



Former State Representative Leads Effort to Fight the Proposed Framingham City Charter

*John Stasik is Chairman of
"Not THIS Charter"*

Framingham, MA (February 8, 2017) – Framingham residents opposed to the proposed city charter have formed a ballot question committee know as Not THIS Charter, naming John Stasik as Chairman. Stasik is a former State Representative, Framingham Selectman, Planning Board Member and an active member of Friends of Saxonville. He was originally a member of Framingham First, the group leading the city charter effort. .

"Once I had every hope that the time was right to modify Framingham government," Stasik said. "I joined Framingham First and believed a charter commission would frame a government structure that would be good for Framingham. Unfortunately, I was wrong. The city charter created by the commission reduces representation and citizen engagement. To dismantle our entire government and replace it with something totally different, it better be right. This is not, and adopting it would be a terrible mistake. One of the reasons Framingham has not turned into a major metropolis is because involved people don't have to be professional politicians. Their full focus is on advocacy." Stasik says, "The proposed city structure puts too much power in the hands of too few people. Big money and special interests follow centralized power, and that can change the entire feel of a community."

According to the Massachusetts Office of Campaign Finance, in 2015 two candidates running for Mayor in Waltham spent a combined \$207,000 competing for the seat, whereas in Quincy the spending for two candidates soared to over \$850,000. Stasik said "that money doesn't come from residents, it comes from outside interests and big business, many seeking access to the mayor who has the power to control most decisions with few checks and balances."

Recently Framingham's Town Meeting adopted legislation to reduce its size, voluntarily impose strict ethics laws and increase the quorum. NOT THIS CHARTER supports those changes and others to be brought forward by the Government Study Committee which will reform the current government structure. "There's no need to push this city charter through when better options are forthcoming which will ensure a higher level of citizen participation and have a greater impact on Framingham long term," Stasik said. "We will support smart change, but not THIS city charter change."

For more information go to notthischarter.com or email jhstasik@verizon.net. NOT THIS CHARTER is also on Facebook.

NOT THIS CHARTER urges residents to VOTE NO on the proposed city ("home rule") charter April 4, 2017.