



ABSENTEE
OFFICIAL BALLOT
ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION
AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS
MARCH 27, 2018
PRECINCT FOUR

Sandra J. Bergen
TOWN CLERK

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTER

- A. TO VOTE, completely fill in the OVAL to the RIGHT of your choice(s) like this: ●
B. DO NOT vote for MORE candidates than the instructions for each office direct.
C. To vote for a person whose name IS NOT already printed for an office on the ballot, write the candidate's name on the write-in line for that office and completely fill in the OVAL.

MODERATOR	JONES LIBRARY TRUSTEE	TOWN MEETING MEMBERS PRECINCT 4
(one year) VOTE FOR ONE JAMES W. PISTRANG 41 High Point Dr Candidate for re-election <input type="radio"/> (Write-in) <input type="radio"/>	(three years) VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN TWO AUSTIN D. SARAT 76 Snell St Candidate for re-election <input type="radio"/> KITTY AXELSON-BERRY 89 Stony Hill Rd <input type="radio"/> SIGURD NILSEN 27 Teaberry Ln <input type="radio"/> TAMSON M. ELY 26 Middle St Candidate for re-election <input type="radio"/> (Write-in) <input type="radio"/> (Write-in) <input type="radio"/>	(three years) VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN EIGHT BARBARA CATHERINE VAN DEN BERG 50 Amity Pl Candidate for re-election <input type="radio"/> JOHN M. SNYDER 74 Blue Hills Rd <input type="radio"/> BAER TIERKEL 30 Dana Pl Candidate for re-election <input type="radio"/> (Write-in) <input type="radio"/> (Write-in) <input type="radio"/> (Write-in) <input type="radio"/> (Write-in) <input type="radio"/> (Write-in) <input type="radio"/> (Write-in) <input type="radio"/> (Write-in) <input type="radio"/>
SELECT BOARD	HOUSING AUTHORITY	TOWN MEETING MEMBERS PRECINCT 4
(three years) VOTE FOR ONE ROBERT E. GREENEY 76 McClellan St <input type="radio"/> IVAN B. BABIAN 187 Colonial Village <input type="radio"/> DOUGLAS WESLEY SLAUGHTER 5 Dwight Cir Candidate for re-election <input type="radio"/> (Write-in) <input type="radio"/>	(one year) VOTE FOR ONE DAVID W. WILLIAMS 158 Rolling Ridge Rd <input type="radio"/> (Write-in) <input type="radio"/>	(two years) VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN TWO CAROL M. JOHNSON 21 South Sunset Ave Candidate for re-election <input type="radio"/> ROBERT EDWARD OLMSTED 22 Blue Hills Rd <input type="radio"/> (Write-in) <input type="radio"/> (Write-in) <input type="radio"/>
SCHOOL COMMITTEE	REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	
(three years) VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN TWO KERRY A. SPITZER 56 Berkshire Ter <input type="radio"/> ALLISON BLEYLER McDONALD 43 Hop Brook Rd <input type="radio"/> BENJAMIN JOSEPH HERRINGTON 99J South Point Apts <input type="radio"/> (Write-in) <input type="radio"/> (Write-in) <input type="radio"/>	(five years) VOTE FOR ONE JEFFREY C. LEE 815 South East St <input type="radio"/> (Write-in) <input type="radio"/>	
	ELECTOR, OLIVER SMITH WILL	
	(one year) VOTE FOR ONE CAROL JEANNETTE GRAY 815 South East St <input type="radio"/> (Write-in) <input type="radio"/>	

TURN BALLOT OVER AND CONTINUE VOTING

BALLOT QUESTION

Shall Amherst approve the new charter recommended by the charter commission, summarized below?

YES

NO

Summary of Proposed Charter

A "Yes" vote on the new charter creates a Town Council/Town Manager form of government for Amherst. A "No" vote retains the current Representative Town Meeting/Select Board/Town Manager form of government.

The charter provides for an elected 13-member Town Council composed of 10 District Councilors (2 in each of 5 districts) and 3 Councilors-at-Large, all serving two year terms. Each district is made up of two current voting precincts. The Town Council appoints and supervises a Town Manager to serve as chief executive officer.

The Town Council replaces the 254-member Representative Town Meeting as the legislative body. The 5-member Select Board would also be eliminated, with the Town Council providing policy leadership and the Town Manager serving as chief executive officer.

The Town Council approves the budget, authorizes borrowing, enacts local bylaws and resolutions, and provides policy leadership. It also confirms the Town Manager's appointments of department heads and resident boards/committees.

The Town Manager administers day-to-day operations, including appointment and supervision of Town employees; preparing the annual budget; and negotiating contracts.

Local Election Day moves to November and is held in odd-numbered years. The terms of the School Committee, Library Trustees, Oliver Smith Will Elector, and 3 members of the Housing Authority will be 2 years.

Town Councilors and School Committee members will receive stipends.

District Councilors must hold two District Meetings per year, for two-way communication with their constituents. Three town-wide Forums also are required each year, for public discussion of the budget, the schools, and the master plan.

The charter requires the Town Council to adopt a master plan and to consider whether proposed land use, zoning, or development regulations are consistent with the master plan. The Town Council appoints members of the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals. The Town Manager appoints members of the Redevelopment Authority.

The charter allows voter-driven initiatives. It also enables voters to repeal Town Council actions through a "voter veto" process.

The charter creates a Ranked-Choice Voting Commission and a Participatory Budgeting Commission.

The Charter provides a city form of government when state law distinguishes between "towns" and "cities". Amherst will continue to be known as the "Town of Amherst."

YOU HAVE NOW COMPLETED VOTING