



Town of Haverhill
4585 Charlotte Street
Haverhill, FL 33417

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WEST PALM BEACH, FL
PERMIT NO. 4600



**Town of Haverhill
February 2022 Newsletter**

**TOWN OF HAVERHILL
MUNICIPAL ELECTION
REFERENDUM QUESTIONS**



★ The Town of Haverhill will be holding a municipal election on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at the Town Hall, 4585 Charlotte Street, Haverhill, FL. The Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. The purpose of the election is to vote for Referendum Questions that will amend the Town Charter. There will be four questions on the ballot, three of which have to do with elections; terms of office; qualification requirements; and filling vacancies. The final question addresses provisions of the Charter that are outdated, no longer needed or conflict with State Law.

★ The Town Council of the Town of Haverhill appointed a Charter Review Committee who had been tasked with review of the present Charter and to make recommendations for amendments for Council review. The Town Council concluded that the Committee's recommendations for amendments to the Charter were in the best interest of the Town of Haverhill and moved forward with adopting Ordinances that would then be put to the electors of the Town at a Municipal Referendum Election.

★ **The following questions will appear on the ballot:**

★ **Question No. 1**

★ Shall the Town of Haverhill amend its Charter to provide for a three-year term of office for Councilmembers, instead of a two year term, which will become effective at the March 2023 general election?

★ Presently the term of each Council Member is for 2 years. Seats 1, 2 and 3 are elected odd years and Seats 4 and 5 are elected even years. With this schedule, the Town must open the qualification period for candidates annually and if papers are filed, an election will be held each year.

★ The proposed amendment would allow for an election to be held for two consecutive years, followed by a year with no election. When the Town's municipal election fall on the same year as a Presidential Preference Primary, the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections would oversee the election resulting in substantial savings to the Town.



★ **Question No. 2**

★ Shall the Town of Haverhill amend its Charter to require all Candidates for Council to be residents of the Town at least one year prior to the first day of qualifying in order to qualify to run for office?

★ This amendment will require candidates provide proof that they have resided in the Town of Haverhill for at least one year prior to the first day of qualifying. Presently a candidate need only be a "qualified elector" within the Town, meaning that the candidate's voter registration record show a Haverhill address. The Committee and Council felt a candidate having knowledge of the Town, its boundaries, its demographics, its vision and current events should be a requirement of holding elected office within the Town and as such will require specific proof that the person qualifying for office has lived within the Town for at least one year.

★ **Question No. 3**

★ If the voters approve extending the term of office to three years, shall the Town of Haverhill amend its Charter to require a special election to fill the vacancy in a Council seat by Special Election when there is 18 months or more remaining on the term of the vacant seat and authorize the Town Council to make a good faith effort to fill a vacancy by appointment if there is less than 18 months but more than one hundred seventy nine days remaining in a term?

**TOWN OF HAVERHILL
MUNICIPAL ELECTION
TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2022**

POLLS OPEN 7:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M.

POLLING LOCATION FOR ALL TOWN PRECINCTS (2046, 7136, 7140)
HAVERHILL TOWN HALL, 4585 CHARLOTTE STREET, HAVERHILL, FL 33417

**ABSENTEE BALLOTS AND VOTE BY MAIL BALLOTS CAN BE OBTAINED AT
THE PALM BEACH COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS OFFICE, 240 SOUTH
MILITARY TRAIL, WEST PALM BEACH, FL OR BY CALLING 561-656-6200**

MUNICIPAL ELECTION REFERENDUM QUESTIONS (page 2)

The present Charter states that in the event of a vacancy in the Town Council, the remaining members of the Town Council shall, within ninety (90) days of the creation of a vacancy appoint a successor to fill the office vacated by a majority vote of the Town Council. The appointment shall be effective until the expiration of the term of such office in which the vacancy occurred. Any successor appointed by the Town Council to fill a vacancy in the office of Councilmember shall meet the qualifications for election to such office. Because the Town Council term of office may be extended to three years and the voters approve Question No. 1 at the March 8, 2022 referendum election, the Town Council felt the recommendation of the Charter Committee to hold a special election if any vacancy occurs within 18 months or more left in the term of office vacated. Would be a fair and equitable method to fill the vacancy and would be in the best interest of the Town. Question No. 4 Shall the Town of Haverhill amend its Charter to remove or clarify provisions that are outdated, incomplete, unnecessary or conflict with State Law including Town powers, removal of officials, commencement of term of office, hiring of professionals and consultants death or withdrawal of candidate before election, resolution of a tie vote and authority of Town Council to conduct elections? This question, if approved by the voters will clear up, clean-up, modify, eliminate and clarify certain powers of the Town and Town Council. Specifically: Section 1.03: The Town Council added language to this Section of the Charter that clarifies the general powers of the Town and its ability for perpetual existence. Section 2.04: Proposed amendments to this section limits how a member of the Town Council may be recalled or removed from his/her office as Town Council Member to those provisions under the general laws of the State of Florida. Section 2.05: The term of office shall commence upon receipt by the Town of the certified election results from the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections, or the date the election would have occurred in the event there is not a contested election. Section 2.06: A ceremonial induction for newly elected Councilmembers shall occur at the first Town Council meeting after receipt of the certified election results, or the date the election would have occurred in the event there was no contested election. Section 3.05: This amendment uses "Town Council" instead of only "Council" when referring to the elected body. It also grants the power of hiring and retaining consultants (engineers, auditors, attorneys) to the Town Council. Section 4.03: This amendment removes the dates for qualification of a candidate from the provisions of the Charter and allows the Town Council to set these dates by Ordinance and Resolution. It also sets out the manner in which votes are counted for a candidate who is removed from the ballot after the ballot is printed due to death, withdrawal, disqualification or removal. Section 4.05: Presently, if a candidate running for election does not win by a majority vote, a second election, limited to the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes in the election, must be held 14 days after the first election. This provision is being amended so that in the event two or more candidates receive an equal and highest number of votes for the same seat, such candidates shall draw lots to determine and decide the election. The drawing of lots will take place at the next Town Council meeting following the certification of the results by the Supervisor of Elections office. The exact manner of the drawing of lots shall be determined by the Mayor, unless he or she is a candidate receiving an equal and highest number of votes, in which case the Vice-Mayor shall make the determination. This amendment also requires the Oath of Office to be administered by the Town Attorney, or the Town Administrator in his or her absence, and allows for the Town Council to call for Special Elections in addition to Regular, General and Municipal elections.

