

HOUSE No. 3747

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jerald A. Parisella and Joan B. Lovely

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to the home rule charter of the city of Beverly.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Jerald A. Parisella</i>	<i>6th Essex</i>	<i>3/27/2023</i>
<i>Joan B. Lovely</i>	<i>Second Essex</i>	<i>4/25/2023</i>

HOUSE No. 3747

By Representative Parisella of Beverly, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3747) of Jerald A. Parisella (with the approval of the mayor and city council) relative to the home rule charter of the city of Beverly. Municipalities and Regional Government. [Local Approval Received.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act relative to the home rule charter of the city of Beverly.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. SECTION 1-7 of the charter of the city of Beverly which is on file in the
2 office of the archivist of the commonwealth, as provided in section 12 of chapter 43B of the
3 General Laws, is amended as follows:-

4 (1) Insert the following definitions:

5 (f) City website: a site established and maintained by the city as its online repository of
6 municipal information on the internet.

7 (g) Department Head: The person having responsibility and oversight for the operation
8 and management of a city department.

9 (h) District: the word “district” as appearing in Articles 4 and 7 of this charter shall mean
10 the combining of wards 1, 2 and 3, and wards 4, 5 and 6 for the election of 2 school committee
11 members, 1 to be elected from each such district.

12 (s) Regular Municipal Election: the words “regular municipal election” shall mean the
13 biennial election of municipal officers.

14 (2) SECTION 1-7 is further amended by re-lettering the following subparts as
15 follows: (f) becomes (i), (g) becomes (j), (h) becomes (k), (i) becomes (l), (j) becomes (m), (k)
16 becomes (n), (l) becomes (o), (m) becomes (p), (n) becomes (q), (o) becomes (r), and (s)
17 becomes (t).

18 3) Said charter is further amended in Section 1-7(c) by striking the “and” following the
19 words “are posted”, and inserting the words “and the city website” at the end of the sentence.

20 SECTION 2. Said charter is further amended by striking out the words: “City election”
21 “biennial election” “City biennial election,” “general City election,” or “regular election” in
22 every instance and inserting in place thereof the words “regular municipal election wherever
23 appearing.”

24 SECTION 3. Said charter is further amended in Articles 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 as
25 follows:- The words “Acting Mayor”, “Accountant,” “Administrative Code”, “Board of
26 Registrars of Voters”, “Budget/Management Analyst”, “City”, “City Solicitor”, “Collector”,
27 “Council”, “Councilor”, “Councilor-at-Large”, “City Clerk”, “Clerk”, “Conservation
28 Commission” ”Director of Municipal Finance”, “Director of Municipal Inspections”, “Director
29 of Planning and Development”, “District”, “Historic Districts Commission”, “Mayor”, “Planning
30 Board”, “School Committee”, “Secretary”, “Treasurer”, and “Ward” are to appear in lower case
31 in every instance. This change shall not apply to charter articles or section headings.

32 SECTION 4. Said charter is further amended in Articles 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 as
33 follows:- The word “section” is to be capitalized in its entirety as “SECTION”, in every instance.

34 SECTION 5. Said charter is further amended in Articles 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 as
35 follows:- The words “one”, “two”, “three”, “four”, “five”, “six”, “seven”, “eight”, and “nine”
36 shall be changed to the digits “1”, “2”, “3”, “4”, “5”, “6”, “7”, “8”, and “9” in all cases, except
37 when the number is expressed as a word at the beginning of a sentence.

38 SECTION 6. The second and third sentences of SECTION 2-1(c) are hereby amended
39 by striking out the words between “in the City” in the second sentence and “may continue” in the
40 third sentence and combining the sentences into one sentence, and further amended by inserting
41 the words “the councilor” before the words “may continue” and striking the word “for” before
42 the words “which elected” and replacing it with the word “to”.

43 SECTION 7. Said charter is further amended in Section 2-2(a) by striking out the word
44 “for” after the word “president” and inserting in place thereof the word “during”.

45 SECTION 8. Said charter is further amended in Section 2-2(c) by striking out the words
46 “absence or disability” in the second and third sentences and inserting in place thereof the
47 following: “inability to serve”.

48 SECTION 9. Said charter is further amended in the second sentence of Section 2-4(a)
49 by adding the words “or decreasing” following the word “increasing.”

50 SECTION 10. Said charter is further amended in the first sentence of Section 2-6(b) by
51 striking out the words “, but a smaller number may meet and adjourn from time to time.”

52 SECTION 11. Said charter is further amended in the first sentence of Section 2-6(c)(ii)
53 by inserting the words “or by electronic mail to” following the words “residence of”.

54 SECTION 12. Said charter is further amended in Section 2-8(a) as follows:-

55 (a) Inserting the following sentences after the first sentence: “In the case of a vacancy in
56 the position, the city council shall fill such vacancy promptly. The council may advertise for the
57 position and shall post the vacancy in accordance with SECTION 8-12 or retain consultant
58 services for an individual to serve as budget/management analyst. The council may pursue either
59 or both options for selection prior to determining whether the budget/management analyst shall
60 serve as an employee or as a consultant.”

61 (b) Inserting the sentence “If the budget/management analyst is an employee, the salary
62 for the position shall never be less than 1/2 the amount provided for the office of finance
63 director.” as the last sentence of sub-section 2-8(a).

64 SECTION 13. Said charter is further amended in the first sentence of Section 2-8(b) by
65 striking out the word “two” and inserting in place thereof the number “3”.

66 SECTION 14. Said charter is further amended in the first sentence of Section 2-8(c) by
67 striking out word “two” and inserting in place thereof the number “3”.

68 SECTION 15. Said charter is further amended in Section 2-8(d) by inserting the words
69 “and employees” after “officers”; by striking the word “office” and inserting in its place the
70 words “offices and employees”.

71 SECTION 16. Said charter is further amended in Section 2-8(e) by striking out the
72 words “substantially the same as those.”

73 SECTION 17. Said charter is further amended in the third sentence of Section 2-9(b) as
74 follows:- by inserting the words “, but no later than the next scheduled council meeting following
75 the passage of the 5 days above.” after the word “days,”.

