

**Suggested Charter change language to implement the actions of the Charter
Revision Commission, taken April 24, 2008, to provide for a budget referendum
(Revised July 22, 2008)**

1. Charter section 3-1. Change 4th sentence:

The final authority concerning a budget and tax rate is vested exclusively in the Board of Directors, subject to the provisions of § 3-10 **and § 3-13** of this chapter.

2. Add **new section 3-13**.

Sec. 3-13. Petition for budget referendum.

If, not later than ten days after adoption of the budget in accordance with § 5-6, a petition signed by not less than seven percent of the electors of the Town, as determined from the latest official lists of the Registrars of Voters, is filed with the Town Clerk, to reject the budget adopted by the Board of Directors, the Town Clerk shall, within ten days thereafter, fix the day and place of a special Town election to vote on the petition to reject the adopted budget, and certify the same to the General Manager, and such election shall be called and held in accordance with the provisions of the General Statutes and this Charter for calling and holding a Town election. The day of such special election shall be not more than 35 days after the date of adoption of the budget.

The petition for budget referendum shall be in substantially the following form and shall be approved by the Town Clerk in accordance with section 7-9 of the General Statutes before circulation:

WARNING: ALL SIGNATURES SHALL BE IN INK OR INDELIBLE PENCIL

We, the undersigned electors of the Town of Manchester, present this petition requesting that the following question be referred to the voters at a referendum: "Shall the annual budget adopted by the Board of Directors on (here

insert date of adoption) take effect as adopted?" We certify that we are electors of the Town of Manchester, residing at the addresses set opposite our names, and that we have not signed this petition more than once.

SIGNATURE

PRINTED NAME

NUMBER STREET

At the referendum, the electors shall choose one of the following three responses to the ballot question:

Yes.

No; the adopted budget is too high.

No; the adopted budget is too low.

If a majority of the votes cast in the referendum are "Yes," or if the total number of votes cast in the referendum is less than 15% of the number of electors of the Town as determined from the latest official lists of the Registrars of Voters, the adopted budget shall take effect in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 5.

Provided that the total number of votes cast in the referendum is 15% or more of the number of electors of the Town, a combined "No" vote by a majority of the electors voting shall reject the adopted budget and require the Board of Directors to adopt a revised budget.

If the adopted budget is rejected, the Board of Directors shall, within seven days after the special election, adopt a revised budget, which may be less or greater than the adopted budget, as the Board shall deem appropriate based on the results of the referendum. The revised budget shall take effect in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 5.

There shall be no more than one budget referendum in any year.

3. Charter section 5-2(a).

- a. In the first sentence, change "ninety-five (95)" to "**110**".
 - b. In the fifth sentence, change "February 21" to "**February 14**".
4. Charter section 5-3.

In the last sentence, change "ninety (90)" to "**105**".

5. Charter section 5-4.

In the first sentence, change "eighty-five (85)" to "**100**".

6. Charter section 5-6.

- a. In the first sentence, change "forty-five (45)" to "**seventy-five**".
- b. Delete the period at the end, and add:

, unless a petition for a budget referendum shall be filed and certified in accordance with § 3-13.