

Report of the
Barrington Charter Review Commission
on the
Survey of Barrington Residents



Barrington
RHODE ISLAND

December 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	Page 3
Introduction	Page 4
Methodology & Communication Plan	Page 5
Validity of the Survey Findings	Page 6
Findings & Discussion	Page 9
Appendices:	
Questionnaire	Page 19
Mailer to Barrington Households	Page 24
List of Commission Members & Meetings	Page 25

Executive Summary

The Barrington Charter Review Commission surveyed the Town's residents to gather input on possible revisions to the Town Charter, and specifically to hear their feedback about the Financial Town Meeting and the current budget approval process. A total of 536 residents responded to the survey.

Key themes emerged from the survey results, supported by both consistent quantitative data and strong alignment with the qualitative evidence (e.g., narrative comments) collected in the survey. These include:

- Barrington residents are not satisfied with the current FTM format. Respondents feel that the current FTM structure limits participation. There is a strong desire for greater representation in determining the Town's budget. The lack of participation and representativeness has led many to distrust the process and feel that small groups of special interests play a disproportionate role in making decisions.
- Residents value the opportunity to provide direct feedback, propose changes, and ultimately vote on approval of the final budget.
- Respondents are open to alternatives to the current FTM format.
- Residents are interested in virtual participation (e.g., Zoom meeting, online voting) as a way to expand representation and make the process more efficient.
- Respondents felt that the information available to them, or the methods employed to communicate that information, were not always effective.

As a reflection of the “voice” of the Town's residents, the results of the survey, including the many narrative comments offered by respondents, can serve as an important resource for the Commission in informing its deliberations and guiding the direction of its recommendations.

Introduction

Every ten years, towns in Rhode Island are required by law to review their charters for possible changes. The charter serves as the foundational document that establishes the framework for town government, including how the budget is approved. The Barrington Charter Review Commission, an 11-member group appointed by the Town Council, was charged with investigating and making recommendations to the Town Council on possible changes to the Barrington Town Charter. Any proposals would first need to be approved by the Town Council and then voted on by Barrington voters at the November 2024 general election.

As directed by the Town Council, a key focus of the Commission's work was to explore possible alternatives to the Financial Town Meeting (FTM) as well as the budget preparation and review process.

Given that determining its budget is arguably the most important decision a town makes each year, the Commission stressed the importance of soliciting public input throughout the Charter review process, especially as it related to possible changes to the FTM, and emphasized the need for transparency in its deliberations and actions. In order to gather ideas and feedback from the widest possible audience of Barrington residents, a survey was developed, and a postcard invitation was sent to every household in Town with a link to the online survey. The Commission also created a website (<https://www.barrington.ri.gov/452/Charter-Review-Commission>) that contained documentation related to the process (e.g., copy of the Town Charter; agendas, minutes, and summaries of Commission meetings; links to video recordings of Commission meetings; link to the survey; etc.) and other information. All Commission meetings were open to the public, including broadcast livestream via Zoom. Further, an email address -- barringtoncharterreview@gmail.com -- was established for residents to communicate directly to the Commission to ask questions and share their ideas and comments.

This report presents the findings of the survey of Barrington residents. As a reflection of the "voice" of the Town's residents, the results of the survey, including the many narrative comments offered by respondents, can serve as an important resource for the Commission in informing its deliberations guiding the direction of its recommendations.

The Commission members express their deep gratitude to the 500+ Barrington residents who took the time to complete the survey as well as the many other people who offered input, feedback, and advice throughout the charter review process.

Methodology & Communication Plan

A 12-question survey was developed by a sub-group of the Commission (Sarah O'Brien, Daniel O'Mahony, Cynthia Rosengard, and Magnus Thorsson). The purpose of the survey was to solicit feedback, ideas, and comments from Barrington residents about possible changes to the Charter in general and the Financial Town Meeting in particular. Nine of the questions addressed the FTM and/or the budget process, and one question offered an opportunity to comment on other aspects of the Town Charter. This was an anonymous survey, so two questions were included to collect general information that could provide some sense of the demographic characteristics of the respondents. Three of the 12 questions were designed as open-ended questions to solicit narrative comments from respondents. The questionnaire was created using Google Forms (within a Google email account established specifically for the Barrington Charter Review Commission). A copy of the questionnaire is included as Appendix A of this report.

The target population for the survey was all Barrington residents of voting age. According to the most recent Census data, there were 12,361 people in Barrington 18 years of age or older (U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates). In order to reach the largest audience in a cost-efficient way, the Commission produced a postcard mailer that was sent to 6,829 Barrington households. The postcard included a link to the online survey. A copy of the mailer is included as Appendix B of this report.

The survey was launched on October 27, 2023.

In addition to the mailer, information about the survey was also communicated via the Commission's website (<https://www.barrington.ri.gov/452/Charter-Review-Commission>) as well as articles or postings in numerous electronic newsletters distributed by the Town and the schools. In addition, there were two articles and one letter-to-the-editor in the *Barrington Times* that featured the Commission's work and the survey. Further, members of the Commission distributed information about the survey through various social media channels and other community networks and gatherings. Printed copies of the survey were made available at the Barrington Public Library for those who preferred to answer the survey in that manner.

The survey closed on December 8 at which time completed questionnaires from 536 respondents had been submitted.

Two members of the survey team (Rosengard and O'Mahony) were primarily responsible for compiling and analyzing the results of the survey. The team ran various cross-tabulation analyses for the quantitative data collected (e.g., ratings of satisfaction), including comparisons of the different demographic groups. The team also developed a coding scheme for the qualitative data (narrative comments) received as part of the survey. A set of coding tags was developed based on themes that emerged from the respondents' comments. To ensure a thorough, consistent, and unbiased approach to the process, both team members assigned codes individually to each respondent's comment. (Any discrepancies between the codes assigned were discussed and resolved by the team members.)

Validity of the Survey Findings

At the close of the survey on December 8, there were completed responses from **536 respondents** to the survey. This represents just over 4% of the total resident Barrington population 18 years of age or older.

For a population of 12,361, a sample size of at least **373 respondents** is required to produce results with a 95% confidence level and a 5% margin of error.