76 SECTION 18. Said charter is further amended by striking section 2-9(c) in its entirety,
77 except for the heading, and replacing it as follows:-

78 “Every proposed ordinance, appropriation order or loan authorization [except emergency
79 ordinances as provided in SECTION 2-9(a)], shall be posted and/or published on the city bulletin
80 board, city website and in the local newspaper, and in any additional manner required by this
81 charter, or state or federal law, as well as be made available at the office of the city clerk at least
82 10 days before final passage. Whenever a proposed ordinance would exceed in length more than
83 10 column inches of ordinary newspaper notice print, then in lieu of publication of the full text of
84 the ordinance in the local newspaper, the city clerk shall prepare and cause to be published in a
85 local newspaper a summary of the proposed ordinance, including its purpose and provisions,
86 along with a notice stating the times and places where the full text of the ordinance may be
87 reviewed by the public. Such summary shall be subject to review by and approval by the city
88 solicitor prior to publication in a local newspaper.

89 After final passage, the full text of any ordinance shall be posted on the City bulletin
90 board and city website and steps shall be taken by the city clerk to forthwith incorporate such
91 ordinance into the official publication of the complete city ordinances.”

92 SECTION 19. Said charter is further amended in SECTION 2-9(d) in the first and second
93 sentences as follows:- The first sentence is amended by striking the number “24” and inserting
94 in place thereof the number “72”, and by inserting the word “Saturdays” after the word “hours”.
95 The second sentence is amended by striking the word “twenty-four” and inserting in place
96 thereof the number “72”.

97 SECTION 20. Said charter is further amended in SECTION 2-11(a) as follows:- by
98 striking the words “then unexpired” in the second sentence and inserting in place thereof the
99 word “concluding”; and by striking the last two sentences.

100 SECTION 21. Said charter is further amended in SECTION 2-11(b) by striking the four
101 sentences now appearing and inserting in place thereof the following: “If a vacancy shall occur
102 in the office of ward councilor in the first 18 months of the term to which councilors are elected,
103 it shall be filled in the same manner as provided in SECTION 2-11(a) for the office of councilor-
104 at-Large except that the list shall be of the candidates for the office of ward councilor in the ward
105 in which the vacancy occurs.”

106 SECTION 22. The charter is further amended in SECTION 2-11(c) in the first sentence,
107 2 sentences are inserted following the first sentence, and a new subsection (d) is added as
108 follows:-

109 (1) The first sentence is amended by inserting the number “(1)” after the words
110 “councilor and” and inserting the words “and (2) more than 6 months remains on” following
111 “(b),”; by inserting the words “existing term, the,” following the word “the”; and by inserting the
112 words “vote of” following the word ”by”.

113 (2) The subsection is amended by inserting the following two sentences following the
114 first sentence:- “The council shall post notice of the vacancy for 14 days, and the council shall
115 include among such candidates for the vacancy any candidates for the now vacant seat in the
116 prior municipal election who were not elected and did not meet the criteria of SECTION 2-11 (a)
117 or (b). The council president shall provide the opportunity for each candidate seeking to fill a
118 vacancy to address the council prior to its vote to fill any vacancy.”

119 (3) The now appearing second sentence becomes the fourth sentence and is amended as
120 follows:- by striking the word “chosen” and inserting in place thereof the word “elected”; and by
121 striking the word “unexpired” following the words “remainder of the” and inserting in place
122 thereof the words “balance of the concluding”.

123 (4) The provision is amended by inserting a new sub-section (d) as follows:- “If the
124 vacancy shall occur during the last 6 months of the term of office, such vacancy for a ward
125 councilor shall be filled by the person at the next regular municipal election who receives the
126 highest number of votes for the office of ward councilor from that ward. Such vacancy for a
127 councilor-at-large council seat shall be filled by the person at the next regular municipal election
128 who is not presently serving and receives the highest number of votes for councilor-at-large from
129 among the candidates for the office who are not presently serving. Such ward councilor or
130 councilor at large person shall forthwith be certified by the city clerk to serve for the balance of
131 the concluding term in addition to the term to which elected.”

132 SECTION 23. The charter is revised in SECTION 3-1(b) by striking out the word the
133 word “two” and inserting in place thereof the number “4”.

134 SECTION 24. The charter is further amended in the second and third sentences of
135 Section 3-1(c) as follows:-

136 1) the second sentence is amended by inserting the words “or decreasing” following
137 the word “increasing”.

138 2) the third sentence is amended by striking the word “twelve” and replacing it with
139 the number “36”; by striking the word “Councillors” and inserting in place thereof the words

140 “the mayor is” following the word “which”, and adding the words “that includes the election of a
141 mayor” following the word “election.”

142 SECTION 25. The charter is further amended in SECTION 3-3 as follows:

143 1) Amending the sixth sentence by replacing the number “8-15” with the number “8-
144 14.”;

145 2) By striking the seventh, eighth, and ninth sentences in the subsection.

146 SECTION 26. The charter is further amended in Section 3-5 -Temporary Appointments
147 to City offices - in the fifth sentence by inserting the words “In the case of a temporary vacancy,”
148 prior to the word “no”; by striking the number “30” and inserting in place thereof the number
149 “60”; and by inserting the phrase “30- day” following the number “1”. The provision is further
150 amended in the fifth sentence following the words “permanent vacancy exists,” by inserting the
151 words “the initial appointment shall be for not more than 60 days, and not more than (3) 30 day
152 renewals of such appointment may be made following the initial appointment.”

153 SECTION 27. The charter is further amended in the first sentence of Section 3-6(b) by
154 striking out the words “place of business or”, following the words “to the”; and by inserting the
155 words “or by electronic mail to” following the words “residence of.”

156 SECTION 28. The charter is further amended in the first and second sentences of Section
157 3-8(a) as follows:

158 1) The first sentence of the subsection is amended by striking out the words “, by
159 reason of sickness, absence from the city or other cause,” following the word “Whenever”; and
160 by deleting the words “successive working” following the word “five ”.

161 2) The second sentence as now appearing is stricken, and replaced as follows:- “If
162 the city council president is unwilling or unable to serve, the councilor-at-large with the second
163 highest number of votes in the most recent regular municipal election shall serve as acting
164 mayor, and if said councilor is unwilling or unable to serve, the councilor-at-large with the third
165 highest number of votes at the most recent regular municipal election shall serve as acting
166 mayor. If none of the councilors-at-large are willing or able to serve as mayor, the council shall
167 elect from among its membership a councilor to serve as acting mayor.”

168 SECTION 29. The charter is further amended in the second sentence of Section 3-8(b) by
169 striking the words ”disability of the mayor” following the words “unless the” and inserting in
170 place thereof the words “mayor’s inability to serve.”

