



MEMO

Date: February 18, 2025

To: Charter Revision Commission

From: David Marti, Town Clerk

RE: BOS and ROV 2 year terms to 4 year terms and
Elected vacancies appoint till end of term not next election

I have always felt that the Board of Selectmen and Registrar of Voters should be elected for 4 year terms instead of 2 year terms.

Both assignments require a minimum of two years to learn their job and get proficient in it. So when you finally get up to speed you have to run for election again.

Below are my findings researching the topic:

§ 3-1Two-year terms. FROM CHARTER

[Amended 11-7-2006, effective 12-7-2006]

At each biennial election there shall be elected a Board of Selectmen consisting of a First Selectman, a Second Selectman and a Third Selectman.

PROVISION FOR CHARTER TOWNS

In 1995, the General Assembly enacted PA 95-224, An Act Concerning the Length of Terms of Municipal Officers, that allows towns to establish by charter four-year terms for members of the legislative body. **Charter towns (or towns that adopt a charter) whose legislative body is the board of selectmen can set four-year terms for them.** The support for that bill, from the Conference of Connecticut Municipalities and others, was based on the preference for allowing towns the option to set term lengths based on local considerations

I could not find a breakdown of number of towns BOS with 2 year terms vs. 4 year terms

ROV TERM LENGTH SUMMARY: (Source Office of Legislative Research from 2015))

By law, registrars of voters serve two-year terms, except that municipalities may, by charter or ordinance, establish four-year terms (CGS §§ 9-187 and 9-189a). According to information provided by the Office of the Secretary of the State (SOTS), **registrars in 88 municipalities serve four year-terms, and registrars in the other 81 municipalities serve two-year terms.**

When an elected official resigns a replacement is currently appointed till next election. I feel the replacement should be appointed till the end of term.

At numerous conferences and training classes on elections the representatives from the Secretary of States offices recommends that Towns with Charters make this change at their next Charter revision.

See memo to Carl Landolina below on error in past BOE election and error in last election with proposed fix. Neither of these situations would have happened if appointments had been made till end of term)

Carl,

I have concluded my research on how and/or when the BOE candidates derailed from the established 4 and 5 candidates alternating per election cycle. Let me recap what the attached PDF documents.

2007 Board of Education- Vote for any 4

2009 Board of Education- Vote for any 5

2011 Board of Education- Vote for any 4

2013 BOE-Vote for any 6 Plus BOE to fill vacancy for 2 years Vote for 1

It should have been vote for 6 total (5 plus 1); Instead it ran as (6 plus 1).

Ever since then the alternating cycle has been 6 and 3 and not the established 5 and 4.

The last page of the PDF shows the ballot of the last Municipal Election in 2023.

An error also happened on that ballot. Two candidates got assigned to the wrong slot. Derek Zelek ran as BOE to fill 2 year vacancy. He should have been in the 4 year slot. Either Shane or JT (not sure which one) should have been in the 2 year slot and both ran for the full 4 year terms.

I know that Ann Kirkpatrick, Chair of the BOE and the Town Committee chairs would like to get this problem corrected. the 5 and 4 alternating Vs the 6 and 3 alternating allow more continuity and balances out the need for candidates.

Carl my recommendation to fix both errors is the following:

In 2025 Election

Have Derek Zelek run for a 2 year term to fill a vacancy that was created because he did not run for the 4 years he should have.

Then run 5 Candidates for full terms.

We will still be running 6 candidates, but this option will get us back on the 5 to 4 rotations. The next election cycle in 2027 the BOE will be running 4 candidates instead of 3.

Carl, I want your ruling on this proposed fix. If what I am suggesting is not appropriate how do you recommend we fix this?

I am CCing Ann Kirkpatrick, Chair of the Board of Ed, First Selectmen Keeney, both Town Committee chairs and both Registrar of Voters. I know that all six have an interest in getting this situation resolved.

Thanks, David Marti

Attached is PDF that shows everything that was outlined in the memo.

The last page of the PDF is a sample ballot from the November 2023 election. It included:

BOF Full 6-year term (Vote for 2), BOF to fill 4-year vacancy and BOF(Vote for 1) to fill 2 year vacancy (Vote for 1)

BOE Full 4-year terms (Vote for 3), BOE to fill vacancy for two years (Vote for 1)

Library Director Full 6-year term, Library Director to fill 2-year vacancy (Vote for 1)

If my recommendation gets proposed and is accepted, we will always be voting only for full terms for each position, and this would eliminate the chances of errors happening. It will simplify the whole process.

