



Adoption of the Charter of the Town of Morristown

April 17, 2025

Agenda

- Why did Morristown explore creating a charter
- Timeline
- Published Notifications
- Proposed Charter
- Official Election Results



Why did Morristown explore creating a charter?

- ▶ Morristown voters adopted the Town Manager form of government on April 18, 2023 and hired their first Town Manager in May 2024.
- ▶ Morristown's annual budget failed three times in 2023 and some residents tasked the Selectboard to find other revenue sources besides property taxes like local option taxes.
- ▶ The Village of Morrisville - within the Town of Morristown - has had a charter for over 100 years that has most recently been updated in 2001.

Timeline

- ▶ December 18, 2023
Selectboard created a Charter Committee consisting of the five Selectboard members, three community members, the Town Clerk and staffed by the Interim Town Manager.
- ▶ January 29, 2024
The Charter Committee met for the first time to explore the adoption of a town charter and local option taxes. They reviewed approved charters from a variety of communities across Vermont.
- ▶ July 16, 2024
After meeting regularly throughout the winter and spring, the Charter Committee approved sending the draft charter to the Selectboard for review. Due to legislative changes the committee removed the sections regarding local option taxes from the charter.

Timeline

- ▶ August 5, 2024
The Selectboard approved the draft charter as presented by the Charter Committee and voted to hold a special election for its adoption on November 5, 2024.
- ▶ September 23 & September 30, 2024
Public Hearings regarding the proposed charter.
- ▶ October 28, 2024
Informational Hearing regarding the November 5, 2024 election.
- ▶ November 5, 2024
Australian Ballot election to adopt the proposed charter.

Published Notifications

- ▶ September 5 & September 12, 2024
- ▶ October 24, 2024
- ▶ October 24 & October 31, 2024
- ▶ News & Citizen Newspaper
Notice of Public Hearing
- ▶ News & Citizen Newspaper
Notice of Informational Hearing
- ▶ News & Citizen Newspaper
Warning for November 5, 2024 Election

Proposed Charter

Morristown's proposed charter has 3 sections:

1. Corporate Existence Retained
2. General Law, Application
3. Town Manager



1. Corporate Existence Retained

Morristown

- ▶ The inhabitants of the Town of Morristown, within the corporate limits now established, shall continue to be a municipal corporation by the name of the Town of Morristown.

Based on Town of St Albans

- ▶ The inhabitants of the Town of St. Albans, within the corporate limits now established, shall continue to be a municipal corporation by the name of the Town of St. Albans. (Added 2013, No. M-3, § 2, eff. May 14, 2013.)
- ▶ 24 App. V.S.A. ch. 150, § 1)

2. General Law, Application

Morristown

- ▶ Except when changed or modified by this charter, or by any lawful regulation or ordinance of the Town, all of the statutes of the State relating to municipalities shall apply to the Town.

Based on Town of Colchester

- ▶ Except when changed or modified by this charter, or by any lawful regulation or ordinance of the Town of Colchester, all of the statutes of the State relating to municipalities shall apply to the Town of Colchester.
- ▶ 24 App. V.S.A. ch. 113, § 102)

3. Town Manager (a)

Morristown

- ▶ The Town Manager shall be the chief executive officer and the head of the administrative branch of the Town government and shall be responsible to the Selectboard for the efficient administration of the municipal affairs of the Town.

Based on Town of Stowe

- ▶ The Town Manager shall be the chief executive officer and the head of the administrative branch of the Town government, and shall be responsible to the Selectboard for the efficient administration of the municipal affairs of the Town.
- ▶ 24 App. V.S.A. ch. 153, § 703 (a)

3. Town Manager (b)

Morristown

- ▶ The Town Manager shall have the authority to hire, appoint, discipline, and remove all Town employees, subject to the provisions of personnel rules approved by the Selectboard. The Town Manager may authorize a department head to hire, appoint, discipline, or remove an employee, subject to the Manager's discretion and supervision.

Based on Town of Waterbury

- ▶ The Municipal Manager shall have the authority to hire, appoint, discipline, and remove all Town employees, subject to the provisions of personnel rules approved by the Selectboard. The Municipal Manager may authorize a department head to hire, appoint, discipline, or remove an employee, subject to the Manager's discretion and supervision.
- ▶ 24 App. V.S.A. ch. 159, § 2)

Official Election Results- November 5, 2024

1. Corporate existence retained

Yes	2236	Overvotes	0
No	174	Undervotes	44

2. General law; application

Yes	2185	Overvotes	0
No	218	Undervotes	51

3. Town Manager

Yes	2002	Overvotes	0
No	402	Undervotes	50



Election Result Statistics

1. Corporate existence retained

Yes	2236	% of votes	91%
No	174	% of votes	7%
Undervotes	44	% of votes	2%

2. General law; application

Yes	2185	% of votes	89%
No	218	% of votes	9%
Undervotes	51	% of votes	2%

3. Town Manager

Yes	2002	% of votes	82%
No	402	% of votes	16%
Undervotes	50	% of votes	2%

Election Statistics

Checklist Total	4453
# Voted Ballots	2454
% of Voted	55.1%



THANK YOU

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