The **margin of error** (or confidence interval) is the plus-or-minus figure that represents the accuracy of the reported results. This percentage tells you how much you can expect your survey results to reflect the actual views of the overall population. The smaller the margin of error, the closer you are to having the exact answer at a given confidence level. A margin of error of plus-or-minus 5% is common in surveys.

The **confidence level** tells you how confident you are of the results. It is expressed as a percentage of times that different samples (if repeated samples were drawn) would produce this result. A 95% confidence level means that 19 times out of twenty that results would fall in the assigned confidence interval (in this case, plus-or-minus 5%). The 95% confidence level is the most commonly used.

While the sample of respondents for this survey was not drawn from a perfectly random process (i.e., all residents were invited but individuals self-selected to complete the survey), it is reasonable to infer that the survey results based on 500+ respondents accurately reflect the population as a whole.

Moreover, the main themes that emerged from the narrative comments received in the survey were expressed in significant numbers and crossed all demographic divisions. The themes also strongly aligned with the quantitative data (e.g., satisfaction scores) collected in the survey.

Representativeness of the Survey Sample

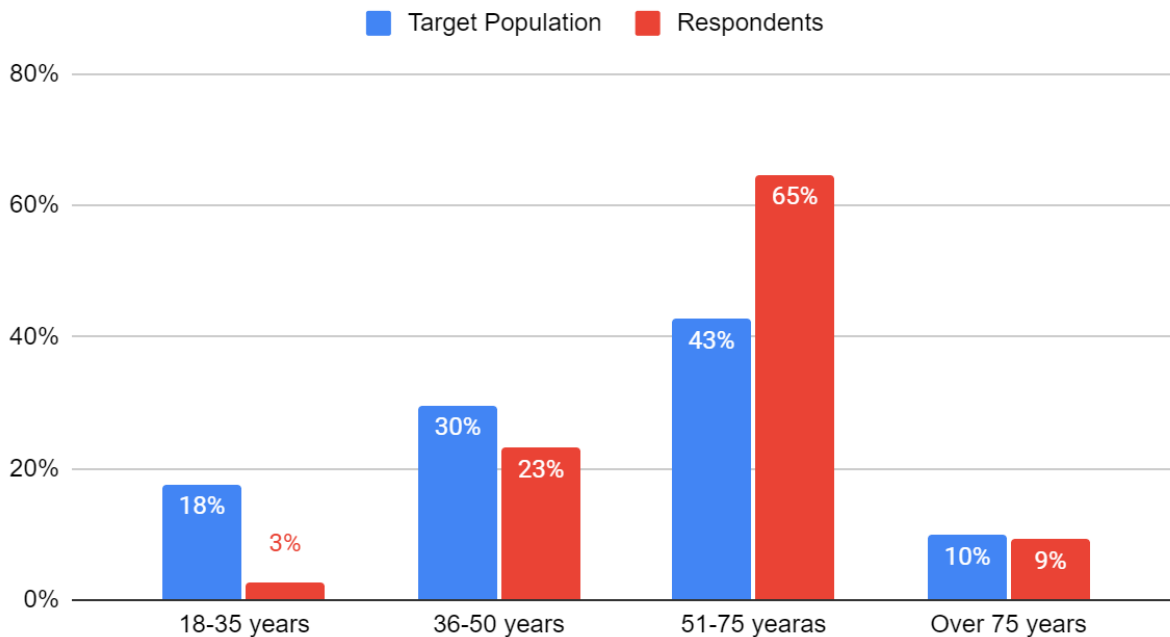
A representative sample is a sample from a larger group that accurately represents the characteristics of a larger population. It's known as a representative sample because the answers obtained from it accurately reflect the results you would achieve by interviewing the entire population.

This was an anonymous survey, so it was not possible to track details about individual respondents or to assess a great many characteristics of representativeness. Two questions were included in the survey specifically to collect some information relevant to the topic being addressed that could provide some sense of the objective demographic characteristics of the respondents. The questions were:

- What age group do you fit into?
- How long have you lived in Barrington?

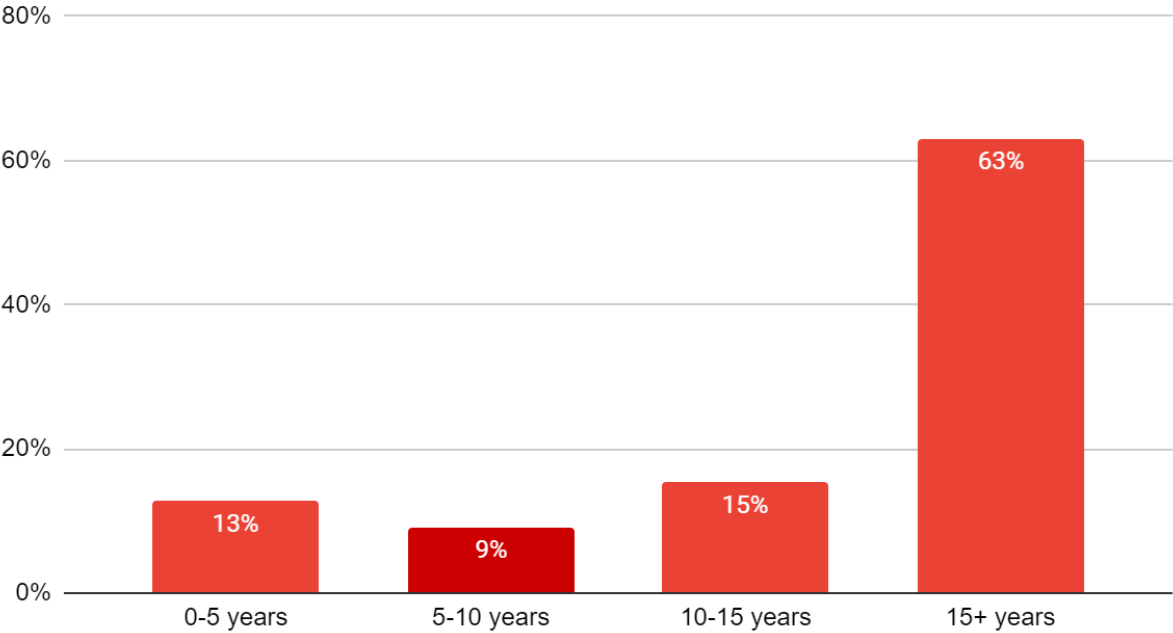
Comparing the 536 survey respondents (sample) to the overall general population of Barrington (18 years of age or older), there was an overrepresentation in the sample of respondents aged 51-75 years, and an underrepresentation of respondents aged 18-35 years. (This is not surprising as the 51-75 years category represents the largest segment of the general population.)