171 SECTION 30. The charter is further amended in SECTION 3-9 as follows:-

172 (1) SECTION 3-9(a) is amended by striking out the number “15” and inserting in
173 place thereof the number “39”; and striking the words “whether by reason of death, resignation,
174 removal from office, incapacity or otherwise,”; by inserting the words “except for a vacancy as
175 the result of a recall” after the words “term for which the Mayor is elected”, and striking the
176 words “then expired” and inserting in place thereof “concluding” following the words “balance
177 of the”.

178 (2) SECTION 3-9(b) is amended as follows:-

179 (a) by striking in the first sentence the words “in the last nine months of the term for
180 which the Mayor is elected whether by reason of death, resignation, removal from office or
181 otherwise”; and inserting in place thereof the words “after the thirty-ninth month” following
182 the word “occurs”;

183 (b) By inserting a new sentence after the first sentence as follows:- “If the city
184 council president is unwilling or unable to serve, the vacancy shall be filled in the manner set
185 forth in SECTION 3-8(a).”

186 (c) The second sentence of SECTION 3-9(b) as now appearing becomes the third
187 sentence and is amended by inserting after the words “city council”, the words “other councilor-
188 at-large, or ward councilor”; and by striking the number “2-10” and inserting in place thereof “
189 2-11”.

190 (d) Inserting a new subsection 3-9(c) as follows:- “(c) Vacancy as a result of recall
191 election - If a mayoral vacancy exists as a result of a recall election, the vacancy shall be filled
192 by a special election as provided in SECTION 7-14 (g) if such election can be held within the
193 requirements of SECTION 7-14 (f) of this charter.”

194 (e) subsection (c) is re-lettered as subsection (d) and is further amended by:

195 (i) striking in the second sentence the words “unexpired”; by inserting the word “
196 concluding” before the word “term”;

197 (ii) striking in the third sentence the words “to fill the office” after the word “elected”
198 and inserting in place thereof the words “as mayor shall forthwith be certified by the city clerk
199 and shall serve”; striking the word “ensuing” and inserting in its place “balance of the
200 concluding”; striking the words “of office shall serve” after the word “term”; inserting “to the
201 term to which such person was elected after the words “in addition”; and by striking the words
202 “the balance of the then unexpired term” at the end of the sentence.

203 SECTION 31. The charter is further amended in SECTION 4-1(a) by amending the first
204 sentence, adding a new second sentence, and amending the third sentence as follows:-

205 1) The first sentence is amended by striking the word “seven” and inserting in place
206 thereof the number “9”.

207 2) A new sentence is inserted following the second sentence: “Two members shall
208 be elected from districts composed as follows: District A shall be composed of wards 1, 2, and 3
209 and District B shall be composed of wards 4, 5, and 6.”

210 3) The fourth sentence is amended by striking the word “seventh” following the
211 words “as the” and inserting in place thereof the word “ninth.”

212 SECTION 32. The charter is further amended in Section 4-1(b) as follows:-

213 1) The first and second sentences of Section 4-1(b) are hereby amended by striking
214 the words between “in the City” in the first sentence and “member” in the second sentence and
215 combining the sentences into one sentence, and further amended by inserting the word “the”
216 before the words “member may” and striking the word “for” before the words “which elected”
217 and replacing it with the word “to”;

218 2) by inserting after the first sentence the following sentence: “ If a district school
219 committee member shall during the first 18 months of the term of office remove to a ward of the
220 city not in the district from which the member is elected, such district member may continue to
221 serve for the balance of the term to which elected.”

222 3) The final sentence of this subsection is amended by inserting the words “or
223 district” following the word “ward”.

224 SECTION 33. The charter is further amended in Section 4-1 as follows:-

225 (1) Section 4-1(c)(2) is amended by striking the words “may be deemed necessary or
226 desirable” and inserting in place thereof the words “the general laws so provide.”

227 (2) Section 4-1(c) is amended by adding(4) before the unnumbered paragraph beginning
228 with the words “The school committee shall” and ending with “building is delegated”, following
229 paragraph (3).

230 SECTION 34. The charter is further amended in Section 4-1(f) by amending the first,
231 second, third, and fifth sentences as follows:-

232 (a) The first sentence is amended as follows: -

233 (1) by inserting the words “or district school committee member” following the word
234 “member”;

235 (2) by striking the number “20” and inserting in place thereof the number “18”, and
236 by inserting the words "or district" following the word “ward”,

237 (3) by striking the word “that” and inserting in place thereof the word “such”
238 following the word “from”,

239 (4) by inserting the words “or district” following the words “office of ward”,

240 (5) by striking the word “that” and inserting in place thereof “such” following the
241 words “member in” and inserting the word “or district” after the word “ward”;

242 (b) The second sentence is amended as follows: -

243 (1) by striking the word “the” after the words “voters of” and inserting in place thereof
244 the word “such”;

245 (2) by adding the words “or district” following the word “ward”.

246 (c) The third sentence is amended as follows: -

247 (1) striking the word “four” following the word “last” and inserting in place thereof the
248 number “6”;

249 (2) by striking the word “that” following the word “from” and inserting in place thereof
250 the word “such”,

251 (3) by inserting the words “or district” following the word “ward”.

252 (d) The fourth sentence of the subsection is amended by striking the words “last two
253 months” and inserting the word “balance” in place thereof;

254 (e) The fifth sentence of the subsection is amended by inserting the words “or
255 district” following the word “ward”; by striking the word “unexpired” and inserting in place
256 thereof the word “concluding” and by inserting the words “as well as the term to which elected”
257 following the word “term.”

258 SECTION 35. The charter is further amended in SECTION 4-2(a) in the first sentence by
259 inserting the words “or district” following the word “ward.”

260 SECTION 36. The charter is further amended in SECTION 4-3 by striking the second
261 sentence beginning “The city council” and ending with “such appropriations.”

262 SECTION 37. The charter is further amended by reformatting Article 5 such that
263 subsections (1) and (2) wherever appearing, are stricken and inserted in place thereof by
264 subsections (a) and (b), wherever appearing, and that clauses (a), (b), (c), etc. are stricken and
265 replaced by insertion of clauses (1), (2), (3), etc.

266 SECTION 38. The charter is further amended in Section 5-1 as follows:

267 1) The first sentence and subsection (a) are deleted.

