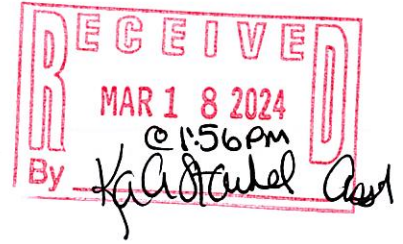


# PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

March 13, 2024  
7:00 p.m.

## CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION



**PURPOSE:** To Receive Citizen Input on Suggestions for Revisions to the Town Charter.

Chairperson Paterna called the Public Hearing to order at 7:00 p.m.; and requested that the legal notice be read the call of the meeting (a copy of which is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**).

Chairperson Paterna asked if there was anyone from the public that would like to speak.

### Public Comment:

**Mr. Aaron Silvia of 85 Krawski Drive** - Mr. Silva stated that he strongly opposes the indirect election to fill positions by using a process which includes an additional step or steps following the general election. He discussed his reasons justifying his request (a copy of which is attached hereto as **Exhibit B**)

Chairperson Paterna asked for a Straw Vote, the results of which were as follows:

Those **supporting** Charter Revisions: **1**

Those in **opposition** of Charter Revisions: **0**

The public hearing was closed at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Katherine J. Seneneth  
Executive Assistant

**Public Hearing Notice - Exhibit A**  
**Mr. A. Silvia Notes - Exhibit B**

Michael Maniscalco, MPA  
Town Manager

TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE JOURNAL INQUIRER

March 1, 2024

LEGAL AD

TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR

Notice is hereby given that the South Windsor Charter Revision Commission has set Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the South Windsor Town Hall, 1540 Sullivan Avenue, South Windsor, Connecticut, as the time and place for a Public Hearing to receive citizen input on suggestions for revisions to the Town Charter.

Dated at South Windsor, Connecticut this 26<sup>th</sup> day of February 2024.

Attested to by:



Katherine J. Senerth  
Executive Assistant

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Executive Assistant

My motivation for submitting the proposal is simple. I am a proponent of the direct election by voters, to fill elected offices at the local, state, and federal level. I strongly oppose the indirect election to fill positions by using a process which includes an additional step or steps following the general election.

Although I belong to a political party, my proposal is not a reaction to the recent 2023 election, or a response to any previous election. There is no political agenda.

I would like to present, what I believe to be compelling reasons to justify such a change.

- First, It's hard to accept that in a town when thousands of votes are cast to elect the Town Council, that filling the position of mayor will be done by five or six individuals whose party won a majority of council seats; and that the candidate who becomes the next mayor may be determined by receiving one more vote than the second place finisher of the party which will make-up the majority of the Town Council. This practice could result in a council candidate being appointed to a position he or she never aspired to - mayor of South Windsor.
- Second, I believe enacting this revision would empower all parties who have candidates seeking Town Council positions. Each slate will identify the Town Council candidate, who will serve as mayor, should that slate win the majority of council positions. Voters will have confidence that each party has endorsed a mayoral candidate based upon a criteria, including: assessment of meritorious experience, willingness to serve, to chair meetings, to attend important town events, to work closely with the Town Manager, to create and maintain a bi-partisan relationship with the Council, and develop and explain his or her vision for the Town of South Windsor, etc.
- Third, such a revision would potentially have a beneficial impact; increasing interest in running for the Town Council, and increasing the number of votes cast, by giving voters the right to directly elect the next mayor.
- Of course, the major difference between how it's presently done and how it could be done in the future, is that prior to Election Day voters would know who would serve as the next mayor, depending upon which slate wins the majority of Town Council seats. The result would be a fully-informed electorate, involved not only in the council election, but electing the mayor as well – in contrast to this position being filled by appointment post-election.
- Finally, this charter revision proposal is not radical. It does not separate the election of mayor from the election of the Town Council; thus, avoiding the risk of a mayor who is from one party serving with a council majority from another. In a different way it incorporates the election of mayor into the framework of the Town Council election process.