

## **BALLOT QUESTION # 5—School Board Budget Autonomy**

### **Shall the Municipality Approve the Charter Modifications Recommended by the Charter Commission Relating to School Board Budget Autonomy as Summarized Below?**

#### **1. Proposed Summary:**

This Charter modification changes the current school budget adoption process by transferring school budget adoption authority from the city council to the school board. The city council has discretion to conduct a public hearing on the proposed school budget and to provide a non-binding recommendation to the school board for its consideration, which the school board may or may not adopt, in whole or in part. The adopted school budget continues to be voted upon at the State-required budget validation referendum election, but if that is discontinued by the voters, the adopted school budget would be voted upon at a municipal school budget referendum.

#### **2. Charter Language**

**Note:** This contains only the provisions related to the Commission proposal in **Question # 5** and only those sections which will be changed if this question is adopted. Deletions are shown by ~~strikeouts~~; new language is underlined.

***Amend ARTICLE III. BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION, Section 5, School Budget, in the next to last and last paragraphs of the current charter, as follows:***

Not later than the last Monday in April of each fiscal year, the school board shall ~~submit to the city council~~ prepare a budget of the various sums required for the support of the public schools for the ensuing fiscal year in the format provided above., ~~and shall thereafter provide the city council with such information relating to such budget as the city council shall require.~~

The school board shall hold a~~A~~ budget hearing on such budget estimates ~~shall be held at least seven (7) days prior to final action by the city council~~ determining the total amount of the school budget. Within a reasonable period of time, the city council may, at its discretion and after holding a public hearing, provide a nonbinding resolution with its recommendations to the school board for consideration. The school board may or may not adopt, in whole or in part, the recommendations of the city council. The city council shall thereafter submit the school budget determined by the school board to a budget validation referendum. If the voters discontinue use of the budget validation referendum process, the city council shall instead submit the school budget to a municipal school budget referendum. The warrant calling the budget validation referendum or the school budget referendum shall include voter information containing the amount of locally raised funds and the amounts for each cost center summary budget category proposed by the school board.

The city council in its appropriation resolve for the ensuing year shall, in addition to amounts appropriated for other general city purposes, appropriate one gross amount for the support of the public schools, which amount shall equal the greater of (i) the amount adopted by the voters at the school budget validation referendum or, if discontinued, at the budget

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referendum, as appropriate, or (ii) not be less than the sum required to be appropriated for such purposes by the general laws of the state. ~~Such gross amount shall not be less than the sum requested by the school board except by a vote of at least six (6) members of the city council.~~ Such appropriation shall be expended under the direction and control of the school board but no such appropriation shall be exceeded except by consent of the city council or the voters.  
(Referendum 6/13/78; 11/2/10)