TREE REMOVAL REGULATIONS

A permit and permit fee is required for the removal of all trees that are healthy and alive. All permit applications for the removal of a tree that is not causing imminent danger to people or property must be accompanied by letter from a State Certified Arborist or a Registered Landscape Architect. documenting why the tree should be removed. A permit is required for all land clearing. No permit is required if the tree is dead and/or is being removed in response to a Code Violation or is being removed as a requirement for "Developed Land" as described below.

EXOTIC TREE REMOVAL:

New Construction: Complete removal or eradication of prohibited plant species, as defined below, shall be completed for the entire site prior to receipt of the Certificate of Occupancy (C.O.). Planting or installation of these plants species is prohibited. Periodic removal is required to prevent future re-establishment of the prohibited species on site. Removal of prohibited plant species.

Developed Land: All developed property shall have prohibited plant species removed by the property owner unless such species is a tree with a diameter greater than 12 inches diameter at breast height. Prohibited plant species greater than 12 inches diameter shall be removed by the property owner at the minimum rate of one per year until all prohibited species are removed. Periodic removal is required to prevent future re-establishment of the prohibited species on site.

The following plant species are prohibited:

Melaleuca, punk tree or paper tree- Melaleuca quinquenervia; Brazilian pepper or Florida holly- Schinus teribinthifolius; Australian pine- Casuarina spp.; Earleaf acacia- Acacia auriculiformis; Kudzu- Pueraria montana (P. lobata); Small-leaved climbing fern- Lygodium microphyllum; Air potato vine- Dioscorea bulbifera; Carrotwood- Cupaniopsis anacardiodes; Schefflera- Schefflera actinophylla.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) Advisory Committee

The Town of Haverhill Town Council has appointed an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Advisory Committee who have been tasked with working with the Town's Staff and Consultants in determining the best ways to spend the Federal funding received as part of the Town's recovery from the COVID 19 pandemic.

The Town of Haverhill will receive a total of 1,230,921. The Committee is busy working to identify specific project priorities and to develop a detailed spending plan and timeline including all necessary details for compliance to the strict guidelines of the project. All funds must be encumbered by December of 2024 and expended by December of 2026.

The funding must be spent on public health emergencies as a result of COVID 19 pandemic; to respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency; for the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to the COVID 19 public health emergency and necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure. All meetings of the Committee are posted on our website and the public is encouraged to attend. For more information, please call the Town Administrator at 561-689-0370, ext. 1

Stormwater Regulation

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater Program regulates point source discharges from three potential sources: Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s), construction activities and industrial activities.

Stormwater runoff is generated from rain events that flow over land or impervious surfaces, such as paved streets, parking lots and building rooftops, and does not soak into the ground. The runoff picks up pollutants like trash, chemicals, oils, and dirt/ sediment that can harm our rivers, streams and lakes. To protect these resources, municipalities, construction and industries activities, and others use stormwater controls, known as Best Management Practices (BMPs), to manage their runoff.

Here are some easy tips to prevent yard run-off:

- Clean up outside your home including trash, leaves, yard clippings and pet waste.
Water the yard only as needed and avoid spraying streets, sidewalks, and driveways to prevent water from carrying pollutants directly into storm drains.
Divert rainspouts and garden hoses away from paved surfaces. Provide landscaping next to sidewalks and driveways to help collect and filter rain runoff.
Control erosion around your property to prevent dirt and debris being carried into the storm drain.
Read labels on pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides prior to use and follow instructions carefully.
Wash your car on an unpaved area or take it to a commercial car wash where the wastewater will be treated.
Maintain your car so that it won't leak fluids onto roads/ driveways. If leaks can't be avoided, use drip pans. Clean up spills with absorbent materials, bag it, and dispose of it in the trash or at a Household Recycling Center. www.swa.org
Keep paints, solvents, and other "toxic" chemicals off the ground and away from storm drains. Painting tools used with water-based paints can be rinsed in the sink. Take all unwanted paint and solvents (including waste from washing tools used with latex and oil-based paints)
Pet waste is not part of a healthy watershed. Be sure to pick it up when walking your dog. The watershed should only shed water.

Let's protect our watersheds—together!