Age of Residents: Target Population & Respondents

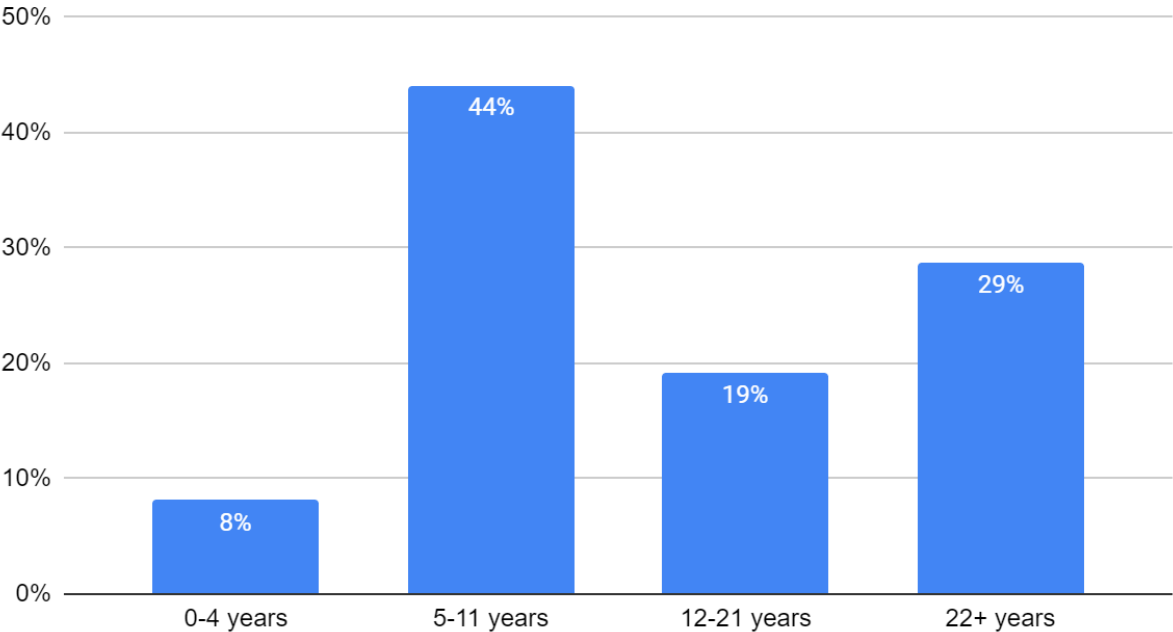


Comparing residency tenure, there appears to be an overrepresentation of those who have lived in Barrington 15 or more years, and an underrepresentation of respondents who have lived in town for 5-10 years. The exact extent of the overrepresentation of the 15+ years group is hard to estimate since the available Census data (describing the general population) did not break down the year increments in the same categories used for the survey (i.e., 12-21 years and 22+ years for the Census data, and 10-15 years and 15+ years for the survey data). Thus, some portion of respondents who answered 15+ years may likely fall into the 12-21 years category, lessening the disproportionate results somewhat. Regardless, there was a clear underrepresentation of respondents in the 5-10 years category. This is especially unfortunate because those who have lived in town 5-11 years represent the largest segment of the general population.

Years Lived in Barrington: Survey Respondents



Years Lived in Barrington: Target Population



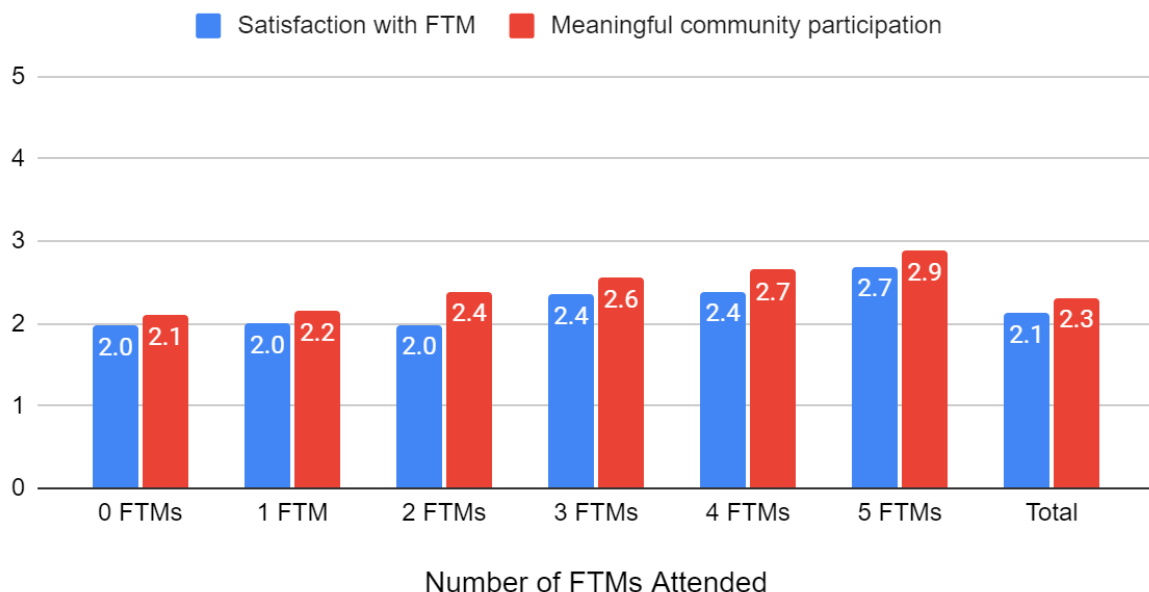
Findings & Discussion

A number of key themes emerged from the survey results. The following points were supported by both consistent quantitative data and strong alignment with the qualitative evidence (e.g., narrative comments) collected in the survey.

Barrington residents are not satisfied with the current FTM format. Respondents feel that the current FTM structure limits participation. There is a strong desire for greater representation in determining the Town's budget. The lack of participation and representativeness has led many to distrust the process and feel that small groups of special interests play a disproportionate role in making decisions.

