



YOUR GUIDE TO THE **NEW YORK CITY CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION 2019**

WHAT IS THE CHARTER?

The New York City Charter is the City's constitution. It creates a framework for our government. The Charter controls how the City spends our tax dollars, how decisions are made about changes to our neighborhoods and the power of our elected officials. Nearly 30 years ago, a Charter Revision Commission overhauled the City's government. We've been taking a fresh look. This fall, New Yorkers will have a chance to amend our Charter by voting on ballot proposals covering a wide variety of issues, from elections to police accountability.

On November 5th, **you can vote on that.** (Or vote early October 26th - November 3rd.)

WHAT ARE THE PROPOSALS ON THE BALLOT?

Elections:

- Use ranked choice voting in primary and special elections for City elected officials such as the Mayor and City Council members.
- Extend the time from 45 to 80 days between when an elected official leaves office during their term and a special election is held.
- Amend the timeline for redistricting to ensure that district lines are drawn in a timely manner for future primary City Council elections.

Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB):

- Add two members to the CCRB board, one appointed by the Public Advocate and one jointly appointed by the Mayor and the Speaker of the City Council (who would also serve as Chair).
- Require the Police Commissioner to provide an explanation to the CCRB when they deviate from the CCRB's disciplinary recommendations.
- Authorize subpoena power for the CCRB Executive Director.
- Allow the CCRB to investigate potentially false official statements made by an officer under investigation and to recommend discipline, if appropriate.
- Guarantee the CCRB budget.



You can vote on that.

PROPOSALS (CONT):

Ethics and Governance:

- Prohibit elected officials and senior appointed officials from lobbying the City government for two years after leaving city service.
- Replace two members of the Conflicts of Interest Board currently appointed by the Mayor with one appointed by the Comptroller and one by the Public Advocate.
- Prohibit COIB board members from participating in campaigns for local elected offices, and reduce the maximum amount of money that they can contribute.
- Require the Citywide Minority/Women-owned Business Enterprises (M/WBE) Director report directly to the Mayor.
- Require advice and consent—a system of checks and balances—by the City Council for the Mayor’s appointment of the Corporation Counsel.

City Budget:

- Allow the City to use a “rainy day fund” to save money for use in future years (state law permitting).
- Guarantee the budgets for the Public Advocate and Borough Presidents.
- Require the Mayor to submit the revenue estimate to the City Council by May 25 (instead of June 5).
- Require the Mayor to submit budget modifications to the City Council within 30 days of updating the city’s financial plan.

Land Use (ULURP):

- Give affected Community Boards, Borough Presidents, and Borough Boards advance notice of ULURP applications by requiring the Department of City Planning to provide a detailed project summary 30 days before the application is certified for public review.
- Give Community Boards additional time during the summer to review ULURP applications.

Find out more: charter2019.nyc/finalreport

