

**EXPLANATORY TEXT
LOCAL BALLOT QUESTIONS**

**Special and State Election
November 06, 2018**

Question No. 3: Shall the Town of Somers appropriate \$6,000,000 for various school improvements and authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds and notes in the same amount to finance said appropriation?

EXPLANATORY TEXT: The Town and Board of Education engaged the services of CREC and TECTON architects in 2015 – 2016 to conduct a study of Somers' public school facilities. The intent was to determine the extent of needed capital improvements in order to develop a fiscal plan. A long range facilities plan was developed and approved by the Board of Education in December 2017. The plan addresses facility issues including: safety and security, ADA compliance, structural, deferred maintenance and indoor air quality. A listing of the proposed projects is attached as Exhibit 1.

Question No. 4: Shall the Town of Somers appropriate \$4,000,000 for road and bridge improvements and authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds and notes in the same amount to finance said appropriation?

EXPLANATORY TEXT: The Town proposes to undertake the reconstruction and paving of various roads listed in the pavement management study conducted for the Town by StreetScan. StreetScan provided the Town with both repair suggestions along with prioritization of repair operations. Restoration of 40 miles of main roads has been selected for this project. Construction, drainage, bridge repair and patching activities would also be undertaken as needed. The project would span a 2 – 3 year period beginning in 2019. A listing of the proposed streets is attached as Exhibit 2.

Question No. 5: Shall the Town Clerk become an appointed rather than elected position?

EXPLANATORY TEXT: Under the current Charter, the position of the Town Clerk is an elected position with a four year term. The proposed Charter revision is to change this to a position appointed or removed by the Board of Selectmen. The proposed change will become effective at the end of the current elected term.

Question No. 6: Shall the town remain guided by an elected Board of Selectmen with an appointed Chief Administrative Officer reporting to the Board of Selectmen?

EXPLANTORY TEXT: Under the current Charter, the First Selectman is the Chief Executive and Administrative Officer in the Town. The proposal would create a new position called Chief Administrative Officer, appointed or removed by the Board of Selectmen. The majority of the day-to-day First Selectman duties would be transferred to the Chief Administrative Officer. The BOS will maintain Policy Development, Hiring and Firing, and Financial Oversight.

Question No. 7: Shall the Town Charter be amended to remove the provision for the election of a First Selectman and Board of Selectmen and in its place provide for the biennial election of a three-member Board of Selectmen each serving a two year term, who shall select a Chairperson from among themselves?

EXPLANATORY TEXT: This proposed amendment is made in conjunction with Question No. 6. Under the current Charter, the Board of Selectmen consists of an elected First Selectman and two other elected Selectmen. The proposal eliminates the election of a separate First Selectman. The Board of Selectmen, consisting of three individuals, would be elected and would choose among themselves, a chairman. The chairman would act as the head of the Board. The proposed change will become effective at the end of the current elected term.