

SBL Refdesk

From: Paul Pernerewski [ppernerewski@comcast.net] **Sent:** Thu 6/11/2009 8:48 PM
To: SBL Refdesk
Cc:
Subject: RE: Waterbury Charter Section 9C-1
Attachments:

See my answers below. Please let me know if you need anything else.

Paul

From: SBL Refdesk [mailto:sbl-refdesk@waterburyct.org]
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2009 2:37 PM
To: Ppernerewski@comcast.net
Subject: FW: Waterbury Charter Section 9C-1

Enclosed is the e-mail in question. Thanks for you help.

Ken Marder
 Silas Bronson Library

Please note that we are currently transitioning to a new e-mail server; therefore,

- *replies to mail messages and new mail messages sent out will show a "From" address of: sbl-refdesk@waterburyct.org*
- *incoming mail addressed to either SBLMRR@bronsonlibrary.org OR sbl-refdesk@waterburyct.org will be correctly routed and directed to my inbox.*

Please update your contact list accordingly.

*Silas Bronson Library
 Main Reading Room (MRR) Reference Desk
 203 574 8225*

From: Ryan Wyeth Pulleyblank [mailto:ryan.pulleyblank@mail.mcgill.ca]
Sent: Tue 6/9/2009 11:44 AM
To: SBL Refdesk
Subject: Waterbury Charter Section 9C-1

Hello,

I'm doing some research for a professor in Toronto, Canada, trying to learn about a section of the Waterbury Charter (9C-1), which limits the ability of the city to levy certain taxes. Particularly, I'm interested in the context in which this section was adopted. My understanding is that it was adopted around the year 2002. Particular questions I'm trying to answer include:

was there a tax increase shortly preceding the passage of the tax limit? No
 is the tax limit spearheaded by one individual? NO

if yes, whom? N/A

is the individual inside or outside of government? N/A

is the individual a once or future politician? N/A

if the individual is a politician, is he or she subject to term limits, or do limits seem to be playing a role?

Connecticut does not have term limits

is there a partisan element to the tax limit passage? No

is the tax limit passed in response to a state tax limit, or a threat of state tax limit? No

any other concomitant changes to charter or adoption of home rule? The entire Charter was updated and re-codified in 2002.

related to any other big political event? No

related to any other state-wide event (e.g., change in revenue sharing policy)? No

any suggestion that demographic-fiscal situation change? No

during a recession? No

is there a budget shortfall? No

overall political orientation of city? (D vs R) D

I'm hoping to find newspaper articles which discuss the tax policy. If you can help find us some newspaper articles related to this we are willing to pay up to \$100.

Thanks Very Much,

Ryan Pulleyblank

Sec 9C-1

As part of the budget message or as a separate report attached thereto the Mayor shall present, by resolution, a program of proposed capital projects for the ensuing fiscal year and for the four (4) fiscal years thereafter. Estimates of the cost of such projects shall be submitted by each department, office or agency annually in the same manner as estimates of other budgetary requirements are prepared for the Mayor. The Mayor shall recommend to the Board of Alderman those projects to be undertaken during the ensuing fiscal year and the method of financing the same. The board of Aldermen may levy annually a tax of not more than two (2) mills to be assessed upon the ratable estate within the City at the same time as the regular annual taxes for City expenses, for the benefit of a fund to be known as "The Capital Improvement Fund" established for the purpose of paying the cost of capital Improvements for which the City is authorized by this Charter to issue bonds and for no other purpose. The proceeds of such levy shall be kept by the Director of Finance in a special bank account as may be established. The Board of Alderman shall have power to transfer from time to time to the capital Improvement fund any portion of the general funds cash surplus not otherwise appropriated. Appropriations for construction or other permanent improvements, for whatever source made, shall not lapse until the purpose for which the appropriation was made shall have been accomplished or abandoned, provided any project shall be deemed to have been abandoned if three (3) fiscal years elapse without any expenditure from or encumbrance of the appropriation therefore, provided, at the request of the Mayor, the Board of Aldermen, may at any time by resolution, transfer any unencumbered balance or portion thereof from one project to another.

Woodbury, where larger quarters exist, although a satellite office may be maintained in Watertown.

Probate judges Carey Geghan of Watertown and Mary Donaldson of Woodbury are both retiring this year. The election marked the first time

gy of "community service" was in his mind a key element in the victory.

Plus, he refused to let up toward the end. "My wife Dawn said last week that this is the last weekend, so get out there and work" he said.

Calabrese, who worked with Rep. Brian J.