268 2) The first sentence in the “Administrative Code” subsection (formerly (b)) is
269 amended by moving the following words as appearing in the final sentence of this provision
270 following the words “business of the city”: “provided however that no function assigned by this
271 charter to a particular city agency may be discontinued, or assigned to any other city agency
272 unless this charter so specifically provides.”

273 3) The remainder of the final sentence of this provision is moved to become the
274 second sentence of this subsection and is modified as follows:- by striking the words “to the
275 same extent as is provided in SECTION 5-1(a), above, for ordinances;” between the word
276 “necessary,” and the words “and for such”

277 4) The third sentence beginning “Whenever the mayor shall propose such a plan” is
278 amended following the word “plan,” by inserting the words: “any proposed changes to the
279 administrative code shall be accompanied by a message from the mayor which explains the
280 expected benefits and advises the city council if changes proposed shall require amendments,
281 insertions, or revisions, repeal or otherwise of existing ordinances” The sentence is further
282 amended by replacing the clause beginning “the City Council” with a new sentence beginning

283 “The city council” and inserting the words “and on the city website,” following the word
284 “newspaper”.

285 SECTION 39. The charter is further amended in SECTION 5-4 by amending the second
286 sentence of (a) and the second and fourth sentences of (b) as follows:-

287 1) the second sentence of SECTION 5-4(a) is amended by striking the words “which,
288 prior to the adoption of the Home Rule Charter, were performed by or under the authority of the
289 city auditor, the city treasurer, the city collector, the Chief Procurement Officer and the Board of
290 Assessors;” and inserting in place thereof the words “shall include treasury, collection,
291 accounting, and assessing;”

292 2) the second sentence in (b) is amended by striking the words “performing the duties of
293 City Collector and City Treasurer.” and replacing them with the words “with management and
294 oversight responsibility for treasury and/or collection functions.”;

295 3) the fourth sentence of (b) is amended by striking the words “state statutes” and
296 inserting in place thereof “the general laws”, by inserting the word “the” following the word
297 “ordinances,” and by inserting the words “any accompanying” following the words “code and”.

298 4) the fifth sentence of (b) is amended by inserting after the word “The”:- “mayor may
299 specify that the”, by striking the words “as the mayor may from time to time specify” following
300 the words “ex officio”, by striking the word “or” before “Treasurer-Collector” and by inserting
301 the words “or city accountant” following the word “treasurer-collector.”

302 SECTION 40. The charter is further amended in the third sentence of SECTION 5-5(b)
303 by striking the words “state statutes” and inserting in place thereof the words “the general laws”.

304 SECTION 41. The charter is further amended in SECTION 5-7 in (a) and (b) as follows:-

305 1) SECTION 5-7(a)(2) is amended by inserting the words “and ensure compliance
306 with federal, state and local laws, rules and regulations regarding personnel and employment.”
307 following the word “personnel”.

308 2) SECTION 5-7(a)(4) is amended by inserting the words “but not limited to”
309 following the word “including”; and by inserting the word “discipline,” following the word
310 “recruitment,”.

311 3) the third sentence of SECTION 5-7(b) is amended by striking the words “state
312 statutes” following the word “with” and inserting in place thereof the words “the general laws”.

313 SECTION 42. The charter is further amended in SECTION 5-8 in the first sentence of (a)
314 and the second sentence of (b) as follows:-

315 1) the first sentence of (a) is amended by striking the word “Historical” following
316 the words “conservation commission” and inserting in place thereof the words “historic
317 districts”.

318 2) the second sentence in (b) is amended by striking the words “state statutes”
319 following the word “with” and inserting in place thereof the words “the general laws”.

320 SECTION 43. The charter is further amended in Article 6 as follows:-

321 The charter is amended in SECTION 6-2(a) in the first and final sentences as follows:-

322 1) The first sentence is amended by inserting the words “and posted on the Beverly
323 Public Schools website and the city website,” following the word “newspaper”.

324 2) The final sentence is amended by inserting the words “Following the public
325 hearing,” prior to the words “the school committee”; striking the word “not” following the word
326 “shall”; and striking the words “until all persons who desire to be heard concerning the budget
327 proposal have had an opportunity to be heard.”

328 SECTION 44. The charter is further amended in SECTION 6-2(b) by striking the word
329 “article” following the word “this” and inserting in place thereof “Article”.

330 SECTION 45. The charter is further amended in the second sentence of SECTION 6-3 by
331 inserting the words: “, and shall post such notice and summary on the city website, as well as the
332 complete proposed budget.” following the words “proposed budget”.

333 SECTION 46. The charter is further amended in SECTION 6-4 by striking the words “or
334 as may be required by the provisions of a city ordinance.” following the word “desirable.”

335 SECTION 47. The charter is further amended in SECTION 6-5 in the second sentence by
336 striking the words “or as a city ordinance may require.” following the word “desirable; and by
337 amending (a), and (d) as follows:

338 1) In (a) by striking the words “and position” following the word “agency” and
339 inserting the word “staffing” following the word “programs,”.

340 2) In (d) by striking the words “free cash” and inserting in place thereof the words
341 “budgetary fund balances”.

342 SECTION 48. The charter is further amended in SECTIONS 6-6 (a) and (c) as follows:-

343 1) The heading of section (a) is amended by striking the word “hearing” and inserting the
344 word “Hearing” in its place. The first sentence in (a) is amended by inserting the words “post on
345 the city website and” following the word “shall”.

346 2) The first sentence of (c) is amended by striking the words “60 days following day the
347 proposed budget is received by it, or such other period as may be” following the word “within“
348 and inserting in place thereof the words “ the time frame as is”.

349 3) The third sentence of (c) is amended by striking the words “60 days following the date
350 of its receipt of the proposed budget, or such other period as may be” and inserting in place
351 thereof the words “the period as”.

352 4) A new sentence is inserted in (c) after the third sentence as follows: - “The final
353 budget shall be posted on the city’s website.”

354 SECTION 49. The charter is further amended in SECTION 6-7(b) by amending the first,
355 third, and fourth sentences as follows:-

356 1) The first sentence is amended by striking the word “to” and inserting in place
357 thereof the word “for” following the word “appropriated”.

358 2) The third sentence is amended by inserting the words “and on the city website”
359 following the word “board”.

360 3) The fourth sentence is amended by inserting the words “and city website”
361 following the word “board”.

362 SECTION 50. The charter is further amended in the first sentence of SECTION 6-7(c) as
363 follows by inserting the words “posting on the city’s website and” following the words “notice
364 by”.

