

Hello City Council,

Ray Varney has sent you a message via your contact form  
(<https://www.rochesternh.net/users/city-council/contact>) at Rochester NH.

Message:

Questions and comments

Section 6 Qualification of Councilor -Why is the Mayor excluded from the requirement to reside in the City?

Section 22 Board of Library Trustees -Why is this change necessary? The Trustees manage the Library by State law.

Section 70 Removal of elected officials – The Charter currently specifies the removal of any elected official for causes as stated. The change now restricts this authority to the Mayor and City Councilors. With this proposed change who has the authority to remove School Board, Police Commissioners and Election officials for just cause?

Section 8 Election of Mayor – This change only applies if the Changes to Section 5 are approved. What happens if Section 5 changes are approved and Section 8 is not?

Section 5 Election of Councilors – A four year commitment to the required effort to serve the City as a Councilor or Mayor may discourage suitable candidates. Many positions are unopposed with the current two year terms. Is the only rational for the change to four year terms the perceived loss of institutional knowledge? In my opinion no Mayor or City Councilor past or present is indispensable. The election every two years is the report card for elected officials. If an official has performed well or in some cases just didn't do any damage they may be re-elected. If performance is perceived by the voters to be lacking, someone else may be elected over the incumbent.

I have no illusions that any public input a few hours before voting to place these items on the November ballot will change the direction this is taking but I am firmly opposed to four year terms. Think carefully about the ramifications of these changes, the Charter is not something to be tinkered with.

I would appreciate a public response to my questions.

Ray