Watertown had 13,243 registered the election, Woodbury 5,881 and 2,647, according to voter totals from and town clerks' offices.

Of the major parties, the Repub- majorities in all three communities.

City passes total charter revision pack

By David Hammer
0202 Republican-American

WATERBURY — The city's most comprehensive charter revision since 1981 was approved in total Tuesday.

All three ballot questions — the first representing the majority of the proposed changes, the second and third separated for more controversial issues — passed.

"The people of Waterbury really stepped up and embraced change today," Mayor Michael J. Jarjura said. "They put the past in the past. They said, 'We know there was a lot of wrongdoing, but let's move forward.'"

According to unofficial tallies:

■ Question No. 1, which, among other things, created a new internal financial oversight board and stiffer check-and-balance powers for the Board of Aldermen, passed easily, 65.5 percent to 34.5 percent.

■ Question No. 2, the civil service reform question that drew sizable opposition because it gives aldermen the power to alter hiring practices through ordinance, had a tougher time. It passed 54.5 percent to 45.5 percent.

■ Question No. 3, which proposed making the tax collector a professional hire instead of an elective position, enjoyed sweeping support, with 66.6 percent approving.

Many supporters of the charter changes, such as Board of Aldermen President J. Paul Vance Jr., were nervous that a final push against Question No. 2 would translate into red votes on the other questions. Their fears were allayed early however, because more than 1,600 absentee ballots showed overwhelming support — a 4-to-1 margin for Question No. 1, 2-to-1 for Question No. 2, and 3-to-1 for Question No. 3.

Dennis Odle, vice chairman of the Charter Revision Commission that drafted the changes, said Jarjura would work quickly to appoint the new board and commissions created

Mayor to name professional task force to make recommendations for new civil service rules

by the reforms, especially the oversight Finance and Audit Review Commission. His appointments will go to the aldermen for review and approval.

Jarjura will also name a professional task force to investigate the latest, best hiring practices and report its recommendations for new civil service rules to the aldermen in six months.

Question No. 3 will take a little longer to have a noticeable effect. Tax Collector Karen Mulcahy still has nearly 13 months left on her elected term, as does Treasurer Milton Kadish, whose position was also professionalized under the Department of Finance. By law, they can't be removed in the middle of their terms, so those changes won't go into effect until Dec. 1, 2003.

Under the charter changes, Dec. 1 is the new end date for elected terms.

That means Jarjura has a year to get new job descriptions written and to organize hiring searches, but Mulcahy needs three years as a municipal tax collector to qualify for the professional slot. With that in mind, Jarjura would not promise that he will be prepared to hire on Dec. 1, 2003, and reiterated that Mulcahy will probably serve in an interim capacity after that date.

If Jarjura can keep Mulcahy on until the end of 2004, she will qualify to be considered as a permanent hire.

Even though Jarjura and others in the pro-approval camp repeatedly said charter revision was the most important issue on Tuesday's ballot, only 40 percent of those who voted for governor cast a vote of any kind on any of the charter questions.

Several voters complained that they couldn't find the questions on the ballot, even when they were looking for them. They said the smaller print and odd spacing caused them to pass over the questions, which were

above all of the candidates.

Rafael Herrera, of the Waterbury Neighborhood Council, said he reminded everyone he saw entering the polls to vote on the questions, but many came out after voting saying, "Oh no. I forgot about the questions."

Herrera and the Neighborhood Council opposed Question No. 2, but Herrera said it was "easier" to just tell people to vote "no" on all three questions. That worried some people who had worked hard on revising the document from a cumbersome 400-plus pages to a lean 130 pages.

"This is another one of those attitudes that I call C.A.V.E. — Citizens Against Virtually Everything," said Garrett Casey, Jarjura's chief of staff. "They want none of the issues to go forward if they don't get their issue."

No price is too high for these people to get what they want.

Casey was mainly talking about Larry DePillo, who battled Jarjura in a tight Democratic mayoral primary last year, and his group, Waterbury Democrats for Open Government, popularly known as "W-Dog."

"What really disturbed me was that they tried to hold the other reforms hostage until they got the ones they wanted, like aldermen-by-district, even though we told them the next charter commission would deal with that," Jarjura said.

DePillo said his push against the questions had been mischaracterized, that his only goal was to keep the comprehensive pro-approval campaign honest.

"There wasn't an opposing view out there, so I don't look at it as a defeat," DePillo said. "We simply presented another side of the issue so the voters would be informed, but the public decided there wasn't enough of an argument to vote 'no' instead of 'yea.' The public has spoken."

