct “orderly and fair administrative proceedings” by assuring public decorum at Public Meetings and identifying the role of the presiding officer in maintaining such rules.
- (e) **§1.7 – Removal of Elected and Appointed Public Officials.** This provision consolidates current §§7.7 and 8.5(b) in Article I and it includes grounds for removal: willful malfeasance; willful neglect of duty; inability to serve; conviction of a felony. However, a provision was added to make clear that the felony conviction would take place “...after becoming a Public Official” in order to constitute grounds for removal; a violation of 9.10(f) of the Charter as well as any new standard adopted by Ordinance (although the provision would only be applicable to a Public Official following re-election); in other words, you cannot create a standard for removal against an Official during their term of office. You are confined to the Charter requirements.

Article 3 – The Town Meeting. No changes except for Alignment Edits and the following:

- (a) **§3.4(g)** repeals a process that would allow for the restoration of the Town Clerk and Tax Collector as elected officials.

Article 4 – Board of Selectmen. No changes except for Alignment Edits and minor revisions including procedure to approve job descriptions and hiring of department heads.

Article 5 – First Selectman; Town Administrator. No changes with the exception of Alignment Edits and minor revisions including identifying the First Selectman as the First Selectperson, defining the position as the chief executive officer of the Town as defined by State law, and clarifying hiring and termination procedures with current practice.

Article 6 – Elected Officials, Boards and Commissions. No changes with the exception of Alignment Edits and the following:

- (a) **§6.2(a)** removes the Town Clerk from the list of elected officials and the position is added to Appointed Officials in §8.2(a) which corrects the Charter.
- (b) **§6.2(b) (1)** eliminates reference to prior Charter Revision changing the term of the Board of Finance; and (2) reduces the size of the Board of Police Commissioners from 7 to 5 members, including a transition provision to implement the modification.
- (c) **§6.4(a)** eliminates the current standard for minority party representation to correspond to the change in §1.8 of the Charter.
- (d) **§6.4(c)** establishes the methodology of ballot placement to facilitate the provisions pertaining to minority party representation.
- (e) **§6.6(c)** repeals the process to return the Town Clerk to status as an elected official.

Article 7 - Elections. No changes with the exception of Alignment Edits and the following:

- (a) **§7.3** clarifies the *ex officio* status of the Board of Admission of Electors as an exception to the rules pertaining to minority party representation.
- (b) **§7.5 – Tie Vote** separates the treatment of tie votes retaining the current protocol for another election in a tie election or primary. It takes out referendum from that category and deems a tie to be tantamount to a “rejection.”
- (c) **§7.6** establishes criteria for the selection of candidates elected independent of a political party following a vacancy, including replacement by a “person of the same registration status as the person vacating the position.”
- (d) **§7.7** regarding removal of elected officials is revised and recodified in §1.7.

Article 8 – Appointed Officials, Boards and Commissions. No changes with the exception of Alignment Edits and the following:

- (a) **Section 8.1(b)** memorializes Elector requirement for Board and Commissioner membership but excludes student members who must be residents of the Town.
- (b) **Section 8.1(c)** encourages appointing authorities to appoint Board and Commission members

with the requisite “knowledge, expertise, experience and diversity.”

- (c) **Section 8.2(a)** changes the title of “Building Inspector” to “Building Official,” adds the “Town Clerk” as an appointed official correcting the misplacement noted above in §6.2 (a), and amends the term for the Tree Warden to follow State statute.
- (d) **Section 8.2(b)** adds three alternates to the Commission on the Arts, including a transition provision; eliminates the requirement for two students on the Commission on Children and Youth and authorizes an Ordinance permitting non-voting ex-officio students on the Commission.
- (e) **Section 8.4** eliminates the current standard for minority party representation to correspond to the change in §1.8.
- (f) **Section 8.5(b)** repeals the removal provision for the consolidated provision in §1.7.
- (g) **Section 8.6(a)(1)** clarifies that the Town may retain a law firm to provide legal services to the Town with the designation of a firm member to hold the title “Town Attorney.”
- (h) **Section 8.6(d)(1)** maintains the Tax Collector as an Appointed Official and repeals the process for making the Tax Collector an elected official.
- (i) **Section 8.6(e)**. The revisions underscore the importance of an independent Board of Ethics with staggered terms to ensure continuity. Other revisions include: (1) Mandatory training requirements. Members who fail to maintain their mandatory training are subject to removal from the Board. (2) Authority for the Town to adopt an ordinance conferring subpoena authority on the Board of Ethics. (i) In the event the authority is exercised, the Charter limits the use of the subpoena. Such authority is granted, only following a consultation with the Town Attorney or independent counsel in the event of a conflict; and an affirmative vote of all five members of the Board and (ii) As a further cautionary step the Charter prohibits the approval of the adoption of an ordinance for a period of at least one year from the effective date of the charter and then will be in effect as of the year following approval. The intent of the delay is to provide assurance to the public that subpoena authority is not being created to achieve any targeted political use. (3) The Board also has the authority to dismiss complaints if a complainant breaches the confidentiality of the process, required by state law, prior to a finding of “probable cause.” (4) Composition of the Board of Ethics cannot have more than 2 members from the same political party.

Article 9 – Finance and Taxation. No changes except for Alignment Edits and the following:

- (a) **Section 9.1(c)** codifies a “Public Forum” process for the proposed Board of Education budget on or before February 3rd of each year prior to approval of a proposed budget request. The Charter requires the Board of Education to (1) post on its website the proposed budget request and (2) repost the latest version of the quarterly report of current and projected expenditures and revenues as required by Law.
- (b) **§9.2(d)** is a restatement and reordering of the second paragraph following current §9.2(c) pertaining to the recommendation of a capital budget by the First Selectperson.
- (c) **§9.4(a)** requires the Board of Finance to conduct a Public Forum as the first meeting in the Public Hearing process.
- (d) **§9.4(b)** requires the First Selectperson to present the recommendations of the Board of Selectmen. The First Selectperson shall make available such Public Officials as may be required by the Board of Finance to facilitate public dialogue during the Forum. At any Public Forum, the Chair of the Board of Finance shall appoint a member of the Panel of Moderators to preside and facilitate the dialogue between the public and Public Officials.
- (e) **§9.6(c)** clarifies the current provision by stating that “a tie vote means the matter or issue has been rejected.”
- (f) **§9.9(a)** increases the amount the Board of Selectmen can use to add appropriations for any Department, Board or Commission from the current \$5,000 to \$10,000 so long as the total sum appropriated for “all Town Departments, Boards and Commissions” does not exceed \$100,000 up from \$50,000.
- (g) **§9.10(c)-(g)** clarifies processes pertaining to inter- and intra-departmental transfers, year-end transfers and orderly close-out of the Town budget and public emergency transfers. If approved, budget neutral intra-departmental transfers (within a department budget) could be approved by the Board of Selectmen in the amount of \$35,000 subject to certain conditions. Inter-departmental transfers (between departments) could be approved by the Board of Selectmen in amounts less than \$15,000. Amounts over \$15,000 require Board of Finance concurrence.
- (h) **§9.10(h)** clarifies protocols related to the administration of Public Officials or Employees who make or receive prohibited payments and expenditures including the responsibility of the Town Attorney or a designee chosen by the Board of Selectmen to sue for the recovery of such payments.

Article 10 – Miscellaneous Provisions. **Current Articles 10** (“Ethical Standards”) and **Article 11** (“Definitions”) are repealed as these provisions are now incorporated and revised in **Article 1**. There are no changes in current **Article 12** which has been shifted to this Article with the exception of the requirement for periodic review of the Charter not later than ten years from October 1, 2025.