365 SECTION 51. SECTION 6-9 -Independent Audit- as now appearing is amended by
366 striking the section in its entirety, except for the heading, and replacing it as follows:- The city
367 council shall select a certified public accountant or firm of certified public accountants to
368 annually conduct an outside audit of the books and accounts of the city. Such accountant or firm
369 shall have no personal interest, direct or indirect, in the fiscal affairs of the city or any of its
370 officers.

371 The council will be assisted in this effort by an Audit Committee to be composed of the
372 council’s Property and Finance Committee chair, who will serve as chair of the Audit
373 Committee, the city’s finance director, the city accountant, a resident chosen by the city council
374 president with experience in public finance, or public accounting and auditing, and the
375 budget/management analyst for the council. The audit committee will assist the council in
376 preparing the Request for Qualifications (RFQ), perform due diligence in the dissemination of
377 the RFQ, evaluate responses, conduct any necessary firm interviews and make a
378 recommendation to the council. The audit committee shall meet following the conclusion of
379 each annual audit to evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the audit firm. The city
380 council shall assure the conduct of the outside audit and shall annually request a sum of money
381 sufficient to satisfy the estimated cost of conducting the audit as presented to the mayor, in
382 writing, at the time of the city clerk’s submission of its proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal
383 year to the mayor. The city council shall submit the award of the audit and proposed contract to
384 the mayor to be signed. The award of a contract to audit shall be made by the city council on or

385 before September 15 of each year. The report of the audit shall be filed in final form with the city
386 council not later than March 31 in the year following its award. At least every 5 years, the city
387 council shall conduct the procurement process as described in this SECTION to retain these
388 auditing services.

389 SECTION 52. The charter is further amended in Article 7 by amended the title of the
390 Article as follows:- insert the word “and” between the words “Elections” and “Election”.

391 SECTION 53. Section 7-3(a) is amended as follows:-) 1) by inserting the words “district
392 school committee member, not less than 75 signatures, all of which must be from the wards
393 included in the district from which the nomination is sought, provided however, that not more
394 than 25 signatures from any one ward shall be counted in the minimum number of required
395 signatures;” following the words “for the office of”; and

396 2) by inserting the words “and ward school committee member” following the word
397 “councilor”.

398 SECTION 54. The charter is further amended in SECTION 7-3(c) by amending the first
399 sentence, striking the second sentence and amending the third sentence as follows:-

400 1) The first sentence is amended by striking the words “The two persons” at the
401 beginning of the sentence and inserting in place thereof the words “No more than twice the
402 number of candidates to be elected to the same office”.

403 2) The second sentence of this subsection is stricken.

404 3) The third sentence of this subsection is amended by striking the word “his” and
405 inserting in place thereof the word “their”.

406 SECTION 55. The charter is further amended in the last sentence of SECTION 7-3(d) as
407 follows:-

408 1) By inserting the words “for one or more offices” following the words “no
409 names”;

410 2) By striking the word “in” following the word “used” and inserting in place thereof
411 the words “at a preliminary election for”;

412 3) By striking the words “ward or wards” following the word “particular” and
413 inserting in place thereof the words “office or offices”;

414 4) By striking the word “in” following the word “held” and inserting in place thereof
415 the word “for”;

416 5) By striking the words “ward or wards” following the word “such” and inserting in
417 place thereof the words ”office or offices”.

418 SECTION 56. The charter is further amended in SECTION 7-7 as follows:

419 1) The first sentence is amended by striking the word “which” following the word
420 “petition” and inserting in place thereof “that” and by striking the word “which” following the
421 word “and”.

422 2) The second sentence is amended by striking the words “three months” following
423 the word “than” and inserting in place thereof the words “90 days”.

424 3) The fourth sentence is amended by striking the words “48 hours” following the
425 words “at least” and inserting in place thereof the words “5 days”.

426 4) The fifth sentence is amended by inserting after the word “expense” the following
427 words: “, and shall include both newspaper publication and posting on the city website.”

428 SECTION 57. The charter is further amended in SECTION 7-8 (a),(c), (d), (e), (f), (g)
429 and (h); replacing the current subsection (b) in its entirety, except for the heading; renumbering
430 all subsections following (c) (i.e., [c] becomes [d], [d] becomes [e], etc.); as follows:-

431 1) SECTION 7-8(a) is amended in the first sentence by striking the word “an” and
432 inserting in place thereof the words “a proposed”; by striking the words “Clerk of the Council”
433 following the word “the” and inserting in place thereof “city clerk”; by striking the words “as
434 the case may be”, by striking the words “10% of the total number of voters as of the date of the
435 most recent regular city election” following the words “at least” and inserting in place thereof the
436 words “250 voters.” Two new sentences are inserted after the second sentence as follows:- “At
437 least 25 signatures must be certified from each ward. The petition shall be accompanied by an
438 affidavit signed by 10 voters and containing their residential address stating those voters will
439 constitute the petitioners committee and be responsible for circulating the petition and filing it in
440 proper form.” SECTION 7-8(a) is further amended by striking the final three sentences.

441 2) The charter is further amended by striking SECTION 7-8(b) as now appearing in
442 its entirety, except for the subheading, and replaced as follows:- “The city clerk or the secretary
443 of the school committee shall, immediately following receipt of a proposed petition, deliver a
444 copy of the petition to the board of registrars of voters. If the board of registrar of voters
445 determines that a petition has be signed by at least 250 voters, the petition shall be transmitted
446 forthwith to the city solicitor. The city solicitor shall, within 30 days following receipt of a copy
447 of the petition, in writing, advise the city council or the school committee and the city clerk

448 whether the measure as proposed may lawfully be proposed by the initiative process and
449 whether, in its present form, it may lawfully be adopted by the city council or the school
450 committee. If the opinion of the city solicitor is that the measure is not in proper form, the reply
451 shall state the reasons for this opinion, in full. A copy of the opinion of the city solicitor shall be
452 mailed to the members of the petitioners committee.”

