

Timestamp	What other element(s) of the Barrington Town Charter would you like to see changed at this time?
List of Other Charter Elements Not Related to FTM or Budget Process	
<i>This is a list of comments from survey respondents suggesting possible changes to the Charter that do not relate to the FTM or the budget process.</i>	
10/28/2023 10:16:33	No closed door meetings
10/28/2023 14:44:40	Ensure that there is a defined cap on both annual and 3 year rolling average total tax and fee (if any) increases.
10/28/2023 16:21:36	Residents having more input on smaller projects, for example-signs, flags, changing logos etc
10/28/2023 16:35:55	More help ( housing) for seniors and more of a business friendly atmosphere
10/28/2023 17:21:19	Make the School Committee part of government rather than separate and on a pedestal
10/28/2023 18:32:20	I do not think the Charter needs an overhaul or revisions at this time with the exception of the FTM process
10/28/2023 18:55:47	Home charter or similar considerations given to seniors for property tax reductions.
10/29/2023 8:24:56	The town definitely needs to protect it's elderly population. The elderly have served this town for decades and they are being forced out due to the high taxes. Taxes should be frozen when the resident turns 65 like many other towns. Contrary to popular belief, the seniors contribute an enormous amount to this town. The town spending is completely lopsided towards the school system. While it is important, it is not the be all end all. The esthetics and programs the town offers have much to do with why people want to live here. The elders have paid their dues for many years. It is time to give them a break and give back to them. FREEZE their taxes at age 65 and for those over 65, go back to the year they turned 65. The schools need to hear "NO" once in a while, just like the kids.
10/29/2023 9:59:04	67-2 Restraint of Dogs - first of all, I enjoy dogs but often fear walking in my community when unfamiliar dogs are not restrained and sometimes come running toward me, or even jump on me. The wording of this aspect of the charter is clear, but it appears the enforcement is lacking, or possibly resident awareness of this "rule." I'm not sure if changes to the charter would help with this.
10/29/2023 11:08:03	The ability of the town council to vote on changes made for the town council.
10/29/2023 17:50:43	I would like to consider putting our town manager on the ballot.
10/29/2023 18:36:40	I would propose reevaluating property tax codes for low-income folks, particularly the elderly.
10/30/2023 7:50:27	Stop restricting access to public rights of way to the beaches in town. Public streets should allow for REASONABLE public parking regardless of where you live.
10/30/2023 14:00:38	NO FLAGS except the American flag shall be flown on public property
10/31/2023 10:15:26	I need to look at the charter, accessible to all citizens, especially elderly and those with children not in school - to start
10/31/2023 11:54:30	I would like to see a cap on development. I would also like to see meaningful property, tax relief for senior citizens. These are people who have paid their dues and they're staying in town. It isn't fair that they be expected to underwrite a school system they don't use.
10/31/2023 16:46:37	Prohibit the town council and or other town appointed entities from entering or researching real estate purchases without appropriate full disclosure as to the need and purpose. This should not apply to the need to research and or purchase of real estate that relate to the School's and public services such as the DPW, Police, Fire Department and town offices.  Consider having an elected Mayor as opposed to the Town Manager for their record to be reviewed by all voters as opposed to just the town council.
10/31/2023 19:09:19	Technology needs to be improved so ALL meeting can be zoomed. Town council meetings are too long. Website is terrible, hard to find agenda and meeting minutes!!!
10/31/2023 19:28:06	Commissions should have more control in their areas of expertise.
11/1/2023 8:47:13	Limit the Town Council committing the Town to highly controversial ideologies.
11/1/2023 11:24:49	Term limits for Town Council, School Committee
11/1/2023 12:47:10	two year terms for all elected officials.
11/1/2023 12:52:00	Explicit mention of adherence to United States Constitution. Currently only mentions state.
11/1/2023 21:53:02	Economic disparities, ageism, accessibility
11/2/2023 12:19:14	Allow for voter initiated elected official recall process and allow for voter initiatives through a binding grass roots referendum process. Make local elections all no partisan and hold them on a separate day from the national and state election dates.
11/2/2023 17:22:31	Tree Preservation and Management Ordinance with meaningful punitive fines for excessive pruning and tree removal
11/2/2023 21:49:32	A close family member was on the BTC commission in 2014 and NONE of the commissions recommendations were heeded by the Town Council. This game of favoritism and insider manipulation must change. It is deplorable.
