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H.361

Introduced by Representatives Burke of Brattleboro, Kornheiser of  
Brattleboro, and Toleno of Brattleboro

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Municipal government; municipal charters; Town of Brattleboro;  
amendments

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to approve  
amendments to the charter of the Town of Brattleboro to allow youth voters to  
vote in certain Town elections.

An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the Town of  
Brattleboro

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. CHARTER AMENDMENT APPROVAL

The General Assembly approves the amendments to the charter of the Town  
of Brattleboro as set forth in this act. Voters approved proposals of  
amendment on March 5, 2019.

Sec. 2. 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 107 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 107. TOWN OF BRATTLEBORO

\* \* \*

1 § 2.1. DEFINITIONS

2 \* \* \*

3 (c) “Youth voter” means any person who is 16 to 18 years of age and is  
4 otherwise qualified to vote in Town elections pursuant to 17 V.S.A. chapter 43,  
5 subchapter 1.

6 § 2.2. ELECTED OFFICERS

7 On the first Tuesday in March, the voters and youth voters of the Town  
8 shall elect by Australian ballot the following:

9 \* \* \*

10 (3) ~~A Board of five school directors, elected at large, of whom two shall~~  
11 ~~serve for one year and three shall serve for three years. [Repealed.]~~

12 (4) ~~Union High School directors, who shall be elected for terms and in~~  
13 ~~numbers as required by State law. [Repealed.]~~

14 \* \* \*

15 § 2.3. MANNER OF ELECTION

16 (a) Representative Town Meeting members: Representative Town Meeting  
17 members shall be elected by Australian ballot on the first Tuesday in March of  
18 each year. Voters and youth voters in each district shall elect, for staggered  
19 terms, three members for every 180 voters or major fraction thereof. Members  
20 shall serve for three years, except that a member elected to fill a vacancy shall

1 serve for the remainder of the term. The manner of elections is fully  
2 prescribed in 1959 Acts and Resolves No. 302 ~~of the Acts of 1959~~.

3 \* \* \*

4 § 2.4. REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING

5 (a) Description:

6 \* \* \*

7 (2) The Representative Town Meeting consists of up to 140 elected  
8 voters and youth voters. It is a guiding body for the Town and a source of  
9 ideas, proposals, and comments, elected by district as defined by the Board of  
10 Civil Authority. It exercises exclusively all powers vested in the voters of the  
11 Town. In addition to the elected members, the following shall be members ex  
12 officio: the members of the Selectboard, the School Directors, the Treasurer,  
13 the Clerk, the Moderator, and those State Senators and State Representatives  
14 who reside in Brattleboro. Representative Town Meeting shall act upon all  
15 articles on the Town meeting warning except those ~~which~~ that relate to the  
16 election of officers, referenda, and other matters voted upon by Australian  
17 ballot.

18 \* \* \*

1 § 2.5. SELECTBOARD

2 The Selectboard is a legislative body of five persons elected at large by the  
3 voters and youth voters of the Town. The Selectboard directs the affairs of the  
4 Town within areas specified in subchapter 4 of this charter.

5 \* \* \*

6 § 4.1. COMPOSITION; ELIGIBILITY; ELECTIONS; TERMS

7 (a) The Selectboard shall be elected at large by the voters and youth voters  
8 of the Town from among their number, and newly elected Selectboard  
9 members' terms shall begin on the first Monday following the final  
10 adjournment of the annual Representative Town Meeting.

11 \* \* \*

12 § 10.3. ELECTION OF TOWN MEETING MEMBERS; CERTIFICATION  
13 OF VOTERS; TOWN MEETING MEMBERSHIP; NOTICE;  
14 QUALIFICATION; RESPONSIBILITIES

15 (a)(1) At the first election of Town Meeting members to be held on the first  
16 Tuesday in March after the acceptance of this subchapter, the qualified voters  
17 of each district shall elect three Town Meeting members for every 180 voters  
18 or major fraction thereof, subject to the provisions of subsection (c) of this  
19 section. The first one-third elected in each district, in order of the number of  
20 votes received, shall serve for three years; the second one-third in ~~such~~ the  
21 order of election shall serve for two years; and the remaining one-third in ~~such~~

1 the order of election shall be elected to serve for one year. In the event of a tie  
2 vote the term of such members shall be designated by lot, and the presiding  
3 officer of the district shall certify ~~such~~ the designation. All Town Meeting  
4 members shall serve for terms commencing on the day of their election.

5 (2) Annually thereafter, on the first Tuesday in March, the voters and  
6 youth voters of each district shall in like manner elect for the term of three  
7 years one Town Meeting member for every 180 voters or major fraction  
8 thereof, and shall also in like manner fill for the unexpired term or terms any  
9 vacancy or vacancies then existing in the number of Town Meeting members  
10 in such district, subject to the provisions of subsection (c) of this section.

11 \* \* \*

12 (e) Every Town Meeting member shall be a qualified voter or youth voter  
13 in the Town and living in the district from which he or she is chosen at the time  
14 of his or her election.

15 \* \* \*

16 § 2.3a. EARLY VOTING

17 (a)(1) A voter choosing to vote early by Australian ballot in the Town  
18 Clerk's office shall vote in the same manner as those voting on election day  
19 provided that the voter completes a "Request for Early Voter Absentee Ballot  
20 and Certification" form stating the following:

21 \* \* \*