453 3) The charter is further amended by inserting a new (c) as follows:-

454 “(c) Submission to City Clerk - If the city solicitor determines that the petition is in a
455 proper form, the city clerk shall provide blank forms for the use of subsequent signers and shall
456 print at the top of each blank form a fair, concise summary of the proposed measure, as
457 determined by the city solicitor, together with the names and addresses of the first 10 voters who
458 signed the originating petition. The city clerk shall notify the petitioners committee that the blank
459 forms are issued. Within 60 days following the date of the notice, the petition shall be returned
460 and filed with the city clerk signed by at least 10 per cent of the total number of voters as of the
461 date of the most recent regular municipal election. Signatures to an initiative petition need not all
462 be on one paper, but all papers pertaining to any single measure shall be fastened together and
463 shall be filed as a single instrument, with the endorsement on it of the name and address of the
464 person designated as filing the papers. With each signature on the petition there shall also appear
465 the street and number of the residence of each signer. Within 10 days following the filing of the
466 petition, the registrars of voters shall ascertain the number of voters that signed the petition and
467 the percentage that number is of the total number of voters as of the date of the most recent
468 regular municipal election. The registrars of voters shall attach to the petition a certificate
469 showing the results of its examination and shall return the petition to the city clerk or the

470 secretary of the school committee, depending on how the petition is addressed. A copy of the
471 registrars of voters' certificate shall also be mailed to the members of the petitioners committee.”

472 4) SECTION 7-8(c) as now appearing is renumbered as SECTION 7-8(d) and is
473 amended in the heading, first sentence, third sentence, and fourth sentence, as follows:-

474 (a) the heading is amended by striking the word “petitions” and inserting in place thereof
475 “Petitions”, by striking in the first sentence the words “Clerk of the Council” following the
476 words “to the” and inserting in place thereof “city clerk”; by inserting the words “school
477 committee, the city council or the” following the words “of the”; by striking the words “by the
478 City Solicitor and” following the word “committee”; by striking the words “the city council or
479 school committee” following the words “2-9(c),”.

480 (b) the third sentence is amended by striking the words “with respect to any initiative
481 petition which is presented to it” following the word “act”; by striking the word “it” after the
482 word “date” and inserting in place thereof the words “the measure”; by striking the words “by
483 the city solicitor” following the word “it”.

484 (c) The fourth sentence is amended by striking “Clerk of the Council” following the word
485 “the” and inserting in place thereof the words “city clerk”; by striking the words “person
486 designated on the petition as having filed the same” following the words “to the” and inserting in
487 place thereof the words “petitioners committee”.

488 5) SECTION 7-8(d) as now appearing is re-lettered as (e) and is amended in the
489 heading and first and second sentences; inserting a new third sentence; the now appearing third
490 sentence becomes the fourth sentence and is amended; as follows:-

491 (a) In the heading by striking the word “petitions” following the word “Supplementary”
492 and inserting in place thereof the word “Petitions”; in the first sentence, amending the first
493 sentence by striking the words “Clerk of the Council” following the words “with the” and
494 inserting in place thereof the words “city clerk””; by inserting the words “, but only by persons
495 constituting the original petitioners committee” following “school committee”.

496 (b) The second sentence is amended by striking the words “which is” following the word
497 “voters”; by inserting the words “at least” following the words “equal to”; by striking “%” and
498 inserting in place thereof “percent”; by inserting the words “, and shall be examined by the
499 registrars of voters who shall issue a certificate as provided in subsection (c) within 10 days of
500 the submission of the supplemental petitions.” following the word “election.”

501 (c) SECTION 7-8(e) is amended by inserting a new sentence following the second
502 sentence as follows:- “The signatures on the initial petition filed under subsection (c) and the
503 signatures on the supplemental petition under this subsection, taken together, shall contain the
504 signatures of at least 15 percent of the total number of voters as of the date of the most recent
505 regular municipal election.”

506 (d) The fourth sentence of SECTION 7-8(e) is amended by striking the word “such” and
507 inserting in place thereof the word “this” following the words “signatures to”; by inserting the
508 words “registrars of voters and a certificate issued as described above is submitted to the”
509 following the words “by the”; by striking the words “fixed by it” following the words “a date”;
510 by striking the words “City Clerk” and inserting in place thereof “registrars of voters” following
511 the words “of the”; by striking the words “any other” following the word “if”; by inserting the
512 word “a” before the words “regular municipal”; by striking the word “said” following the word

513 “the”; by striking the word “the” following the word “omit;”; by striking the words “of such”
514 following the word “calling” and inserting in place thereof “the”; by striking the word “said”
515 following the word “cause” and inserting in place thereof the word “the”; and by striking the
516 word “such” following the word “at” and inserting in place thereof the word “the”.

517 6) The current (e) is re-lettered as (f) – Publication – and is amended in the first and
518 second sentences as follows:-

519 (a) the first sentence is amended by striking the word “any” and inserting in place thereof
520 “an”; by striking “a” and inserting in place thereof “at least 1”.

521 (b) the second sentence in the subsection is amended by inserting the words “and shall be
522 posted on the city website” following the word “clerk”.

523 7) The current (f) is renumbered as (g) - Form of question - and is amended in the
524 heading by striking the word “question” and inserting in place thereof the word “Question”
525 following the word “of”; the first sentence is amended by striking the words “voters in”
526 following the word “by”; the last sentence is amended by striking the words “full text”
527 following the words “insert the” and inserting in place thereof “fair, concise summary” following
528 the words “insert the”; by striking the words “or a fair concise summary prepared” following the
529 word “measure”; by inserting the words “as determined ” following the word “measure”; by
530 striking the words “petitioners, and approved by the” following the words “determined by the”;
531 by inserting the words “as referenced in subsection (c).” following the words “city solicitor”

532 8) SECTION 7-8(g) as now appearing is re-lettered as (h) and is amended at the
533 beginning of the sentence by inserting the words “Subject to the requirements of SECTION 7-
534 13, and changing “If” to “if” following the words SECTION 7-13”; by striking the word

535 “forthwith” following the word “effective” and inserting in place thereof the word
536 “immediately”; by striking the word “such” following the word “in” and inserting in place
537 thereof the word “the” and by striking the remainder of the sentence following the word
538 “measure”.

539 SECTION 58. The charter is further amended in SECTION 7-9 in the first sentence and
540 second sentences of (a); the first sentence of (b); and inserting a new sentence following the first
541 sentence of (b) as follows:-

542 (a) The first sentence of SECTION 7-9(a) is amended by striking the number “20”
543 following the word “within” and inserting in place thereof the number “21”; by striking the word
544 “of” following the word “approve,” by striking the number “12%” following the words “equal
545 to” and inserting in place thereof “at least 15 per cent”; by striking the words “as may be”
546 following “committee”; by striking the word “thereof” following the word “part” and inserting in
547 place thereof the words “of it”; by striking the words “Clerk of the Council” following the word
548 “or” and inserting in place thereof “city clerk”; by striking the word “such” following the words
549 “date of” and inserting in place thereof the word “that”.