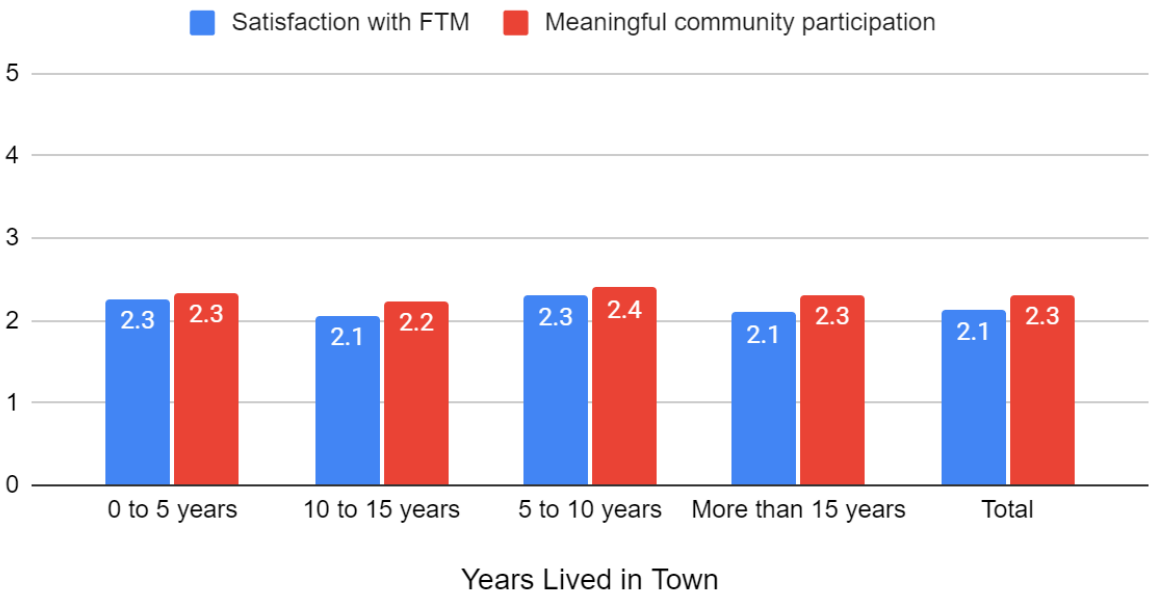
Survey respondents across the board gave the FTM low scores for satisfaction. Regardless of age, or years of residency in Barrington, or whether one had attended no FTMs in the last five years or all five, respondents rated their satisfaction with the current Financial Town Meeting process for approving the Town Budget quite low: overall 2.1 on a 5-point scale (1 = Not satisfied at all; 5 = Completely satisfied).

Mean Scores for Satisfaction & Meaningful Community Participation

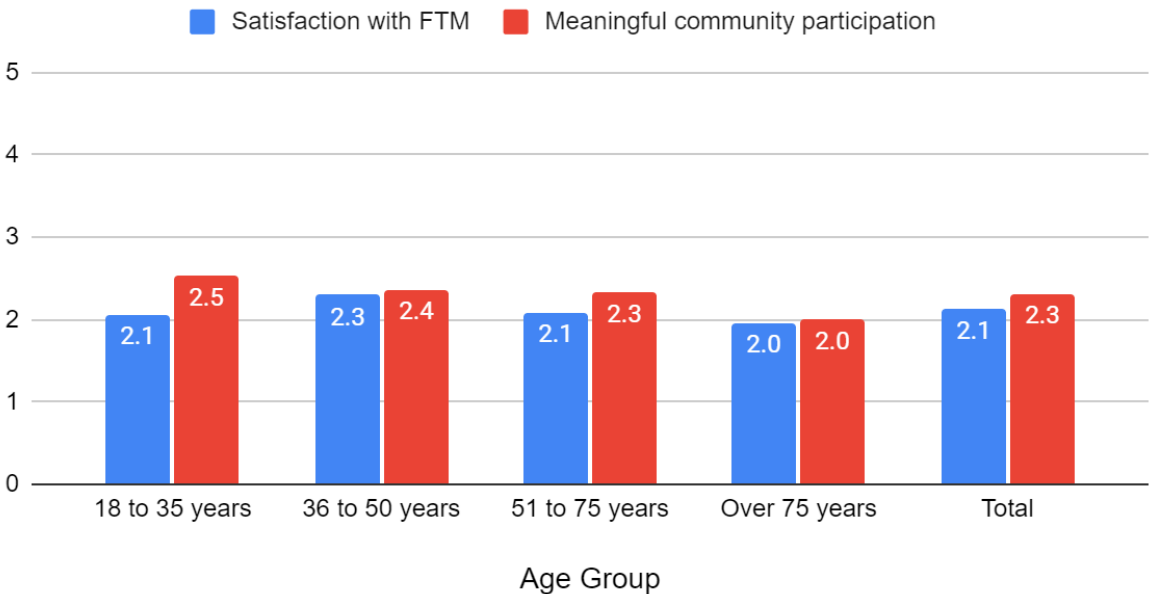


Similarly, respondents gave equally consistently low scores in indicating their belief regarding whether the current FTM allows for meaningful community participation in budget decisions. Respondents rated this 2.3 overall across all dimensions.

Mean Scores for Satisfaction & Meaningful Community Participation



Mean Scores for Satisfaction & Meaningful Community Participation



Overall, respondents to the survey had attended – or had been able to attend – on average less than two FTM meetings in the past five years. Numerous respondents commented on the difficulties the single-session FTM format presents that impede residents from attending. The following comments illustrate some of the frustrations residents face:

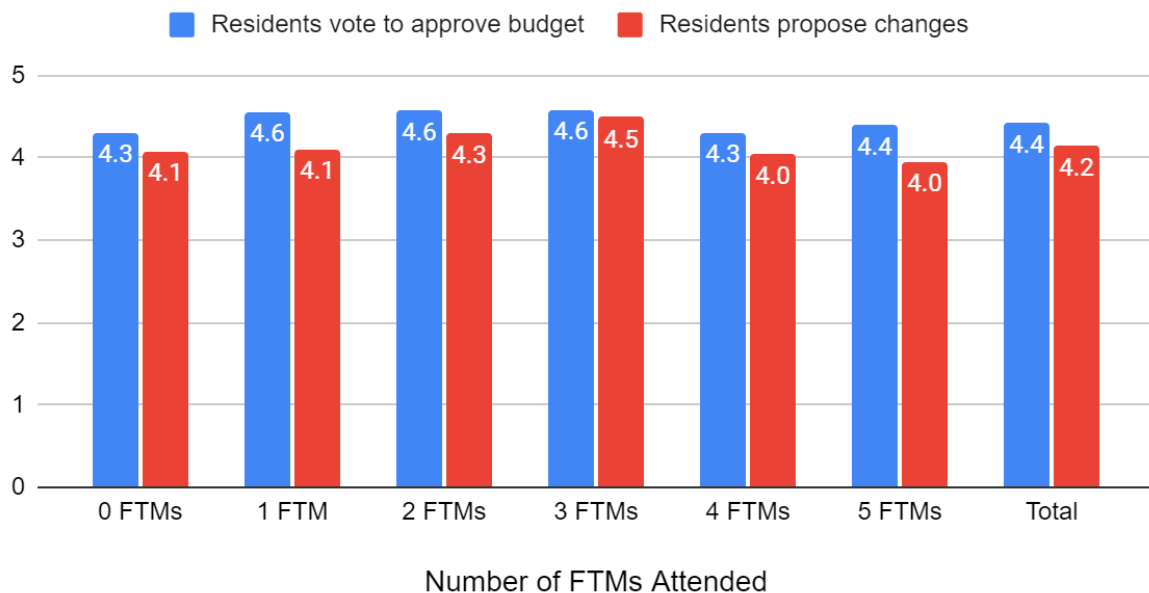
- “FTM is not representative of the Town due to a lack of more widespread participation”
- “It needs to be easier for everyone to participate. Not everyone can physically come to the meeting.”
- “We need to allow for a process that invites participation by all residents.”
- “Attendance is a fraction of eligible tax payers and therefore hardly representative and disenfranchising . It is often hijacked by special interest groups interested in funding pet projects. It is held at a time often inconvenient to elderly, disabled therefore discouraging participation.”
- “Every year I want to attend, and every year I can’t make it. For a town that caters to parents with young families, it’s extremely challenging for those parents to make it to the meeting. As a result, I worry that the FTM is not representative of the town.”
- “The meeting itself is the worst part of the process. It is inconvenient and generally attended by only a small percentage of the residents and this fraction of the population sets the budget for all. A way must be found so that everyone may cast a ballot. Restricting the voting to only those who are able to attend in person leaves us with a budget that may not be truly representative of the public consent.”
- “Too easy for special interests to pack FTM and override the hard work of appropriations committee.”
- “I’d like to see more involvement across the town, as it ends up being a very small representation that actually votes on the budget.”
- “Steps need to be taken to facilitate taxpayer participation in the decision making process by improving access and means for people to vote rather than having a single night where numerous factors limit turnout.”
- “The FTM no longer serves the needs of our Barrington community. It is a New England tradition yet it denies residents the opportunity to participate in small d democracy and merits consideration for improvement.”

Residents value the opportunity to provide direct feedback, propose changes, and ultimately vote on approval of the final budget.

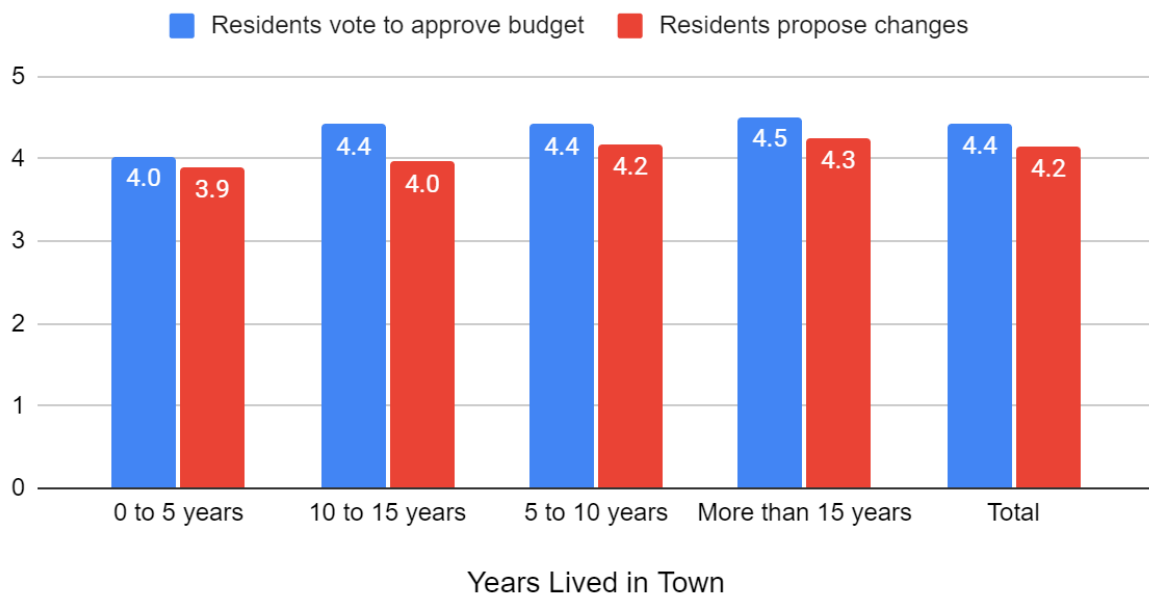
Survey respondents across the board gave high scores indicating the level of importance they attach to being able to vote to approve the budget. Similarly, they gave equally high marks for residents’ ability to propose changes to the budget before it is approved. Some respondents expressed a desire to leave the budget-approval process to elected officials (e.g., Town Council, School Committee, Committee on Appropriations), but they were a minority. The strong conviction conveyed by a large segment of respondents was that voters should have the final say in determining the Town’s budget. Those who were in favor of keeping the FTM format pointed

to its direct-democracy aspect as one of its hallmarks. Those in favor of moving away from the FTM format to a different approach affirmed their desire to retain voter control of the budget process.

