

NOTICE TO ALL WINOOSKI VOTERS
Special City Meeting – November 2020
(held in conjunction with the November General Election)

On the ballot for the General Election you will see three questions related to proposed charter changes as part of a Special City Meeting. While the questions are presented in short form, the City wanted to share the full proposed change with all registered voters.

What is the Winooski City Charter? Our charter is the document that defines the organization, powers, functions and essential procedures of our city government. In Vermont, it's also State law and has to be amended by the voters and then approved by the Legislature and signed into law by the Governor. That means if voters approve these changes, two more approvals will be required before the changes become law.

Public Hearings on this Proposed Charter Change will be held remotely via Zoom on:

- **Tuesday, September 29, 2020 at 6 PM**
Attend online: <https://zoom.us/j/99382649235>
Attend by phone: 1 646 558 8656
- **Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 6 PM**
Attend online: <https://zoom.us/j/95917895767>
Attend by phone: 1 646 558 8656

Attend a public hearing to learn more, ask questions, and share thoughts. You can attend by telephone or computer. We recommend filling out our public comment request form if you intend to participate. Doing so will help us organize comments in an orderly and respectful manner. To sign up, please visit <https://www.winooski.vt.gov/publiccomment>. This link will be included with the meeting warnings at <https://www.winooski.vt.gov> – please sign up for our email notifications to receive these warnings.

More information, including the full charter document with the proposed changes and a link to an informational video on this change is available at <https://www.winooski.vt.gov/charter>. This webpage will answer most FAQs.

PROPOSED CHANGE #1

Language you will see on the ballot:

ARTICLE I: REVISED CHARTER (PART 1)

Shall the voters of the City of Winooski approve and adopt amendments to the "Charter of the City of Winooski" authorizing all legal residents of the City (including those who are not U.S. citizens) to vote in City and school elections and meetings, to provide certain protections to the voter checklists maintained by the City Clerk, and to make other conforming amendments.



Full text of the Charter (Changes indicated by strike through text that will be removed and newly added text underlined):

§ 19-201. City meetings

The annual City meeting shall occur on the first Tuesday in March, and shall be warned in the manner provided by general law. Special City meetings shall be called and warned as provided by general law. All elections, voter registration and qualifications, absentee voting, and the conduct of such City meetings shall be controlled as set forth in Section 19-202 below ~~by general law~~. All matters shall be considered by Australian ballot.

§ 19-202. Qualified voters

- (a) Voter registration, ~~qualification~~, absentee voting, and conduct of elections at all annual and special meetings shall be as provided by general law. The qualifications of voters for state and federal elections shall be as provided by general law. The qualifications of voters in the City meetings and all municipal elections shall be as set forth in subsection (b) below. ~~The same as those prescribed by law for voters in town meetings.~~
- (b) Any person (including persons who are non-U.S. citizens, notwithstanding the provisions of 17 V.S.A. §2121(a)(1)) may register to vote in any City meeting or municipal election who, on election day:
 - (i) Is a legal resident of the City;
 - (ii) Has taken the voter's oath; and
 - (iii) Is 18 years of age or older.
- (c) The City Clerk shall maintain a voter checklist for City meetings and municipal elections, in accordance with subsection (b) above, and separate and apart from the voter checklist maintained for state and federal elections.
- (d) The voter checklists maintained by the City Clerk for both municipal elections and state and federal elections shall be subject to the protections given to the statewide voter checklist as set forth in 17 V.S.A. § 2154(b), (c), and (d).

§ 19-105. Power over water resources

(a) No ~~citizen person~~, association of ~~citizens persons~~, ~~domestic corporation~~ corporate entity, or municipality, or any combination thereof, may develop, conserve, or use in whole or in part the water resources of the Winooski River as it flows through the City of Winooski for a water power project located in whole or in part in the City of Winooski without obtaining the approval of the City Council of the City of Winooski in addition to any other necessary State or federal agency approvals.

§ 19-304. General powers and duties

(b) Additional powers. In addition to powers otherwise conferred upon it by law, the City, by the action of the Council or, if specifically required by law or this charter, by the action of its voters, has the following powers and rights, including:

(7) To provide for ~~citizen~~ resident participation in appropriate departments.

§ 19-602. ~~Citizen~~ Resident engagement

(a) [Repealed.]

(b) The City Council may appoint additional boards and commissions at its discretion or as required by law.

(c) The boards, committees, commissions, and agencies shall exercise all powers and duties as prescribed by law, ordinance, or administrative code, or a combination of these, and the City Council shall approve a charter and bylaws specifying the powers, duties, organization, and procedures of each board, committee, commission, and agency.

(d) All unpaid appointments of ~~citizens~~ residents to the boards, committees, commissions, and agencies shall be for a term certain. ~~Citizens Residents~~ once appointed to a term may only be removed for cause or after unanimous vote by the City Council. If ad hoc committees are created, the appointment will cease upon completion of the Committee's task.