550 2) The second sentence of the SECTION 7-9(a) is amended by striking the word
551 “forthwith” following “shall” and inserting in place thereof the word “immediately”; by striking
552 the word “such” following the words “vote on” and inserting in place thereof the word “the” ; by
553 striking the word “thereof” following the word “part” and inserting in place thereof the words
554 “of it”; by striking the word “such” following the word “if” and inserting in place thereof the
555 word “the”; by striking the word “or” following the word “convenience”; by striking the word “,
556 but” following the word “election” and inserting in place thereof the words “; provided, however,

557 that”; by striking the word “such” following the word “pending” and inserting in place thereof
558 “this” and by striking the word “such” following the words “effect of” and inserting in place
559 thereof the word “the”.

560 3) The first sentence of SECTION 7-9(b) is amended in by striking the word “insofar”
561 following the words “petition and”; by striking the word “and” following “(c)” and inserting the
562 words “and (g) insofar as the section relates to the filing and certification of signatures, and the
563 ballot question” following “(f)”; by striking the word “thereof” following the word “part” and
564 inserting in place thereof “of it”;. The subsection is further amended by the addition of a new
565 sentence after the first sentence: “Subject to the requirements of SECTION 7-13, the measure or
566 part thereof protested against shall be null and void unless a majority of those voting on the
567 question shall vote in favor of the measure or part of it protested against at the election.”

568 SECTION 59. Article 7 of the charter is further amended by the insertion of a new
569 section 7-13 as follows:- “SECTION 7-13. Required Voter Participation. For any measure to be
570 effective under the initiative procedure and for any measure to be declared null and void under
571 the referendum procedure, at least 20% of the voters as of the most recent regular municipal
572 election must vote at an election that includes on the ballot submission to the voters of 1 or more
573 initiative or referendum questions.”

574 SECTION 60. The charter is further amended by renumbering SECTION 7-13 as
575 SECTION 7-14; by inserting a new 7-14(b)(3) following 7-14(b)(2) and renumbering of the
576 subsequent clauses ((e.g., the now appearing clause (b)(3) becomes (b)(4) etc.); amending 7-14
577 (b)(4); and amending 7-14(c), (e) and (g) as follows:-

578 (a) a new SECTION 7-14(b)(3) is inserted following 7-14(b)(2) as follows: “Office
579 elected by district: Two hundred or more voters may file with the board of registrars of voters an
580 affidavit containing the name of the officer sought to be recalled and a statement of the grounds
581 for the recall. The signatures on such affidavit shall contain the names only of voters in the
582 district from which the officer was elected.”

583 (b) SECTION 7-14(b)(4) is amended as follows:- In the first sentence by inserting
584 the words “or district” following the word “ward”. The section is further amended in the third
585 sentence by striking the number “21” and inserting in place thereof the number “28” and by
586 inserting the words “or district” following the word “ward.”.

587 (c) SECTION 7-14(c) is amended by striking number “35” and inserting in place thereof
588 the number “65”.

589 (d) SECTION 7-14(e) is amended by striking the number “7-13(f)” and inserting in place
590 thereof the number “7-14(f)”.

591 (e) SECTION 7-14(f) is amended in the second sentence by striking the word “six” and
592 inserting in place thereof the number “9”.

593 (f) SECTION 7-14(g) is amended in the first sentence by striking the number “60” and
594 inserting in place thereof the number “65”.

595 SECTION 61. The heading of Section 8-1 is hereby amended following the word
596 “Changes” by inserting the words:- “and Charter Review.”

597 SECTION 62. The charter is further amended in Article 8 by amending SECTIONS 8-
598 1(a) in the first sentence; 8-1(b) in the second sentence; 8-5 in the second sentence; 8-6(a) in the
599 second sentence and 8-6(d) as follows:-

600 (a) The first sentence of SECTION 8-1(a) is amended by- striking the word “statutes” and
601 inserting in place thereof the words “general laws” following the word “by.”

602 (b) The second sentence of SECTION 8-1(b) is amended by striking the word “which”
603 and inserting in place thereof the word “that” following the word “charter.”

604 (c) The second sentence of SECTION 8-5 is amended by striking the word “Counsel” and
605 inserting in place thereof the word “solicitor” following the word “city.”

606 (d) The second sentence of SECTION 8-6(a) is amended by striking the word
607 “Chairman” and replacing it with the word “chairperson”; by inserting the words “or by
608 electronic mail to” following the words “residence of”; by striking the word “and” following the
609 words “each member”; by striking the word “and” following the word “member” ; by striking
610 the words “a list of” following the word “contains” and inserting the words “or list of” following
611 the word “or”; and by inserting in the last sentence the words “and city website” following the
612 word “board.”

613 (e) SECTION 8-6(d) is amended by striking the words “, but a smaller number may meet
614 and adjourn from time to time” following the words “a quorum”.

615 SECTION 63. The charter is further amended in Section 8-7 as follows: - by striking in
616 the heading the words “and gender”; and by replacing the semicolon following the word
617 “singular” with a period, and eliminating the remaining words in the provision after the period.

618 SECTION 64. The charter is further amended in Section 8-8 as follows:- by striking the
619 word “secular” and inserting in place thereof “calendar” following the words “refer to”.

620 SECTION 65. The charter is further amended in the first sentence of SECTION 8-12 as
621 follows:- by inserting the words “and on the city website” following the word “board”.

622 SECTION 66. The charter is further amended in SECTION 8-13 by amending the first
623 sentence and inserting a new sentence following the first sentence as follows:-

624 (a) The first sentence is amended by striking the word “may,” and inserting in place
625 thereof the word “shall”; by striking the word “number” following the word “their” and inserting
626 in place thereof the word “members”; by striking the remaining words in the sentence following
627 the word “members” and inserting in place thereof the words “notify the appointing authority.”

628 (b) A new sentence is inserted after the first sentence as follows:- “Such notice to the
629 appointing authority shall include the notice from the chair of the multiple-member body to the
630 person meeting the criteria above given in hand, or mailed, postage prepaid, by registered or
631 certified mail, return receipt requested, of the body’s intent to notify the appointing authority of
632 the incidence of absence at least 10 days before providing notice to the appointing authority, and
633 the response, if any, received from the person so notified. Only the appointing authority may
634 determine if the seat is to be declared vacant.”