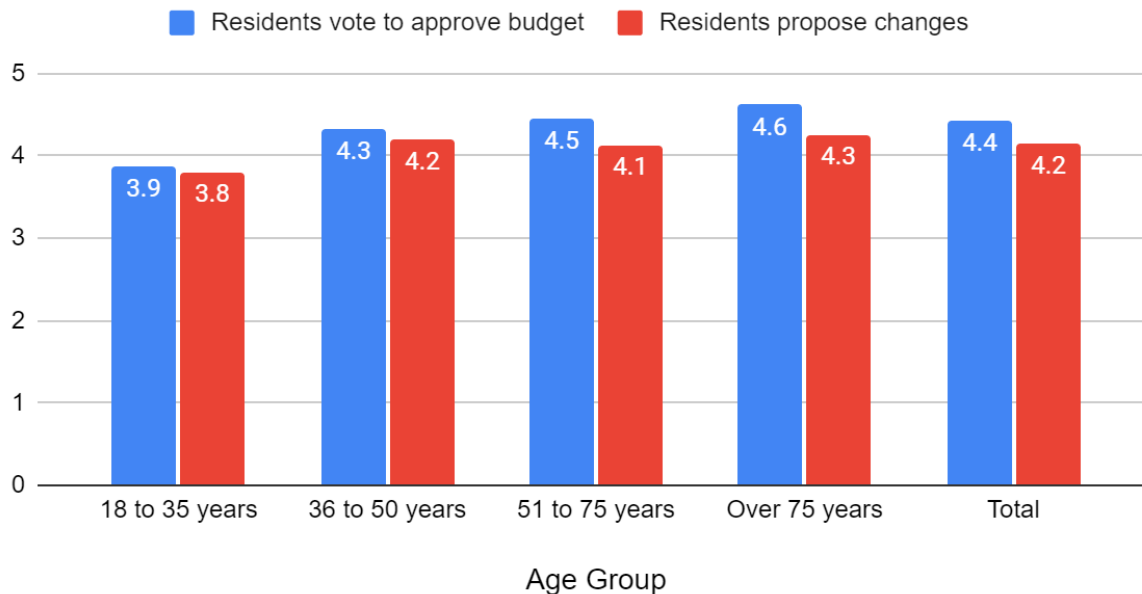
Mean Scores for Residents Approve Budget & Residents Propose Changes



Mean Scores for Residents Approve Budget & Residents Propose Changes



Mean Scores for Residents Approve Budget & Residents Propose Changes



Respondents' comments about the importance of the voter's role in the budget process included the following:

- "The financial town meeting ensures that residents can directly influence spending decisions and that the decisions are not left to elected representatives' best guess as to the will of voters. The meeting also ensures that those voting on spending decisions have spent the time to listen to the concerns of their neighbors before casting their votes."
- "I like that we vote at the Financial Town Meeting in person, and I like voters ability to comment"
- "It is important to afford people the opportunity to be heard and vote on things that directly effect their family and community. In no way should the Town Council have 100% budgetary control. Checks and balances exist to keep people in check and from becoming tyrannically power hungry."
- "I appreciate the ability to propose changes to the budget but I feel this should be done well before the meeting so people are informed."
- "The opportunity for direct voter participation is the most important strength [of the current FTM format]."
- "Ability for taxpayers to propose changes, and vote on those changes, and vote on the final budget" [are the best features of the FTM].
- "participatory democracy is important. This is part of the legacy of RI and part of what makes it and Barrington a great place to live"
- "DO NOT allow the town council or school committee to make final budget decisions. Residents should make these decisions."

- “Ability to “correct” changes made by reps who don’t represent the town well” [is the best feature of the FTM].
- “The ability for citizens to propose budget amendments has led to some important initiatives in the past few years. I strongly believe that residents should have the opportunity to propose changes to the budget and to publicly debate amendments to add or subtract from the proposed budgets.”

Respondents are open to alternatives to the current FTM format.

Various options were suggested by respondents as possible replacements for the existing FTM format. A common suggestion was to move to some form of referendum where voters would have an opportunity to cast their ballots on the budget (and any proposed revisions or addenda) at the polls, similar to a general election. Variations were offered regarding the timing, length, place, and means of the election (e.g., to include mail ballots or not, to take place one day or over several days, etc.).

Another common suggestion was to separate the “hearing” and information sharing portion of the FTM from the actual voting on the budget. In addition to potentially improving the levels of participation and representativeness of the vote, many respondents commented on the need for more information and time to distill and reflect on that information before voting on the budget or related questions.

There were also suggestions for ways to improve the efficiency and experience of the current FTM format without eliminating it, ranging from placing limits on the types of amendments or questions that can be introduced to the mechanics of how votes are taken. Many commented on the desire to utilize technology as way to either expand the level of access and participation at the meeting (e.g., via Zoom) or improve the efficiency of how the meeting is conducted (e.g., using interactive response tabulators or “clicker” to count votes during the meeting).

Some respondents who advocated to eliminate the FTM suggested that the budget-approval process could be part of the duties of elected officials (e.g., Town Council, School Committee, Committee on Appropriations), but they were a minority of voices.

Some commenters also suggested that the election of new Committee on Appropriations (COA) members should be moved to a different time and/or process altogether (e.g., include on the ballot at a regular election, similar to Town Council and School Committee candidates). The notion that members of such an important committee responsible for a matter as consequential as the budget could be elected by a very small group of attendees late at night was troubling for some respondents.

A sampling of respondents’ comments on alternatives to the current FTM process included the following:

- “The budget vote is too important to only allow votes where people show up (late at night, for a few specific hours, on one evening.). This is very disenfranchising for many in town. A paper/mail-in ballot would be preferable.”
- “Budget should be a voted on referendum”
- “Approval of the budget should NOT occur at the FTM but should be a separate process where the proposed budget is presented either by referendum or some other means in which the entire town is capable of participating”
- “Make it a full vote by town at elections”
- “I think it's time to move to a regular vote-in-person, by mail, or online. The representation is just not there at the FTM. Have the public meeting for folks to speak out and debate the budget and issues but then hold a separate voting event to give all voters an opportunity to weigh in. The impression of special interest groups always carrying the day will be mediated by this approach.”
- “The FTM should be eliminated and replaced with a budget ballot referendum”
- “I would personally like to change the Town Financial Meeting to a hybrid presentation of the budget with a process for public comment that takes place during daytime hours, recorded and available to be viewed with access for additional comment for 24 hours. (Important guidelines and limitations for public comment would need to be established). A day and evening voting opportunity for budget approval in person at Town Hall could be arranged on a Monday when Town Hall is open in the evening. My concern is for all-age access.”
- “In person meeting and voting should be changed to a more inclusive process. Voting by mail perhaps?”
- “Scrap it. We elect a town council and school committee for a reason.”
- “COA nominations and vote at end of meeting is terrible, no vetting and only a small number of people left at 11pm.”
- “I think the biggest thing that needs to be changed is the FTM. I think that the vote on the budget should be done in a manner that makes it easiest for all residents to participate. The budget should be set and any amendments or changes should be debated beforehand. Then the entire budget (with amended sections) should be brought to a vote (possibly a week after the discussion and any amendments were made). Residents could vote (yes/no) at the Town Hall over a period of 7 days. Early and late hours should be made available for voting. Residents who are unable to vote in person could be sent an absentee ballot and mail it back (to be received within the 7 day voting period.) You would get a more representative sample of the town in this type of voting because in its current state many residents do not vote because they can't stay at historically long Financial Town Meetings.”