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Republican

We Deliver I

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Charter revision package

Professional task force to make new civil service rules

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The "Vote No" card, printed on thinner paper, was distributed by hand. It asked residents to vote "no" on all three charter questions and was paid for by Waterbury Democrats for Open Government. Lex Nesta, husband of Alderman Laura Nesta, is the treasurer of the group.

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The pro-approval mailer said vote "yes" for "the right of voter referendum on city ordinance." The opposition asked for a "no" vote by saying, "They redefined government for themselves — and denied us the right to vote on our city budgets."

DePillo tried to say the charter changes "took away the right to referendum on the budget," but Waterbury voters never had the right to vote on city budgets or the right to referendum. The charter changes extended the right to referendum, but Jarjura said it would hurt the city's bond rating if a \$300 million budget could be nullified by popular vote.

Republican-American
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bid to purchase town property for the reconstruction of the historic Beecher House failed in a referendum Tuesday, with voters squashing his proposal 1,919-1,399.

Saint, president of the Beecher House Society and a Litchfield resident, was offering \$400,000 for a 1.8-acre lot behind Town Hall on West Street. His plan called for using the lot to rebuild the Beecher House, the 1811 birthplace of author Harriet Beecher Stowe, and create a museum and educational center honoring the Beecher family.

The vote capped an 18-month effort by Saint and his supporters to bring the proposal to buy the lot to the voters. Saint sued the Board of Selectmen for denying a vote last year, but withdrew his suit in September after the board agreed on a referendum.

Reached for comment following the vote, Saint offered praise to the voters who supported his proposal and a comment to those who didn't.

"I would assume the people made the statement that they don't want the house in Litchfield," Saint said. "I'd be hard-pressed to believe that there are

trails in an urban setting. Despite the result, he vowed to continue the campaign the Beecher House been conducting for the past several years. Many of Saint's opponents were happy to see him take town, according to Mordecai Rosenberg.

"It's always gratifying to see a self-righteous get his just deserts," Rosenberg said. "The announcement of the Litchfield firehouse. Chandler Saint and his supporters do the honorable thing and leave the site, preferably in Litchfield." Selectmen Blodin, who consist of Saint's right to a vote, needs to work with the site for the Beecher House historical importance.

"I don't believe it was a historical place," Blodin said. "I still think the rightful place for the house is where the voters said, we'll have it at other locations."

Leaf pick up, disposal rules announced

NAUGATUCK — Borough residents can have their leaves picked up curbside this week through Friday on their regular trash days. Leaves will only be accepted in 30-gallon paper bags, which are available at local supermarkets and hardware stores.

Additional pickups will take place the weeks of Nov. 18-22 and Dec. 2-6.

Residents do not need to make an appointment for collection. Leaves can drop off leaves at the center on Rubber Road, Thursdays and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Leaves and branches are accepted year-round. Also be in the 30-gallon

TASTE THE DIFFERENCE
Special Good Until Nov. 30th

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729 5212

FANTASTIC Fall Specials

FRIED CLAM STRIPS

FISH & CHIPS PLATTER

"SHORTY DOGS"

Call Hours: Mon.-Fri. 11:30-10:00 • Sat. 11:30-9:00 • Sun. 11:30-9:00

Fall Specials...

TEMPERATURES ARE FALLING AND SO ARE THE PRICES...

PRE-OWNED Office Furniture

Ask About Our 12 Month Same As Cash

Executive Laminated Desks \$39

Matching 2 Dr. Lateral Files w/ Hutch \$29

Panel System Workstations w/ Pickett & Keypoint \$79

Totals were still coming in early Wednesday morning as many of Connecticut's 1.99 million registered voters cast ballots to crown Rowland, elect the state's five members in the U.S. House of Representatives and elect people to most of the 187 seats in the state Legislature.

Please turn to 16A, ROWLAND

Steven Valenti / Republican-American
Gov. John G. Rowland, with Lt. Gov. M. Jodi Rell, was elected for a third term.

Charter opposition pales; 3 questions sail through

By David Hammer

© 2002 Republican-American

WATERBURY — The city's most comprehensive charter revision since 1931 was approved in total Tuesday — the first question representing the majority of the proposed changes, and the second and third separated for more controversial issues.

"The people of Waterbury really stepped up and embraced change today," Mayor Michael J. Jarjura said. "They put the past in the past. They said, 'We know there was a lot of wrongdoing, but let's move forward.'"

