

On the November 4, 2025 election ballot, there will be six referendum questions. The first question pertains to an appropriation and issuance of a bond for certain public works improvements. The remaining five questions pertain to proposed revisions to the Manchester Town Charter.

The Town Charter defines the form of government for the Town and sets out the roles and responsibilities of most elected and appointed town officials. The Charter also codifies the basic framework for how government is conducted, such as the processes for adopting ordinances, the town budget and the identification and operation of the various departments of the town government. Periodically, communities update their charters to reflect changes in the way the business of government is conducted, to reassign roles and responsibilities or to clarify certain provisions. This process is called charter revision and may result in minor technical and administrative changes as well as substantive changes to the structure of local government.

In September, 2024 the Manchester Board of Directors appointed a nine-member Charter Revision Commission to review numerous proposed amendments to the Town Charter. On August 12, 2025, the Board of Directors approved the Final Report of the Charter Revision Commission and the five charter revision questions which will appear on the November 4, 2025 ballot.

**Question No. 1:**

SHALL THE TOWN OF MANCHESTER APPROPRIATE \$19,500,000 TO CAPITAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE 2025-2026 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING THE COSTS OF RECONSTRUCTION AND REPAIR OF VARIOUS TOWN ROADS, ROADSIDE ELEMENTS AND SIDEWALKS, REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO TOWN BUILDINGS AND UPGRADES TO VARIOUS STORM DRAINS AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION

BONDS OF THE TOWN OR NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF SUCH BONDS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$19,500,000 TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION? YES\_\_ NO\_\_

**Explanation:** The Board of Directors has approved placing a referendum question before the voters of the Town on November 4, 2025 to approve or disapprove an appropriation of \$19,500,000 and a bond authorization, in an amount not to exceed \$19,500,000, to pay for the following projects:

Reconstruction and Repair of Various Town Roads and Roadside Elements: \$14,500,000; the referendum will provide funding for roadway improvements and resurfacing of approximately fifty (50) lane miles of existing streets.

Upgrades to Various Storm Drains: \$3,000,000; the referendum will provide funding to upgrade existing and install new storm drainage systems at various locations.

Town Building Improvements: \$1,000,000; the referendum will provide initial phase of funding for town office consolidations and relocations.

Sidewalk Repairs: \$500,000; the referendum will provide funding for approximately 7,500 linear feet of concrete sidewalk repairs at various locations.

Roof Replacements: \$250,000; the referendum will provide funding for a roof replacement at one Town building.

Administrative, Financing and Bond Issuance Costs and Contingency: \$250,000; This will cover the administrative costs of issuing bonds over the life of the debt, as well as contingency for potential cost overages.

**Question No. 2:**

SHALL THE TOWN OF MANCHESTER REVISE THE TOWN CHARTER TO MAKE CERTAIN TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES? YES\_\_ NO\_\_

**Explanation:** Approval of this question would make the following amendments to the Town Charter:

Section 3-8 would be clarified to reflect current practice that appointees to boards and commissions created by ordinance or resolution need not be electors unless specified otherwise. The commencement of the terms of these boards and commissions would be moved from November to December.

Sections 11-3 and 12-4 would be amended to remove the residency requirement for the Director of Public Works and the Superintendent of the Water Department. Staggered terms would be eliminated for Board of Education members with two-year terms phased in beginning with the 2027 municipal biennial election. Also, commencing in 2027, the term of office for the constables would be extended from two years to four years.

In addition, Charter fines for violations to the maximum amount allowed will track the amounts set by state law, and obsolete provisions related to the 8th Utility District would be repealed. There would be an increase in the competitive bidding threshold that tracks state statute.

The Library Board will remain as a Charter created position, but membership will be expanded to include two high school students and the Library Board’s purview would extend to library programming. The Select Board would be eliminated and its sole remaining power, the filling of vacancies where the appointing authority has failed to fill the vacancy within 45 days, would be transferred to the Mayor.

The publication requirements will be modified to reduce the number of publication requirements to

comport with state law and eliminate the reference to newspapers.

The public hearing deadline for the budget will be moved from March 23 to March 31. Any referenda adopted through a special election would require a 15% turnout of the electorate.

Section 20-10 pertaining to ‘Gender’ would be repealed as it is obsolete in light of the Charter Revision of 2022. Charter Section 10-5 would be repealed as it conflicts with state statute. The joint meeting requirement of the Board of Directors and the Board of Education would be eliminated under Section 3-12 but retained under Section 5-2(a).

**Question No. 3:**

SHALL THE TOWN OF MANCHESTER REVISE SECTION 1-1 AND OTHER PERTINENT SECTIONS OF THE TOWN CHARTER TO RENAME THE TOWN OF MANCHESTER AS THE CITY OF MANCHESTER? YES\_\_ NO\_\_

**Explanation:** Approval of this question would change the classification and name of Manchester from a Town to a City. There is no financial benefit to making such a change in the nature of increased state or federal aid. There would be some associated expenses for signage, infrastructure and the like to make such a transition, but it is intended that these costs would be phased-in over time. The rationale for making such a change is in the nature of self-branding, in recognizing Manchester’s growth as a municipality over the past decades.