Residents are interested in virtual participation (e.g., Zoom meeting, online voting) as a way to expand representation and make the process more efficient.

Many commenters expressed a desire as well as offered suggestions to utilize technology as a way to improve the representativeness, efficiency, and overall experience of the current FTM format (rather than replace the FTM altogether). A key theme in this regard was including some form of virtual participation (e.g., via Zoom) so that more residents could attend the meeting

virtually, witness and hear the presentations and discussions, and ask questions in real time.

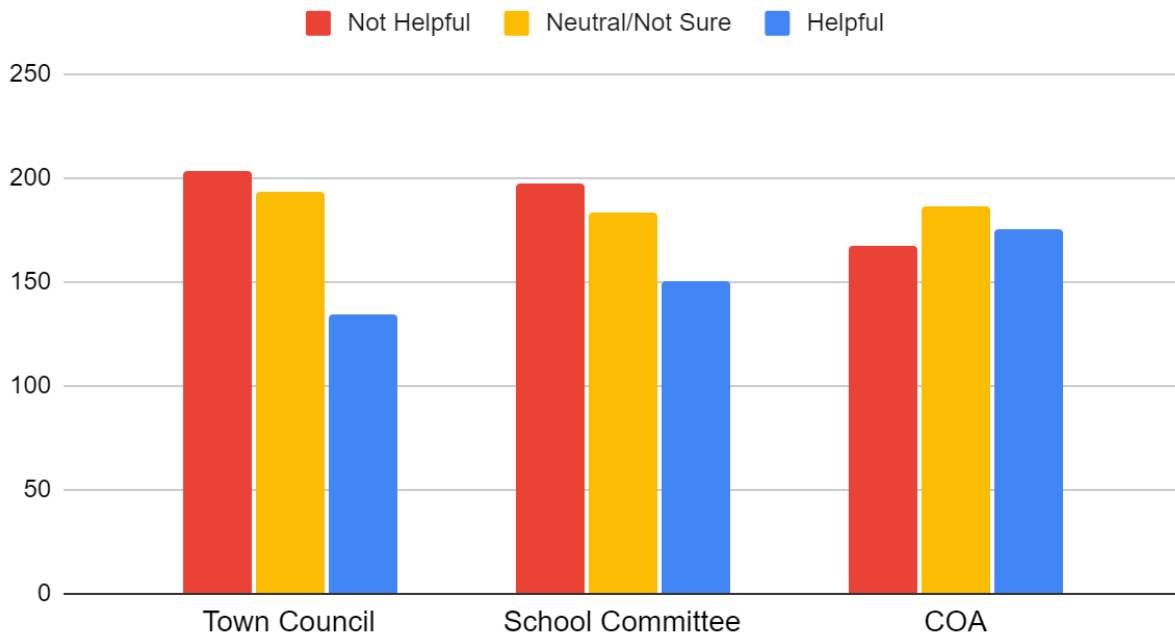
There also were suggestions for some form of online voting, either at/during the FTM or as an alternative, supplement, or replacement to the current FTM format.

- “We should be leveraging all the virtual platforms available to us to be inclusive for more residents.”
- “Have things posted with more clarity online for those who cannot make meetings”
- “Need to have on line voting and live chat rooms and an appropriate percentage of the Barrington voters voting before something is approved.”
- “More virtual accessibility. Info shared clearly online, information easy to submit online, and access to the meeting shared clearly online.”
- “Meetings should have a virtual/view from home option, should be recorded and summarized and the video and summary/notes should be easily accessible to the public. There needs to be a major overhaul in the voting process to be more inclusive to all members of the town.”
- “It should be virtual and allow anonymous drop off and/or online voting”
- “Allow virtual attendance, allow on-line questions via chat, allow verified voting by residents in attendance”
- “The FTM should be eliminated. Join the 21st century and solicit opinions and "votes" from nearly EVERYONE (those with a computer) via online surveys, as you are doing with this one...good job! Those without a computer can use the library or sign up to have paper surveys mailed to them.”
- “No in person meeting. ability to attend virtually at a proposal meeting. ability to have a ballot so all residents can have a say. The financial town meeting does not meet the needs of the residents. Needs to be brought up to date.”
- “I feel that the Financial Town Meeting should allow for voting on-line or some type of ballot in the least”
- “Consideration should be given to making the meeting as accessible as possible, including virtual attendance.”

Respondents felt that the information available to them, or the methods employed to communicate that information, were not always effective.

More survey respondents indicated that the budget information from the Town Council and the School Committee was not helpful rather than helpful. Information from the Committee on Appropriations received mixed reviews from survey respondents (roughly equally divided across those indicating it was “helpful,” “not helpful,” or “neutral/not sure”).

Helpfulness of Budget Information



There were numerous comments from respondents about the perceived lack of information about the budget or the feeling that the information was not easily accessible or available in a timely manner, especially prior to the budget meeting. For example:

- “I don't know where to find information to help me decide if I agree or not. More communication?”
- “More information on spending should be made available well in advance of the FTM”
- “It is difficult to mind meaningful easy to digest information about the budget and the process for those who may not be able to attend the meetings. Resources are hard to find and hard to interpret.”
- “More information shared ahead of time via newspapers, the town website, community forums, or other creative means etc.”
- “for heavens sake, don't depend on the Barrington Times to be the sole or even a major dissemination conduit. They've got space limitations and often don't get the facts straight on the local news they do report. Everything should be posted on the town website in an easy-to-find-way and the URL's to find it should be widely disseminated in hard copy.”
- “Better information distribution before meetings”
- “I'd also support a better effort to educate Barrington citizens about the process. ... They need information delivered to them in a coherent and timely way.”
- “I think across sectors the communication needs to improve. Not everyone gets the paper. Not everyone checks their email. There are huge gaps where many fall through the cracks and then find second hand information. It would also be nice to get recaps of finance committee meetings in some format for people who cannot attend in person meetings.”
- “More advance information about the proposed budget should be made available on the Town website.”