11/3/2023 11:41:18	Town Manager with responsibility for managing all departments, including schools Single financial department to manage town budget - municipal and school. All surpluses form one fiscal year be included as revenue in the following year No expenses, capital or otherwise, made outside budget, except in emergency.
11/3/2023 17:32:48	Not sure the charter involves this but a better system so changes such as agreeing to flying more than the U.S. flag and installing the wayfinding signs can be better debated before implemented. Also some of the Town Council systems appear to be on a runaway train and that resident input does not matter as in the case of the monastery.
11/8/2023 7:08:10	Make a provision to allow members of the School Committee to be recalled.

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11/8/2023 7:37:26	There absolutely needs to be a mechanism in place to recall school committee and town council members who do not live up to their campaign promises or who engage in unethical conduct.
11/8/2023 17:30:25	1. Establish the primacy of Barrington residents'/citizens' rights and interests over outside entities - especially when it comes to growth, taxation and conservation. 2. The ability to resist outside mandates. 3. Control over local tax and money distribution to the state. Require accountability - public audit and reporting of previous spending before local approval and subsequent release of annual revenues. 4. Commitment to preserving the current size, character and quality of life. 5. Ability to preserve tax and license for exploitation of local resources, such as our fisheries and mollusk repositories.
11/8/2023 21:22:56	Term limits for council and school committee. Ban pensions as not paid for in current budgets - move to 401k for all town employees.
11/9/2023 7:39:17	Update the fees, services, etc. agreements between school and town. Make it transparent and make it make sense.
11/9/2023 7:54:17	Voters should elect the heads of government. The School Board and Town Council are both managed by the lowest vote earners in their respective elections.
11/9/2023 13:23:39	Allow for additional multi family housing on lots zoned for single family
11/9/2023 13:39:37	Require Town to comply with zoning/planning bylaws
11/9/2023 16:03:38	I would like to ensure that our minimum lot sizes for residential areas does not decrease.
11/9/2023 20:25:11	Make the elected positions non partisan
11/10/2023 18:03:27	School committee positions should be nonpartisan. Residents should be voting on substance that impacts our schools. As a Democrat, I am concerned that democratic nominees are decided by a tiny group of gatekeepers on the Barrington Town Dem Committee. Candidates should be running based on local issues effecting our schools, rather than having elections decided by 20-30 people (with views that often seem out of touch with moderate progressives in our town). The current system reduces the likelihood of moderate candidates running and supports extremes from both parties.
11/10/2023 19:49:37	1. There MUST be public comment allowed at every committee meeting PRIOR to a vote. The Town Council does an excellent job of this, however other committees especially the planning board committee does not. It depends on who the chair of the committee is and what they feel like hearing. The chair of the planning board even tries to restrict what you can say at public comment. The chair seems to think they do not represent the public and are there to make decisions on their own. Restricting to 3 minutes helps keep the meeting on schedule.  2. Sidewalks should be a top priority in this town.  3. Seniors deserve a tax break since affordable housing will never be affordable in Barrington. A separate tax rate should be created for struggling seniors.  4. Preservation and protection of the bay and restricting chemicals on lawns abutting or uphill from the bay should be a priority.  5. NO MORE DRIVE THROUGHS - I don't know how this passed but our shaws plaza will quickly become the place to avoid due to congestion. There is already a problem with parking and many spaces just disappeared. Getting out of your car to walk into starbucks often is the reason for people to visit talbots, loft snd barrington books.  6. The town manager should not be allowed to hand pick consultants and continually give out 10K+ contracts like candy. There has to be restrictions on how our tax dollars are spent. Hiring a NY firm to evaluate the needs of our unique coastal town of Barrington will never be a good idea. Let's keep it local!! So much money has been wasted. Potentially reduce the dollar amount allowed to award to a consultant without putting it out to bid.
11/12/2023 17:37:29	The School Committee has control over most of Town's energy use however, the Town has no say over the energy policy of the schools. The schools have little incentive to draw down on energy use or include decarbonizing solutions during renovations. This misalignment must be corrected to save taxpayers money and meet Act on Climate goals.
11/13/2023 10:39:37	Schools should receive the revenue for the preK tuition, not the town. Consider making the School Committee non-partisan, allow for more taxpayer participation in the budget that doesn't require people to sit for 4-5 hours in a meeting to vote, as that is not inclusive and we are missing real community participation by this format.
11/14/2023 10:11:53	All committees should consist of people actually living here. I was shocked to learn that some people on the planning committee don't live in town. Unacceptable.
11/14/2023 15:19:42	My only other suggestion is to add some of the long-standing committees to the charter that are not mentioned in the document, like R&E, Economic Development, and maybe others.
11/15/2023 13:05:31	We must bring back the ability to recall elected officials who no longer serve their elected constituents.
11/15/2023 13:29:08	Be more clear on assessment consequences of budget items.

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11/15/2023 18:17:02	<p>I know that now the only Dept. head who is mandated to live in Town is the Town Manager.</p> <p>I believe that most of the Dept. heads no longer live in Town, and could care less about what the tax rate is. With the current real estate spike, I well know that it would be impossible for many of our employees to purchase a home based on their salary.</p> <p>The other issue that has been discussed in the past is making the School Committee non-partisan. Maybe it's time for that to happen.</p>
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11/16/2023 9:08:09	<p>More transparency for the School Board's decision making, especially now with the new School Bond approval. I don't trust that they will be spending that money judiciously.</p>
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11/16/2023 13:49:27	<p>Term limits (two consecutive 4yr terms - can run again after a break) for Council and School Committee. Longer terms (and if so, also the same term limits) for COA, voted on during the general election. Some form of petition process to allow residents to place items on official meeting agendas for Public Hearings on topics a Council or School Committee haven't taken up.</p>
11/16/2023 15:14:11	<p>Anyone should be able to run for town council as long as they obtain a certain number of signatures. People in the town should be able to put a ballot question on the next ballot that will be voted on to overturn a town ordinance as long as they get a minimum number of signatures for it.</p>
11/16/2023 15:26:01	<p>Move elections of COA to the beginning or a different day or mail in. Shouldn't come at the end when people are so weary</p>
11/16/2023 15:30:56	<p>1. Acknowledgement that we are on indigenous people's land. 2. Have open primaries for council and school committee where all candidates for the office are listed by lot with their party (or "independent") designation under their name, and the top two vote-getters for each office would face off in November. (This would mean the top two could possibly be from the same party). This is what California does statewide. OR... have totally non-partisan primaries and elections. (As the saying about this issue goes, "There's not a Democrat or Republican way of fixing a pothole.")</p>
11/16/2023 15:59:02	<p>A more representative town council and mayor</p>
11/16/2023 18:32:36	<p>I would like to make sure there is an appropriate re-use of Hampden Meadows property if the school is closed.</p>
11/16/2023 19:47:48	<p>That committees, like the COA, have different voting structures so there is more representation and diversity on the committee.</p>
11/17/2023 8:55:48	<p>4 year terms are too long for local officials , it discourages participation.</p>
11/17/2023 11:05:12	<p>The Town should be broken into wards and each council member elected from their ward (neighborhood) for total of 5 wards equaling 5 town council members. In this way each section of the town can be fully and equally represented.</p>
11/18/2023 1:03:07	<p>I'd like the Town Charter to specify what information should be easily available to the public on the Town's website. As it is, key pieces of information are either missing (e.g., school start and stop times) or are so buried in a convoluted link structure that they are impossible to locate. Copies of important reports are similarly buried and it takes a phone call to the Town Clerk's office to have them walk you through the click sequence to find them (e.g., Councilman Humm's thorough report on athletic fields). In the age of the Internet the town has an obligation to make important information available to the citizens of the town in an easily accessible digital format. The content ought to be audited by outside experts periodically, and the site should be designed by professionals rather the the topsy kluge job we have now that was originally set up by volunteers.</p>
11/19/2023 7:54:24	<p>Non partisan school committee</p>
11/20/2023 15:41:23	<p>More oversight on library and what books and or political actions they can take in terms of room space and book promotion.</p>
11/20/2023 18:08:46	<p>Full Sidewalks on Nayatt and middle highway</p>
11/21/2023 13:34:15	<p>TOWN COUNCIL, NOT COMFORTABLE WITH ONE PERSON, THE TOWN MANAGER HAVING THE FINAL SAY, EVEN IF IT GOES AGAINST WHAT THE TOWN COUNCIL WANTS, THINKING AN ADDITIONAL MEMBER WOULD BE A FAIRER WAY, HAVING 7 MEMBERS.</p>
11/21/2023 15:37:38	<p>Nothing should be changed..Barrington has been the most successful and desirable town in RI for over 40 years, and the recent changes in governmental bodies have negatively impacted our town's finances, education, and policy outcomes.</p>
11/27/2023 11:20:04	<p>1. Establish automatic property tax reductions for senior citizens on fixed incomes depending on income levels. 2. Require majority of actual registered voters to approve bond issues, not simply the majority of those voting.</p>
11/28/2023 17:25:11	<p>I think Barrington should make available more full liquor licenses so that the town could have more good quality restaurants. It would bring more tax revenue to the town and make the quality of life better for those who would like to eat out more often.</p>
11/28/2023 19:39:44	<p>Time we had a mayor and got rid of the town council our population has grown large enough to warrant it have an elected official running it on the residents behalf.</p>

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11/28/2023 21:59:32	There should be specific qualifications for running for town council or for appointments to town committees. This might be academic or specific experience.
