

TOWN OF KILLINGWORTH

Explanatory Text for Referendum Question on Charter Revision

November 7, 2023

On the November 7, 2023 election ballot, there will be a referendum question regarding the Charter of the Town of Killingworth. This explanatory text has been prepared by the Town Clerk pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §9-369b(a). It is intended to not advocate either the approval or disapproval of the referendum question.

General Explanation:

The Charter of the Town of Killingworth 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 governs the basic framework for how town government is conducted, such as the process for adopting ordinances and the town budget, and the identification and operation of various town agencies. 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, called Charter Revision, may result in minor technical and administrative changes, as well as substantive changes to the structure of local government.

On July 5, 2023 the Board of Selectmen voted to appoint a Charter Revision Commission to consider and report on amendments to the Charter of the Town of Killingworth according to the process set forth by the Connecticut General Statutes. The proposed Charter is the compilation of the proposed amendments to the Charter approved by the Charter Revision Commission and the Board of Selectmen during this process.

The Board of Selectmen, on August 28, 2023, adopted a singular question concerning the proposed Charter of the Town of Killingworth and voted to present that proposal on the November 7, 2023 ballot:

- 1. Shall the Town of Killingworth adopt the proposed Charter that was approved by the Board of Selectmen on July 24, 2023?**

Yes _____

No _____

The following legal notice summarizes the portions of the Charter being amended and the nature of the amendments in the proposed Charter that is referred to in Question No. 1. A **“Yes”** vote is a vote for the adoption of all of the amendments. A **“No”** vote is a vote against the adoption of all of the amendments, and to leave the current (2009) Charter unchanged.

A majority vote on the question determines whether the proposed Charter is approved or not.

Copies of the current (2009) Charter, the proposed Charter and a document comparing the current (2009) Charter to the proposed Charter are available in the office of the Town Clerk and on Killingworth’s website, www.townofkillingworth.com . These documents will also be available at the Killingworth Library. Copies of the proposed Charter and this Explanatory Text will be available at the polling place on Election Day, November 7, 2023.

LEGAL NOTICE

KILLINGWORTH CHARTER REVISION

On July 24, 2023, the Town of Killingworth Board of Selectman approved proposed amendments to the Killingworth Charter, which will be submitted to the electors at the next regular election. The proposed charter amendments are available on the town website at www.townofkillingworth.com and a complete copy is available in the Town Clerk's office and a copy will also be mailed to any person who requests a copy from the Town Clerk. The portions of the charter being amended and the nature of the amendments are identified as follows:

Charter Section	Amendment
Throughout	Grammatical corrections
Throughout	Remove gendered language
Throughout	Replace "Town Committee" with "Town Political Party Committee"
1-2(f)	Movement of Killingworth Volunteer Fire Company from Section VIII to definitions (section 1-2).
3-4(d)	Replace "by majority voice vote of all the voters present" with "by majority voice vote of all the participating voters"
4-1(d)	Update section title to "Town Elections and Initiation of Office"
4-2(b)	Addition of "No person shall hold two elected positions in the Government of Killingworth simultaneously, including the Board of Education"
4-2(c)	Addition of "No person shall run for more than one elected position in the Government of Killingworth in the same election cycle."
4-14(a)	Replace "one from each political party" with "may not be of the same political party"
4-14(b)	Clarification of role of Board of Fire Commissioners.
4-16	Addition of "elective"
5-2(a)	Remove "of Town of Killingworth" and "of Town".

Charter Section	Amendment
5-4(c)	Replace "publish an announcement as prescribed by law and at his/her option other newspaper or media" with "publish the vacancy as described by law"
5-10	Change Public Health Nursing Agency to Public Health Agency.
5-10	Replace "appointed by the Director of Health" to "appointed by Board of Selectman"
5-11	Updated Water Pollution Control Authority responsibilities.
5-12	Add Historic Review Committee
5-12	Remove Building Board of Appeals
5-13	Add Fair Rent Commission
5-14(a)	Summarize all Regional Organizations in table.
5-14(a)	Replace "Connecticut River Estuary Regional Planning Agency" with "Lower Connecticut Regional Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG).
5-14(a)	Add Central Regional Tourism District
5-14(a)	Add Middlesex County Revitalization Commission
5-14(a)	Add Connecticut River Area Health District
5-14(c)	Addition of "or be appointed to"
6-1	Replace "hold or to be appointed to other Office, Board or Commission, or" with "hold either another elected position, or".
6-2(a)	Replace "At its first meeting following each municipal election" with "Following each municipal election at the first meeting after all members have been sworn in"
6-3	Addition of "to establish and maintain a personnel manual"
7-2(d)	Clarify First Selectman shall be ex-officio of all agencies but without power to vote, and may delegate this role to another Selectman.
7-3(a)	Update to include additional details regarding oversight of personnel.
7-3(b)	Replace "Administrative Assistant's coordination" with "coordination"
7-3(c)	Removal of "and future planning"

Charter Section	Amendment
7-3(l/h)	Add approval by Board of Selectmen for objectives for coming fiscal year.
7-3(m)	Remove "daily"
7-4 (a)	Expand section to include Appointees, Employees and Advisory Committees. Consolidate Employees information from section 8 to section 7-4.
7-4 (b)	Deleted paragraph regarding merit system, and updated language including "with the approval of the Board of Selectmen". Replace "A member of the Board of Finance may" with "A member of the Board of Finance, appointed by Board of Finance, may", third paragraph.
7-5(b)	Corrected to read "By the third Monday in March".
7-7	Removal of "and to officers responsible to him/her"
8-2(d)	Summarize administrative offices and agencies in a table
8-2(d)	Delete length of terms.
8-2(d)	Addition of American with Disabilities Act Coordinator
8-2(d)	Addition of Animal Control Officer
8-2(d)	Addition of Municipal Agent for the Elderly
8-2(d)	Addition of Municipal Historian
8-2(d)	Addition of Veterans' Representative
8-3 to 8-16	Delete job descriptions
9-2(c)	Removal of "for the town"
9-2 (d)	Relocate sentence from employee section to Board of Finance section, as this is a Board of Finance responsibility.
9-4(b)	Replace "shall appoint a certified public accountant or firm of certified public accountants, who may serve for three consecutive years, followed by one year of ineligibility, to audit" with "shall annually designate a certified public accountant or firm of certified public accountants to audit"

Charter Section	Amendment
9-4(c)1	Increase both 1) supplementary appropriations and 2) contingency fund or unappropriated cash surplus fund, requiring Town Meeting approval from 20,000 to 25,000.
9-5(f)	Increase of limit for expenditures requiring bidding process from \$10,000 to \$20,000
9-7(b)2	Replace "of up to one and a half mil" with "in accordance with CGS § 7-361".

Nancy Gorski, First Selectman 8/17/2023

Please use the QR code below to review the current (2009) Charter, the proposed Charter and document comparing the current (2009) Charter to the proposed charter:

