

CHARTER AMENDMENT PRESS RELEASE

The City's Charter and Code (the set of ordinances specific to the City of Dover) are periodically reviewed for accuracy and completeness. In 2017, the City contracted a firm specializing in developing and publishing municipal code to perform an in-depth review of the Charter, along with the rest of the City's Code, as part of an overall recodification process. The recodification process is designed to make the City's Charter and Code more accessible to the public with improved online availability, searchability, and formatting. The detailed review of the Charter and Code revealed typographical and formatting issues, improvements in readability, and needed updates to reflect current statutes and practices.

In 2020, the City Council accepted revisions to the Code to implement the improvements, however changes to the Charter must be approved using ballot questions during a municipal election. The Ordinance Committee was mandated by the City Council to propose ballot questions to address the Charter amendments recommended during the recodification process. These questions will appear on the November 2nd, 2021 municipal election ballot. The Committee also recognizes that this provides an opportunity for the citizens of Dover to propose other changes to the Charter.

On XX March, 2021, the Ordinance Committee will host a virtual public meeting to introduce the Charter amendment process, provide an overview of the changes identified during the Charter review, and to solicit preliminary input from citizens on these topics. Additional City Council public hearings will be scheduled as part of the process to develop the ballot questions, these public hearings will take place during the summer, followed by a final City Council vote to approve the ballot questions.

Details of the virtual meeting...