List of Nominees for Municipal Office – November 3, 2009

- Under §9-461 of the General Statutes, this list is to be filed with the Secretary of the State after the final date for filing primary petitions, or after the primary, as the case may be, but not later than September 22.
- Please check all entries on this list carefully, type the information required, and date and sign the certification. Where two or more candidates are to be elected to the same office for the same term, names should be Voters by lot in a public ceremony pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §9-253.
- If any minor party, entitled to nominate candidates for municipal office has done so, please so indicate on the bottom of this form after the major party nominees.

I hereby certify that I have compared the name of each candidate with his/her name as it appears on the registry list and have verified and corrected same.

Dated at _____, Connecticut, this _____ day of _____, 2009

Signature of Town Clerk

(Please Note: After filing of above list, Municipal Clerk must notify the Secretary of the State forthwith in writing of any errors or any changes in the above list.

Number For Which Each Elector May Vote	Number to Be Elected	Order and Title of Office to Be Filled (including supplementary language, if any)	Term		Republican Nominee	Address + Zip	Democratic Nominee
			From	To			
1	1	First Selectman	11/17/2009	11/22/2011			
2	2	Selectmen	11/17/2009	11/22/2011			
		Vote for Any Two					
1	1	Town Clerk	1/4/2010	1/6/2014			
2	2	Board of Finance	11/17/2009	11/17/2015			
		Vote for Any Two					
5	5	Board of Education	11/17/2009	11/19/2013			
		Vote for Any Five					
1	2	Assessors	11/17/2009	11/19/2013			
2	4	Constables	11/17/2009	11/22/2011			
		Vote for Any Two					
3	3	Library Trustees					
		Full Term	11/17/2009	11/17/2015			
		Vote for Any Three					
1	1	Library Trustee					
		To Fill Vacancy for Two Years	11/3/2009	11/22/2011			

sent 04.18.2007

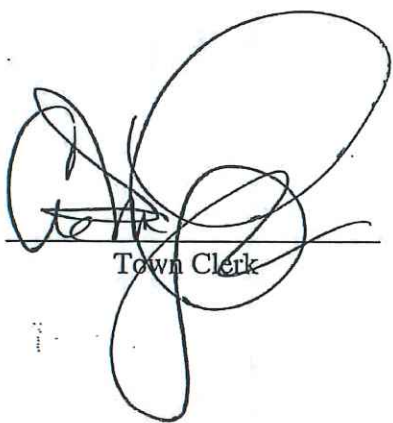
LIST OF OFFICES TO BE FILLED

(To be filed with Secretary of State not later than one hundred eightieth days before election)

Town of Somers, State of Connecticut

At the election of Town officers to be held in said municipality on the 6th day of November 2007, the following offices will be filled for the terms noted below. The number of candidates for whom each elector may vote at said election is also noted below.

Number For Which Each May Vote (Note: This is also the maximum number that a party may nominate.)	No. to be Elected	Order and Title Of Office To Be Filled (including supplementary language, if any)	Term From	To
1	1	First Selectman	11/20/07	11/17/09
2	2	Selectmen	11/20/07	11/17/09
		Vote for Any Two		
1	1	Town Treasurer	11/20/07	11/17/09
1	1	Tax Collector	11/20/07	11/17/09
2	2	Board of Finance	11/20/07	11/19/13
		Vote for Any Two		
4	4	Board of Education	11/20/07	11/22/11
		Vote for Any Four		
1	1	Assessors	11/20/07	11/22/11
2	4	Constables	11/20/07	11/17/09
		Vote for Any Two		
3	3	Library Directors		
		Full Term		
		Vote for Any Three	11/20/07	11/19/13
1	1	Library Director		
		To Fill Vacancy for Four Years	11/06/07	11/22/11



Town Clerk

Received and Filed:

(date)

Susan Bysiewicz
Secretary of the State

State of Connecticut
Official Ballot



Somers, Connecticut

Municipal Election

November 8, 2011

Be sure to read the instructions on the reverse side of this ballot, it will help you

OFFICE → PARTY ↓	1 First Selectman	2 Selectmen Vote for Any Two	3	4 Board of Finance Vote for Any Two	5	6	7 Board of Education Vote for Any Four	8	9	10 Board of Education To Fill Vacancy for Two Years	11 Assessors	12 C Vote
DEMOCRATIC	1A	☐ 2A Kathleen Devlin	3A	☐ 4A Tim Potrikus	5A	☐ 6A Bradley Pellissier	☐ 7A Mark J. Maniscalco	☐ 8A David Pinney	☐ 9A Anne Kirkpatrick	10A	11A	☐ 12A John McNerney
REPUBLICAN	☐ 1B Lisa Pellegrini	☐ 2B Bud Knorr	3B	☐ 4B Michael Parker	☐ 5B Joseph Tolisano	☐ 6B Richard W. Lees Jr.	7B	8B	9B	☐ 10B Marc Cicciarella	☐ 11B Joanne Wheeler	☐ 12B David McCaffrey
PETITIONING CANDIDATES	☐ 1C Robert W. Pettee	☐ 2C Douglas C. Stebbins	3C	4C	5C	6C	7C	8C	9C	10C	11C	12C
PETITIONING CANDIDATE	☐ 1D Patrice Lee Carson	2D	3D	4D	5D	6D	7D	8D	9D	10D	11D	12D
WRITE-IN VOTES →	☐ 1E	☐ 2E	☐ 3E	☐ 4E	☐ 5E	☐ 6E	☐ 7E	☐ 8E	☐ 9E	☐ 10E	☐ 11E	☐ 12E

Town Of: Somers		Election Title: Municipal Election		Election Date: November 5, 2013			
Congressional District: 2		Senatorial District: 7		Assembly District: 52		Voting District: 1	
Proof your work before you send it to Adkins				Do not send to Adkins unless you are ready to print this ballot version.			
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**State of Connecticut
Official Ballot**

Somers, Connecticut

Municipal Election

November 7, 2023

Sheet 1 of 1

VOTE ON THE QUESTION(S)	☐ YES ☐ NO 1. "Shall the Town of Somers appropriate \$13,200,000.00 for the Senior/Community Center project and authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds and notes in the same amount to finance said appropriation?"						☐ YES ☐ NO 2. "Shall the Town of Somers appropriate \$10,500,000.00 for the HVAC and electrical system improvements project and authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds and notes in the same amount to finance said appropriation?"								
	OFFICE → PARTY ↓	1 FIRST SELECTMAN VOTE FOR ONE	2 SELECTMEN VOTE FOR UP TO TWO	3	4 BOARD OF FINANCE VOTE FOR UP TO TWO	5	6 BOARD OF FINANCE TO FILL VACANCY FOR FOUR YEARS VOTE FOR ONE	7 BOARD OF FINANCE TO FILL VACANCY FOR TWO YEARS VOTE FOR ONE	8	9 BOARD OF EDUCATION VOTE FOR UP TO THREE	10	11 BOARD OF EDUCATION TO FILL VACANCY FOR TWO YEARS VOTE FOR ONE	12	13 LIBRARY DIRECTORS FULL TERM VOTE FOR UP TO THREE	14
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	1A	☐ 2A ROBERT W SCHMIDT	3A	4A	5A	6A	7A	☐ 8A ANNE B KIRKPATRICK	9A	10A	11A	☐ 12A JOHN M KELLEHER	13A	14A	15A
REPUBLICAN PARTY	☐ 1B TIMOTHY R E KEENEY	☐ 2B WILLIAM MEIER III	3B	☐ 4B MICHAEL D PARKER	☐ 5B JOSEPH R TOLISANO	☐ 6B BRUCE EDWARD DEVLIN	☐ 7B PAUL M HART	☐ 8B SHANE MICHAEL MANNING	☐ 9B JT GALLOWAY	10B	☐ 11B DEREK ZACHARY ZELEK	☐ 12B MARYBETH S MARQUARDT	☐ 13B ROBERT C SOCHA	14B	☐ 15B CATHERINE E EMBRIANO
PETITIONING CANDIDATE	1C	2C	3C	4C	5C	6C	☐ 7C RALPH W WILLIAMS JR	8C	9C	10C	11C	12C	13C	14C	15C
WRITE-IN VOTES	☐ 1D	☐ 2D	☐ 3D	☐ 4D	☐ 5D	☐ 6D	☐ 7D	☐ 8D	☐ 9D	☐ 10D	☐ 11D	☐ 12D	☐ 13D	☐ 14D	☐ 15D

Be sure to read the instructions on the reverse side of this ballot.

SAMPLE BALLOT