

I. Adoption or Revisions of a Charter

This process is often referred to as a Home Rule Charter

(This is the process used by the Town in 1980 to move to a Council/Town Manager form of government)

Process:

1. Initiated by voters presenting a signed petition* that calls an adoption or Revision of the Charter and for the election of a Charter Commission.
2. After securing the necessary signatures, residents can be nominated to serve on the Commission. Residents can present this petition to the **board of registrars of the city or town**. In our case, it would be the Election Commissioners via the Town Clerk.
3. The election on the question of the Charter Commission and the nine commissioners will take place at the first regular town election.
4. The Commission must hold a public hearing, prepare a preliminary report, distribute the report to registered voters, hold a follow-up public meeting on the report and prepare a final report.
5. The final report is presented to the voters at the first regular city election.

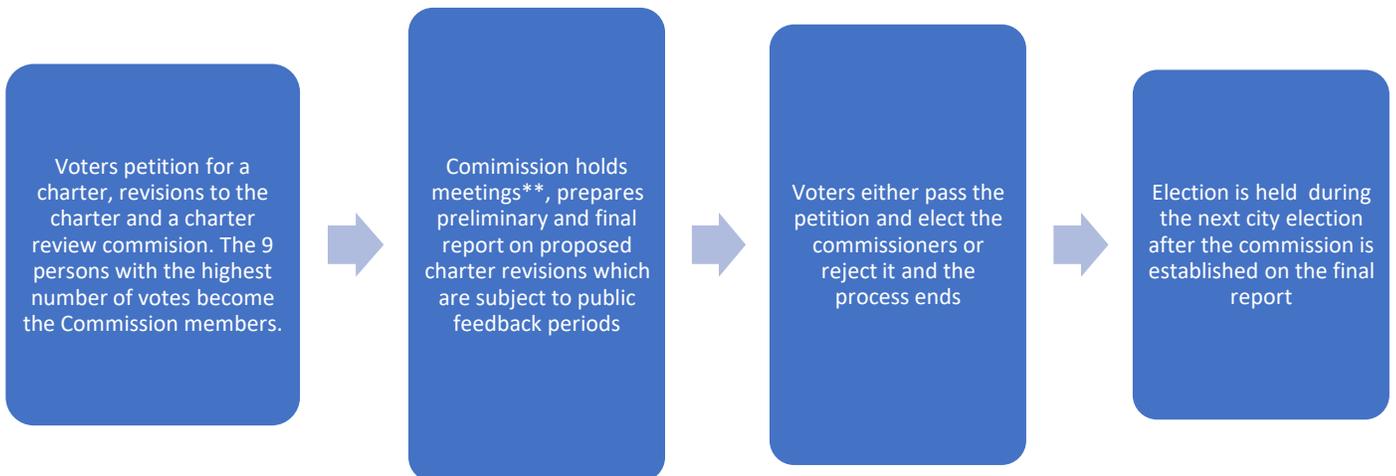
*15% of the number of register voters residing in a city or town at the preceding state election. For example, if there were 15,000 registered voters as of the November election, the petition would require 2,250 valid signatures.

Characteristics

1. Petition which can be initiated by residents at any time
2. Vote of the Town Council Not required
3. No limitations on what can be included in a new or revised Charter
4. Involves an extensive and specific process

Legality

1. Allowed by the Home Rule Amendment to the Massachusetts Constitution, Section C of Article LXXXIX
2. Implemented by the Home Rule Procedures Act (Chapter 43B) Sections 1 -9 and 11



** subject to [Open Meeting Law](#).