Other Changes to the Town Charter

While the main focus of the survey was on feedback regarding the Financial Town Meeting, the survey did include a question asking respondents for ideas or suggestions about other sections of the Town Charter that might be changed. A total of 209 residents responded to this question. Their suggestions covered a wide range of topics and suggestions, the most common of which fell into the following categories:

- Tax relief for senior residents
- Make the School Committee non-partisan
- Allow voting for the budget in an election
- Shift to an elected (rather than appointed) Town Manager or Mayor
- Establish a recall process for elected officials
- Establish term limits for elected officials
- Consider flag restrictions
- Extend the Town Manager's authority to Oversee the School Department
- Improve sidewalks

The above are listed in order of how frequently they were mentioned by respondents. None of the items were mentioned by more than ten survey participants.

The Charter Review Commission reviewed all of the suggested changes to the Charter offered by survey respondents. Some of the suggestions fell outside the authority of the Commission or the Charter (e.g., were governed by state law). In light of the Commission's necessary and practical goal to limit its primary recommendations to only substantive changes of the highest priority, not all of the suggestions received a full hearing or consideration.

Appendix A Questionnaire

Barrington Resident Survey for Charter Review Commission

The Barrington Town Charter (<https://ecode360.com/12064950>) is the document that outlines how our town government is to be carried out. Every ten years, a Charter Review Commission is formed to explore possible revisions to our Town Charter. As part of this work, the Town Council has charged the Commission to focus their work on possible changes to the Financial Town Meeting (FTM) as well as the budget preparation/review process. We are investigating potential alternatives to the FTM for approving the annual town budget. The Commission welcomes your input on this important topic, which impacts every Barrington resident.

1. In the past five years, how many Financial Town Meetings did you attend?

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ 0
☐ 1
☐ 2
☐ 3
☐ 4
☐ 5

2. Please rate your level of satisfaction with the current Financial Town Meeting (FTM) process for approving the Town Budget.

Mark only one oval.

- 1 2 3 4 5
-
- Not ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Completely Satisfied

3. How informed do you feel about the purpose and procedures of the Financial Town Meeting (FTM)?

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Not	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Completely Informed

4. In a typical year, how helpful do you find the information from the following sources about the annual budget:

Mark only one oval per row.

	Not Helpful At All	Not Very Helpful	Neutral/Not Sure	Helpful	Very Helpful
Town Council	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
School Committee	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Committee on Appropriations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

5. How important is it to you that residents vote to approve the budget?

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Not	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Extremely Important

6. How important is it to you that residents be able to propose changes to the budget before it is approved?

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Not	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Extremely Important

7. To what extent do you believe the current FTM allows for meaningful community participation in budget decisions?

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Not	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Completely

8. In your opinion, what are the best features or strengths of the budget review process and Financial Town Meeting?

9. In your opinion, what aspects of the budget review process and Financial Town Meeting should be changed or improved?

10. What other element(s) of the Barrington Town Charter would you like to see changed at this time?

11. How long have you lived in Barrington?

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ 0 to 5 years
- ☐ 5 to 10 years
- ☐ 10 to 15 years
- ☐ More than 15 years

12. What age group do you fit into?

Mark only one oval.

☐ 18 to 35

☐ 36 to 50

☐ 51 to 75

☐ Over 75

13. If you should have additional questions, concerns or feedback regarding the Charter Review Process, please reach out through our email address:

barringtoncharterreview2023@gmail.com

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms

Appendix B

Mailer to Barrington Households

We want your input
on possible changes
to the Barrington
Financial Town
Meeting (FTM).

**YOUR OPINION
MATTERS!!**

Complete the online survey by December 8

For more information, go to:
<https://www.barrington.ri.gov/452/Charter-Review-Commission>

Barrington Charter Review Commission

Barrington Charter Review & FTM – Resident Survey

The Barrington Town Charter (<https://ecode360.com/12064950>) is the document that outlines how our town government is to be carried out. Every ten years, a **Charter Review Commission** is formed to explore possible revisions to our Town Charter.

As part of this work, the Town Council has charged the Commission to look at possible changes to the **Financial Town Meeting (FTM)** as well as the budget preparation and review process. We are investigating potential alternatives to the FTM for approving the annual town budget. The Commission welcomes your input on this important topic, which impacts every Barrington resident.

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey and provide us with your feedback and ideas. The survey can be accessed using the QR Code (below) with your smart phone or going directly to the link:

<https://bit.ly/404hLlq>



**Please complete the
survey by Friday,
December 8**

Barrington Charter Review Commission



Appendix C

List of Commission Members & Meetings

Members of the Barrington Charter Review Commission:

Kenneth Block
Jeffrey Brenner, Vice Chair
Lisa Daft
Joy Hearn, Chair
Allan Klepper
Sarah O'Brien
Daniel O'Mahony, Scribe
Stephen Primiano
Thomas TR Rimoshytus
Cynthia Rosengard
Magnus Thorsson

The Commission was supported by Town Clerk Meredith DeSisto and Deputy Town Clerk Stephanie Bernardo.

Meetings of the Barrington Charter Review Commission (to date):

September 13, 2023
October 11, 2023
November 15, 2023
December 6, 2023
December 13, 2023

Please note: additional Commission meetings will take place through spring 2024, after the close of the survey and the reporting of its findings.

All Commission meetings were held at Barrington Middle School, Room 1202 (261 Middle Highway, Barrington, Rhode Island).

Minutes and summaries of the meetings, as well as other information and documentation about the Charter review process, are available at the Commission's website:

<https://www.barrington.ri.gov/452/Charter-Review-Commission>

Recordings of the Commission's meetings are available via Vimeo at:

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/10651873>