

## EXPLANATORY TEXT FOR QUESTIONS

The Berlin Town Council voted to submit the following proposed amendments to the Berlin Town Charter, in four (4) questions, to the voters for their approval (Yes vote) or disapproval (No vote) at the November 8, 2022 Election.

The explanatory text describes the intent and purpose of the proposed amendments.

### Proposed Amendment to the Constitution of the State of Connecticut

1. "Shall the Constitution of the State be amended to permit the General Assembly to provide for early voting?"

Explanatory text is provided separately from the Secretary of the State.

2. "Shall the Charter Section 8-17 be amended to provide the Town with the option to provide public nursing services via Ordinance, as provided in proposed new Chapter 11 of the Charter?"

Currently, the Charter provides that public nursing service must be provided by the Berlin Visiting Nurses Association (VNA). The proposed amendment is for the VNA to continue to provide public nursing services as currently set forth in the Charter unless and until the Town Council passes an Ordinance providing for an improved method of providing public nursing service.

3. "Shall the Charter Section 5-1 be amended to remove the requirement that the Town Manager reside in Berlin during her/his tenure of office?"

The intent and purpose of the proposed amendment is to eliminate the requirement that the Town Manager be a resident of the Town of Berlin, while still requiring that the Town Manager be a resident of the State of Connecticut during tenure of office.

4. "Shall the words "on the ballot" be added to the second sentence of Section 2-8 of the Charter regarding the Board of Education, so that the new second sentence of 2-8 shall read "*No party designation shall appear on the ballot in connection with the names of candidates for said Board?*"

The proposed amendment clarifies that candidates for the Board of Education shall have no party designation associated with their name on the ballot.

5. "Shall the following Charter revisions be made: (a) Sections 3-8 and 5-5: increase the bid threshold for purchases to \$25,000; (b) remove the Fire Marshal from Section 6-9 and place into new Section 6-10; (c) Section 6-9: substitute the words "*or as otherwise provided by this Charter or by Ordinance;*" (d) Section 4-4-1: revise the prohibition for Board of Finance member service on other boards and commissions; (e) Section 3-8: require all collective bargaining agreements to be presented to the Council for approval, consistent with applicable Connecticut law; and (f) Section 6-11-4: require the Board of Finance and Council to include the annual actuarially determined pension contribution in the annual General Fund budget?"

- (a) Increases the bid threshold for goods or services from \$10,000 to \$25,000 or as provided by Connecticut General Statutes.
- (b) Creates a new section of the Charter for the Fire Marshal, separating the position from the Fire Department.
- (c) The proposed revision clarifies that fire protection shall be provided by the volunteer companies as established or as provided by the Charter or by ordinance.
- (d) The proposed revision modifies the prohibition that a Board of Finance member cannot serve on other boards or commissions.
- (e) The proposed revision adds a requirement that the Town Council approve all collective bargaining agreements, including all Board of Education collective bargaining agreements, in accordance with state law.
- (f) The proposed revision adds a requirement that, the Board of Finance and Town Council fund the annual actuarially determined pension contribution in the Town's annual budget.

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