11/29/2023 12:09:35	I feel that the town manager's position needs to be abolished and a mayor needs to be elected.
11/30/2023 10:59:48	I would like to see the addition of a 7-1-16 MAXIMUM TAX LEVY, where we cap the maximum levy at 2% of the total assessed real property.
12/1/2023 6:21:35	Any changes need to be mailed out to the voting public, which will allow barrington residents to vote using in person private ballot.
12/4/2023 11:41:42	I would encourage the CRC to consider only systems based changes to the Charter as opposed to operations based changes.
12/4/2023 12:57:23	There must be a way to handle town business without take years upon years to even make a decision on fixing something. It's like there's a red tape fetish around here.
12/4/2023 17:16:12	consider making the school committee non partisan so people vote for the best and most skilled professional not just people that are part of a political party without leadership ability
12/6/2023 15:31:31	There needs to be significant thought put into how to attract and keep high quality superintendents and town managers. There is no substitute for effective leadership. The salaries are too low. We end up with part time town council and school committees that are guided by mediocre administrators. We have become complacent with fixing failings with money rather than better planning from our town manager and superintendent. We need to improve our governance, but I am at a loss to figure out how other than to pay for good people.
12/6/2023 20:11:31	I'm not sure how well town government works cooperatively/efficiently with neighboring communities like Warren, Bristol, East Providence, along with state agencies like the Department of Transportation. I think the bridge reconstruction of the bike paths has been a disaster and wish the affected towns had been more involved, especially since our DPW director has first-hand experience with DOT.
12/6/2023 21:09:10	There should be separate meetings for school related issues and for other Barrington business.
12/7/2023 8:35:25	I realize it is a legal document. However, the language used makes the information very difficult to understand.
12/7/2023 16:12:26	Allow same time to talk at meetings for everyone
12/7/2023 23:37:02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 55% voter approval to pass charter amendments (a simple temporary majority should not be allowed to make foundational changes to how the town government is run. How about if a charter amendment passes with a one vote margin? Is that the will of the people?</li> <li>• Bond issues and charter amendments must be in general elections</li> <li>• Emergency bond issues can be in non-general elections if approved by five councilors at two meetings at least 28 days apart.</li> </ul> <p>*****</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Substitute Town Councilor for Town Council member throughout the charter</li> <li>• Substitute Chair and Vice Chair for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson throughout the charter.</li> </ul> <p>REASONING: as in section 7-2-6: The Committee on Appropriations shall elect a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson from its membership and shall adopt its own rules and order of business.</p> <p>Both of these terms would be gender-neutral while also avoiding the wordiness of "council member" and the awkwardness of "chairperson."</p> <p>From the Rhode Island League of Cities and Town's website: "... members are the 39 local governments ... representing each community. These individuals include mayors, municipal managers and administrators, TOWN AND CITY COUNCILORS, and municipal employees ...</p> <p>To be clear, the use of "chair" as a presiding officer is not some 21st century "woke" idea. Below is the very first paragraph of the original Robert's Rules of Order published in 1915: "Article I Introduction of Business. An assembly having been organized ... There are many other cases in the ordinary routine of business where the formality of a motion is dispensed with, but should any member object, a regular motion becomes necessary, or the CHAIR may put the question without waiting for a motion."</p> <p>And to those who say that a chair is a piece of furniture and not a person (I have heard this argument), might they be reminded of the hundreds of homonyms and homophones that most adults seem to navigate in conversation and writing quite well. ("Well" meaning satisfactorily and not what is dug into the ground to get water!)</p>
12/8/2023 11:22:52	Clarifying the role of the Town Manager would be useful. Sometimes he/she(someday) acts as a mayor. It all seemingly depends on the initiative to the Town Council. More importantly, consider adding election of the Appropriations Committee to the general election of Town Council and School Board. And, making all of these elections non-partisan.
12/8/2023 13:02:11	Inclusive language. Removal antiquated ideas and provisions that further insulate the town.