PROPOSED CHANGE #2

Language you will see on the ballot:

ARTICLE II: REVISED CHARTER (PART 2)

Shall the voters of the City of Winooski approve and adopt amendments to the "Charter of the City of Winooski" to permit voters to adopt Charter amendments that have been approved by the Vermont Legislature for other municipalities.

Full text of the Charter (Changes indicated by strike through text that will be removed and newly added text underlined):

§ 19-907. Amendment of the charter

This ~~act~~ Charter may be altered, amended, or repealed as follows:

- (1) ~~By~~ By the General Assembly whenever the public good shall require; or
- (2) By the General Assembly upon proposal by the City in compliance with the provisions of 17 V.S.A. § 2645 (or successor statute); or
- (3) By the City Council, upon approval by a majority vote of the voters of the City. Any Charter amendments approved by the City Council under this Subsection (3) must conform to a charter provision authorized by the General Assembly for another municipality of the State. Such amendment by the City Council and approved by the voters shall be effective only upon written notice of such amendment given to the Secretary of State.

A copy of all acts in alteration, amendment, or repeal shall be kept in the office of the City Clerk of the City of Winooski, and the copy shall be certified by the Secretary of State as provided in section 905 of this charter.

PROPOSED CHANGE #3

Language you will see on the ballot:

ARTICLE III: REVISED CHARTER (PART 3)

Shall the voters of the City of Winooski approve and adopt amendments to the "Charter of the City of Winooski" making certain administrative changes to the Charter and described as follows:

- 1) To conform the Charter to state law requirements for signing petitions (Section 19-205);
- 2) To remove language referring to volunteer firefighters (Section 19-305);
- 3) To permit the City Manager to give to the staff person performing human resource functions the title of "Human Resource Director" (Sections 19-506 and 19-603);
- 4) To amend the provision relating to the tax assessment of commercial properties to conform to current practice (Section 19-717); and
- 5) To modify the Oath of Office language to eliminate religious references (Section 19-903).

Full text of the Charter: These sections are available at <https://www.winooski.vt.gov/charter> or are available in hardcopy at City Hall.



هذه الوثيقة توضح لكم التغيير الذي يسمح لكل الأشخاص الساكنين في ونوسكي بالتصويت المحلي في انتخابات المدينة والمدرسة في ونوسكي. إذا كنت ترغب الحصول على معلومات أكثر أو تود التكلم لشخص ما حول هذا الموضوع رجاء اتصل بالمتريمة (عبير الزبيدي) على رقم الهاتف (802-829-8533) لمناقشة هذا الموضوع وللإستفسار عن موعد التصويت القادم . او يمكنك زيارة الويب سايت التالية واختيار اللغة المناسبة لك:
www.winooski.vt.gov/1435/Proposed-Charter-Changes

यस कागजातले परिवर्तनको बारेमा कुरा गर्ने छ जुन सबै विनुस्की निवासिहरूले विनुस्की शहर र स्कूल चुनावमा मतदान गर्न अनुमति दिनेछ। यदि तपाईं यस बारे अधिक जानकारी चाहनुहुन्छ भने, कृपया समुदाय लिएजन टि पी निरौलालाई (८०२)-३७३-१६९२ मा यो आगामी भोटको बारेमा कुरा गर्न सम्पर्क गर्न सक्नु हुन्छ अथवा यो लिंकमा अनुवादित तथ्य पानाहरू हेर्न सक्नु हुन्छ।
www.winooski.vt.gov/1435/Proposed-Charter-Changes

धन्यवाद,

Maandishi haya yanazungumzia mabadiliko ambayo yataruhusu wakaaji wote kupiga kura katika uchaguzi wote wa miji na pia wa shule hapa Winooski. Ikiwa ungependelea kuwa na mazungumzo zaidi na sisi kuhusu haya, tafadhali piga simu kwa stevya Mukuzo kwa numbari: 802-343-8470. Hapa utaongea na msaidizi wa mjini kuhusu jinsi ya kupiga kura. Pia enda kwa: www.winooski.vt.gov/1435/Proposed-Charter-Changes , kwa utafsiri Asante.

Dukumintigaan wuxuu ka hadlayaa isbeddelada u oggolaanaya dhammaan dadka deggan Winooski inay ka codeeyaan doorashooyinka magaalada iyo iskuulka. Haddii aad jeceshahay inaad qof kala hadasho arrintan, fadlan wac (Dalib Bulle 802-777-7756) si aad ugala hadasho Xiriiriyaha codbixintan soo socota. Ama booqo www.winooski.vt.gov/1435/Proposed-Charter-Changes si aad u aqriisato waraaqaha la turjumay.

