

Work Plan of the Charter Review Committee:

Context about the Committee

The purpose of the Charter Review Committee is to make recommendations to modernize Somerville's Charter ensuring it best reflects Somerville as it is today. This work plan has been designed by identifying key topics that either: (a) must go into a charter *or* (b) are important to the committee to discuss as potential additions to the Charter.

The Committee will approach topics holistically by taking umbrella topics (see **bold** below) and addressing all issues within those broader topics. The order of topics may change as the process unfolds.

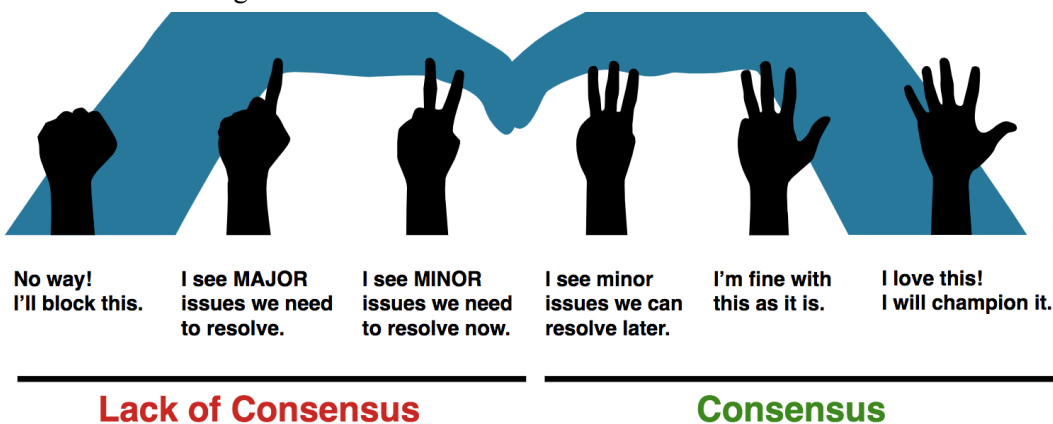
Decision Making for the Committee

We will use the fist-to-five voting method on topics and decisions throughout deliberation to gauge the committee's opinions and get a sense of the level of agreement. We will not take a final vote on individual topics until we have gone through all of them.

If needed, with $\frac{3}{4}$ of the present committee members voting at a 3 or higher (fist to five), the committee may table current discussions and move to the next topic.

At the end of the process, there will be a yay/nay/abstain vote to pass the final report. It will only pass with a supermajority of 8 yays out of 12 votes. Our goal is a unanimous decision so our recommendations are the strongest possible.

The fist-to-five voting method is below:



Overall Deliberation Work Plan and Topics

Overarching questions

Posting requirements

Domicile

Start date for taking office

School Committee

Powers and duties

School committee chair

Vacancy

School building control

Composition: City Council President and Mayor serving on School Committee & ward vs. at-large

Compensation

Significant overarching questions

Approve short title & incorporation

Voter vs. resident language

Elections

Signature requirements

Tied election process

Alternative voting systems

Voting for non-citizens

Voting for 16/17 year olds

Voting for presently incarcerated

Ballot position

Campaign finance reform

Balance of power

Mayor-City Council vs. City Council-Manager system

Chief Administration Officer or Chief Operating Officer

Office terms for all three branches

Exercise of powers, quorum, rules

Vacancies with council and mayor

Pocket veto

City Council access to information

Ordinance enforcement

Staff for City Council

City Council composition: ward vs at-large, full time vs part time

Procedure for mayor unable to perform duties

Department heads: appointments and approvals

Multiple member bodies: appointments, approval, and procedures

Advisory capacity counsel for City Council

Administrative Organization

Administrative Code

City Council approval over administration

Organization merit principles

Finance

City Council involvement in budget process

Annual budget meeting

Submission of operating budget

Action on operating budget

Capital Improvement Program

Spending only with appropriations

Participatory budgeting

Independent auditor

General Provisions

Regular review of ordinances

Regular review of charter

Officially declared emergency

Citizen Participation Mechanisms

Free petition

Citizen initiative mechanisms

Citizen referendum procedures

Recall

Preamble**Transitional Provisions**