

An email dated 8/19/2024 from Dr. Christine Carver to Dan Carter and Melanie O'Brien:

Hi Dan and Melanie -

I saw an article about the charter revision. I know I spoke to you separately about my growing concern about the size of the town and the apathy in voting. In addition, I am concerned that many new residents are not at all familiar with our process. We barely get 1500 people to vote now. I think it is about 1/2 of when I started in Bethel. If there is not an appetite to go to a council structure (representative democracy), there are many charters that have minimum requirements of electorate turn-out for budget approval. I have linked two charters below that have this provision, with the language below. So if the majority do not show up to vote, it reverts back the recommended budget. I realize that all budgetary processes have pros and cons. I just feel that with the changing demographic and growth, we need to consider and discuss other options.

[Wilton](#)

The budget shall become the appropriation of the Town for the ensuing fiscal year unless at least 15% of the electors of the Town vote and a majority of those voting vote to reject the budget either because it is too high or because it is too low. If the budget is approved after amendment, the Board of Finance shall set the recommended rate of taxation for the ensuing fiscal year, reduced to reflect such amendment.

[Farmington](#)

Unless rejected by a majority of those voting at a referendum of those persons entitled to vote in Town Meetings, at which referendum the number of those voting equals at least 15% of the number of registered electors of the Town as determined from the latest official list of the Registrars of Voters, the recommended budget as presented by the Council to the Annual Town Meeting (with any increases, decreases, or addition of an appropriation that is not in the recommended budget approved at such Annual Town Meeting), shall become

effective at the conclusion of the referendum.

The referendum shall be held between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on the 10th day after the Annual Town Meeting. Notice of the referendum shall be included in the notice of the Annual Town Meeting, which notice shall be published and posted in accordance with the provisions of Section 7-3 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended.

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