**Question No. 4:**

SHALL THE TOWN OF MANCHESTER REVISE SECTION 2-1, CHAPTER III, AND OTHER PERTINENT SECTIONS OF THE TOWN CHARTER TO RENAME ITS

LEGISLATIVE BODY FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO COUNCIL? YES\_\_ NO\_\_

**Explanation:** State statute provides that a municipality shall have a legislative body, which may be, (1) a town meeting; a representative town meeting; (2) a board of selectmen, council, board of directors, board of aldermen or board of burgesses; or (3) a combination of a town meeting or representative town meeting and a board of selectmen, council, board of directors, board of aldermen or board of burgesses. Since the adoption of Manchester’s Charter in 1947, Manchester’s legislative body has been designated as the board of directors.

Approval of this question would change the name of Manchester’s legislative body from the Board of Directors to the Council. The rationale for this change is the belief that it provides clarity to town residents regarding the role and responsibilities of the members of our legislative body and comports with the nomenclature used by many other cities and towns for designating their legislative bodies.

**Question No. 5:**

SHALL THE TOWN OF MANCHESTER REVISE SECTION 3-3 OF THE CHARTER BY INCREASING THE COMPENSATION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS? YES\_\_ NO\_\_

**Explanation:** Since the adoption of the Charter in 1947, members of the board of directors have been compensated a nominal annual amount in recognition of the out-of-pocket costs they incur in conjunction with their service. Approval of this question would raise the annual compensation for various board of director members from current levels as follows: Mayor: \$15,000.00; Deputy Mayor and Secretary: \$10,000.00; Leader of Minority Caucus: \$9,000.00; all other members: \$8,000.00. The increases recognize that the compensation rates have not been updated in several years and also recognize the expanded role

of the office of Mayor. In addition, if approved, this question would include a biennial cost of living adjustment to be established at the beginning of each two-year term.

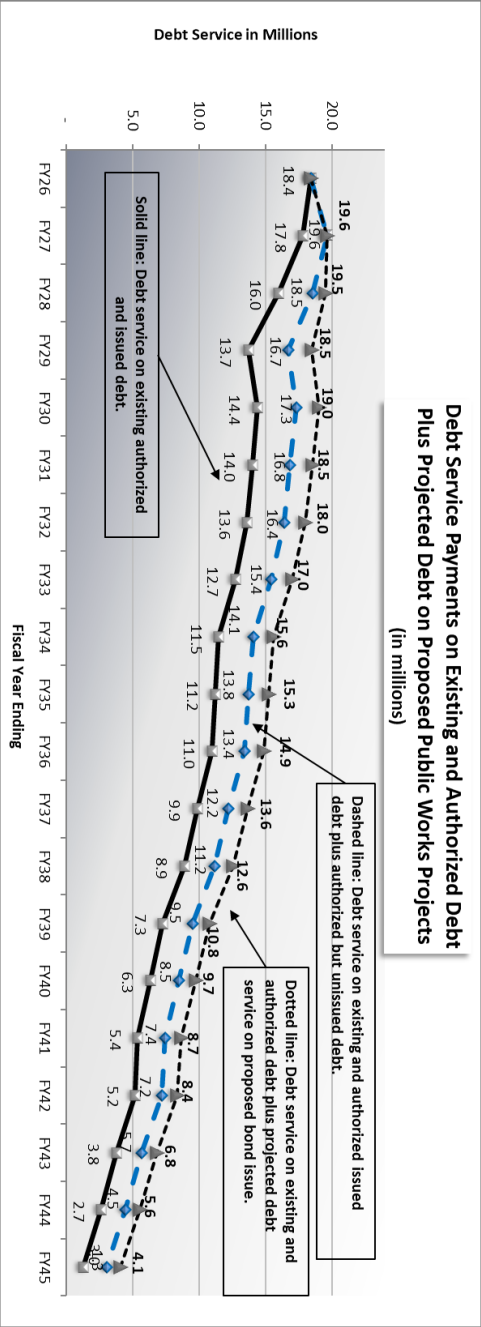
**Question No. 6:**

SHALL THE TOWN OF MANCHESTER REVISE SECTION 9-3 OF THE TOWN CHARTER TO ELIMINATE THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS? YES\_\_ NO\_\_

**Explanation:** Approval of this question would eliminate the requirement that the Superintendent of Schools be a resident of the Town of Manchester. The Board of Education seeks this revision because it finds that the current residency requirement impinges on the Board’s ability to recruit and retain candidates for this position.

The Referendum will be held on Election Day  
Tuesday, November 4, 2025  
Between the hours of 6:00 AM and 8:00 PM

Para español, visite “Town Clerk” en el siguiente  
sitio web:  
[www.manchesterct.gov](http://www.manchesterct.gov)



**TOWN  
OF  
MANCHESTER**



***Explanatory Text  
for Referendum Question on  
Public Infrastructure  
Improvements and Charter  
Revision***

**November 4, 2025**