635 SECTION 67. The charter is further amended by striking SECTION 8-14 as now
636 appearing in its entirety and renumbering the current SECTION 8-15 to SECTION 8-14.

637 SECTION 68. The charter is further amended in SECTION 8-14 as follows:-

638 (a) In the first sentence by striking out the words “Any employee of the City, not a City
639 officer or a department head (hereafter "such person")” and inserting in place thereof the
640 following:- “Any City officer, member of a multiple-member body, department head or
641 employee of the City,”; by inserting the words “SECTION 3-4” following the words “provisions
642 of”, and by striking the words “for good cause”. The second, third, and fourth sentences as now
643 appearing are stricken, and replaced with the following:- “Any such person may be suspended
644 from office by the appointing authority for an initial period of 15 days, subject to an additional
645 15-day extension if deemed necessary by the appointing authority.”

646 (b) Subparagraphs (a), (b), and (c) as now appearing are stricken in their entirety and
647 replaced by the following:-

648 “(a) City Council Appointments - The City Council, may, in writing, suspend and/or
649 remove any person appointed or elected by the City Council by notice to the employee stating
650 the reason for the suspension and/or removal and advising the employee of the opportunity to
651 request to appear at a meeting of the Council. This notice to said employee shall be delivered in
652 hand, mailed by certified mail, postage prepaid, to the last known address of said employee, or
653 emailed to said employee. At the same time, the City Council shall file a written statement with
654 the Department of Human Resources, stating that such person is suspended and/or removed and
655 the effective date of said suspension or removal.

656 The employee may make a written reply by filing such reply statement with the
657 Department of Human Resources and the city council president within 5 days following the date
658 the statement of the city council has been filed. In the reply, the employee may request
659 permission to appear at a public meeting of the city council to read the written reply concerning

660 suspension and/or removal. Such meeting must occur within 10 days of the employee’s request
661 unless otherwise agreed by the city council president and the employee.

662 At the meeting, the employee shall be allowed to read their rebuttal statement or reply to
663 the notice of suspension and/or removal. The city council President may read the notice of
664 suspension and/or removal. The city council shall notify the employee of whether the decision
665 has been upheld, rescinded, or modified no later than 10 days after the council meeting is
666 adjourned. If such notification is not provided within such time, the decision to suspend and/or
667 remove shall remain in effect. If no meeting is requested, the decision of the city council is final
668 6 days after delivery of the notice to the employee.”

669 “(b) Any employee of the city, not subject to provisions (a) above, may be suspended
670 and/or removed by the appointing authority in accordance with the following procedure. The
671 appointing authority shall receive approval from the mayor before proceeding with any such
672 suspension and/or removal. Upon receiving such approval, the appointing authority shall
673 provide notice of the suspension and/or removal to said employee by stating the reason for the
674 suspension and/or removal, and advising the employee of the opportunity to request a meeting
675 with the mayor. This notice to said employee shall be delivered in hand, mailed by certified
676 mail, postage prepaid, to the last known address of said employee, or emailed to said employee.
677 At the same time, the appointing authority shall file a written statement with the Department of
678 Human Resources stating that such employee is suspended and/or removed and the effective date
679 of said suspension and/or removal.

680 Within two days of delivery of the notice of suspension and/or removal, the employee
681 may request in writing a meeting with the mayor. Such meeting must be held within 5 days of

682 receipt the employee’s request, unless otherwise agreed by the mayor and the employee. At the
683 meeting, the employee shall be allowed to reply verbally and/or in writing to the notice of
684 suspension and/or removal. The appointing authority and the Director of Human Resources may
685 be present at the meeting at the discretion of the mayor. Upon the direction of the mayor, the
686 appointing authority shall issue a final decision upholding, rescinding, or modifying the
687 suspension and/or removal no later than 5 days after the meeting. If such notification is not
688 provided within such time, the decision to suspend or remove shall remain in effect. If no
689 meeting is requested by the employee within two days of delivery of the notice or suspension
690 and/or removal, the decision of the appointing authority is final.”

691 SECTION 69. SECTION 9-4 is amended by striking the words “his or her” and inserting
692 thereof the word “their”.

693 SECTION 70. The charter is further amended by striking Section 9-6 as now appearing in
694 its entirety; SECTION 9-7 as now appearing is renumbered as SECTION 9-6.

695 SECTION 71. The charter is further amended in SECTION 9-6(d) -Disposition of
696 Certain Special Laws - by the addition of the following special acts:- St. 1936, Chapter 142 “An
697 Act Placing Under the Civil Service Laws the Office of the Chief of Police of the City of
698 Beverly”; and St. 1938, Chapter 203 “An Act Authorizing the Placing of the Office of Chief of
699 the Fire Department of the City of Beverly Under the Civil Service Laws”.

700 SECTION 72. SECTIONS 6, 23, 31, and 32 of chapter X of the acts of 2023 act and
701 those sections of the act dependent upon passage of the above referenced sections will take effect
702 upon voter approval of the ballot questions appearing below, but not otherwise. All other

703 SECTIONS of this act will take effect upon enactment by the General Court and approval of the
704 Governor.

705 SECTION 73. SECTIONS 6, 23, 31, and 32 of chapter X of the acts of 2023 shall be
706 subject to voter ratification at the regular municipal election to be held on November 7, 2023
707 prior to taking effect. The following questions will appear on the ballot:-

708 Should Sections 6 and 32 of chapter X of the acts of 2023 that would amend the
709 charter to allow a ward councilor, ward school committee member and district school committee
710 member who moves within the city during the first 18 months of their term of office to complete
711 the term to which elected be approved?

712 YES__ NO__

713 Should Section 23 of chapter X of the acts of 2023 that would revise the charter to
714 increase the term of office of the mayor to 4 years be approved?

715 YES__ NO__

716 Should Section 31 of chapter X the acts of 2023 that would revise the charter to
717 increase the membership of the school committee by the addition of 2 new district members, one
718 district to include Wards 1, 2, and 3 and one district to include Wards 4, 5, and 6 be approved?

719 YES__ NO__

720 SECTION 74. Should SECTIONS 23 and/or 31 of chapter X of the acts of 2023 be
721 approved by the voters, the first regular municipal election following such ratification
722 (November 4, 2025) shall include the election of a mayor for a 4 year term and/or the election of

723 2 district school committee members for a 2 year term. SECTION 6 and 32 shall take effect
724 upon voter ratification.