

City of New Britain

Proposed Charter Amendments – Explanatory Text

On the November 8, 2016 election ballot, there will be three referendum questions regarding the City of New Britain's Charter. As an elector of the City of New Britain, you can vote on any of the referendum questions. The questions require that you vote either YES or NO. These questions appear at the top of each ballot. The changes described under each question will be made if a simple majority of electors vote YES on any particular question.

In order to explain the Charter Revision questions that appear on the November 8, 2016 ballot, the Common Council, per state statutes, authorized the Town and City Clerk and Corporation Counsel to prepare and print explanatory text on the three questions you will be voting on and appearing in bold below. The Charter Revision Commission's report, a complete copy of the Charter and the proposed amendments are available in the Town and City's Clerk Office located at 27 West Main Street, Room 109, New Britain. Copies of the Charter and proposed amendments will be mailed to any person who makes a request for a copy to the Town and City Clerk's Office.

QUESTION #1 – Shall the City Charter be amended to change the term of office of the Mayor from a two year term to a four year term, which change shall first apply to the municipal elections of 2017?

EXPLANATION: This question asks for electors of the City of New Britain to approve (YES) or disapprove (NO) a proposal which would change in the City's Charter the term of office of the Mayor from a two year term to a four year term. If approved, such change shall first apply to the municipal elections of 2017 (to be held November 7, 2017).

The Charter Sections affected by Question #1 are as follows: Section 1-4(f); Section 3-2(c); and Section 14-3.

QUESTION #2 – Shall the City Charter be amended to change the term of office of the Collector of Taxes from a two year term to a four year term, which change shall first apply to the municipal elections of 2017?

EXPLANATION: This question asks for electors of the City of New Britain to approve (YES) or disapprove (NO) a proposal which would change in the City's Charter the term of office of the Collector of Taxes from a two year term to a four year term. If approved, such change shall first apply to the municipal elections of 2017 (to be held November 7, 2017).

The Charter Sections affected by Question #2 are as follows: Section 1-4(f); Section 3-2(c); and Section 14-3.

QUESTION #3 – Shall the City Charter be amended to make changes to conform to state statutes and make technical, administrative and other changes and clarifications?

EXPLANATION: This question asks for electors of the City of New Britain to approve (YES) or disapprove (NO) all other proposed amendments to the Charter, except for the changes to Section 3-2(c) of the Charter, as described in the information related to Questions #1 and #2.

The following list explains each section of the Charter affected by Question #3 and the new Charter provisions that would take effect if Question #3 is approved:

- (a) Amend Section 1-4 (f) to change the effective date of the Charter to January 1, 2017.
- (b) Revise Section 4-2, subsections (n) and (o) and add a new Section 4-11 to require the Common Council to review, establish, and act upon rates of compensation for elected officials in every even-numbered year.
- (c) Add a new subsection (g) to Section 7-2 to add the Board of Public Works to the Charter.
- (d) Revise Section 8-5 to move the section regarding The Central Purchasing System, including its subsection regarding The Purchasing Agent, to a new section under The Department of Finance.
- (e) Delete Section 8-6(a) pertaining to the Parks and Recreation Department and amend the current language in Section 8-6(b) to include parks and recreation in the list of departments.
- (f) Amend Sections 10-3(d) and 11-2(d) to require that the Mayor's proposed budget and proposed capital projects budget be published in a newspaper within seven business days and require posting on the City website.
- (g) Amend Sections 11-2(a)(1) and (b) to require the preparation and submission of a five-year Capital Projects Budget.
- (h) Amend Section 14-3 to make the 2016 amendments to the Charter take effect on January 1, 2017 and any amendments applying to municipal elections apply first to the municipal elections of 2017.
- (i) Amend Section 15-4(h) to allow the Board of Water Commissioners to change the billing cycle from semi-annually to monthly or quarterly and to require that bills are due and payable within 30 days.
- (j) Amend Section 15-4(j) to require the Board of Water Commissioners to add interest at a rate of 1.5% per month on delinquent water bills.
- (k) Amend Section 15-9 regarding Retirement and Pension of Elected Officials to revise the definition of an elective official in this section to include time served as an elective official when there was an appointment by the Common Council to fill a vacancy of an elective office.

Per state statutes and authorized by the Common Council explanatory text of Charter questions that will appear on the November 8, 2016 ballot was created and approved by:

Mark H. Bernacki – Town & City Clerk

Gennaro Bizzarro – Corporation Counsel