

Vote NO April 4th



There's Too Much Wrong With THIS Proposed City Charter

- *Too Much Power Vested in One Person*
- *Very Weak Checks and Balances*
- *Less Representation for Neighborhoods*
- *Invites Big Money and it's Influence into Local Politics*
- *Voters are Misled by not Mentioning "City" on the ballot*

The Mayor Has Too Much Power

- The Mayor appoints over 160 people, including high-level managers, boards, committees, and commissions, and also has final authority for hiring and firing municipal employees.
- The Mayor may attend and participate as a non-voting member in all multi-member bodies, including the School Committee, Planning Board, and Zoning Board of Appeals.
- The Planning Board will no longer be elected. The Mayor will essentially control development in town with appointments to the Planning Board, Zoning Board, and full authority over the Division of Planning and Community Development.

The Council is Weaker and Less Representative Than Town Meeting

- The Mayor can veto almost any Council action. Now, no one can veto Town Meeting votes.
- The Council can only decrease the Mayor's municipal and capital budgets. Town meeting can increase or decrease any budget with a majority vote, including the School Department.
- Combining precincts with uneven voting populations means less representation for some precincts, and at-large Council members will mean more representation for other precincts.
- Politicians who rely on special interest campaign donations replace the diverse citizen representation of Town Meeting members who cannot be bought.

The Mayor Controls the School Budget, Not the School Committee

- The Mayor can ignore School Committee recommendations when setting the budget.
- The Mayor and just 4 councilors can block an increase in the school budget.

Big Money and Political Savvy Matter More than Professional Qualifications

- The Mayor doesn't need any qualifications or skills to run for office.
- Mayors often have to raise big money (six figures) to acquire or maintain power.
- Large donors, including special interests like developers and business owners, and campaign supporters have greater access to the Mayor and the Council. They can influence appointments, contracts, and decisions about development and policy.

The Charter Will Be Very Difficult to Change if it is Adopted

- A review committee will be appointed by those in power after 5 years.
- The council is not obligated to bring suggested changes to the voters.
- Major structural change will require thousands of signatures.

Please Vote No on April 4th For more information go to NotTHISCharter.com