According to unofficial tallies:

■ Question No. 1, which, among other things, created a new internal financial oversight board and stiffer check-and-balance powers for the Board of

RESULTS

QUESTION NO. 1

YES — 65.5% NO — 34.5%

QUESTION NO. 2

YES — 54.5% NO — 45.5%

QUESTION NO. 3

YES — 66.6% NO — 33.4%

Aldermen, passed easily, 65.5 percent to 34.5 percent.

■ Question No. 2, the civil service reform question that drew stable opposition because it gives aldermen the power to alter hiring practices through

Please turn to 16A, CHARTER

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Weather

Cloudy with
periods of
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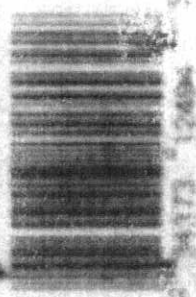
Page 3D.

Rain

4 sections

48 pages

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On the Web at www.rep-am.com



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Many supporters of the changes, such as Board of Aldermen President J. Paul Vance Jr., were nervous that a final push against Question No. 2 would translate into votes against the other questions. Their fears were allayed early when more than 1,600 absentee ballots showed a 5-to-1 margin for Question No. 1; 2-to-1 for Question No. 2; and 3-to-1 for Question No. 3.

Dennis Odle, vice chairman of the Charter Revision Commission, said Jarjura would work quickly to appoint the new boards and commissions created by the reforms, especially the oversight Finance and Audit Review Commission. His appointments go to the aldermen for review and approval.

Jarjura will also name a professional task force to investigate the latest, best hiring practices and report its recommendations for new civil service rules to the aldermen in six months.

Question No. 3 will take a little longer to have a noticeable effect. Tax Collector Karen Mulcahy still has nearly 13 months left on her elected term, as does Treasurer Milton Kadish, whose position also was professionalized under the Department of Finance. By law, they can't be removed in the middle of their terms, so those changes won't go into effect until Dec. 1, 2003.

Under the charter changes, Dec. 1 is the new end-date for elected terms.

That means Jarjura has a year to get new job descriptions written and to organize hiring searches, but Mulcahy needs three years as a municipal tax collector to qualify for the professional slot. With that in mind, Jarjura would not promise that he will be prepared to hire on Dec. 1, 2003, and reiterated that Mulcahy will probably serve in an interim capacity after that date.

If Jarjura can keep Mulcahy on until the end of 2004, she will qualify to be

CAMPAIGN NOTEBOOK

Although she has 60 years of experience, Rae Riccio doesn't know the outcome of the election in Waterbury.

Riccio, 83, is content to be a poll checker at the polling location in Waterbury, something she has done in 30 mayoral elections, 15 general races and 15 presidential elections.

A poll checker is the person who checks off the names of voters when they arrive to vote.

"I just enjoy it. It keeps me involved with the public," said Riccio. "I keep the names at the Naugatuck Project polling location in Willow/Plaza. It keeps me alert."



Thin patches of black ice caused traffic on Route 8 in Waterbury to halt for four hours Tuesday morning, but the weather didn't stop the election.

A few election volunteers were stuck in traffic around 5 a.m. when the state police closed both ends of the busy highway, but the polling location opened because of tardy volunteers, said Rita Vitarelli, Republican Registrar. Voters. She didn't know when the location opened late, but said it was open for only about five minutes.

Police responded to reports of accidents between exits 1 and 2 before deciding to close the highway. Traffic was backed up in both directions. The highway reopened about 9 a.m.



Ted Olszewski headed to work at 6:15 a.m. in Waterbury but didn't pull the voting lever more than eight hours later.

Olszewski likes a lot of

Republican-American
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resonate with voters. Jarbury, pointed to the election after the 9/11 attacks. "I want to be on alert, to be that," Sears said. "I want Michelle Riddle: Conn in the down-ol," she said, pointing efforts revitalize the city's a lot of good work."

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"This is another one of those attitudes that I call C.A.V.E.: Citizens Against Virtually Everything," said Garrett Casey, Jarjura's chief of staff.

Casey was mainly talking about Larry DePillo, who battled Jarjura in a mayoral primary last year, and his group, Waterbury Democrats for Open Government, popularly known as "W-Dog."

DePillo said his push against the questions had been mischaracterized, that his only goal was to keep the comprehensive pro-approval campaign honest.

"There wasn't an opposing view out there, so I don't look at it as a defeat," DePillo said. "We simply presented another side of the issue so the voters would be informed, but the public decided there wasn't enough of an argument to vote 'nay' instead of 'yea.' The public has spoken." The two charter camps distributed opposing 5-by-8-inch index cards to residents Monday.

The pro-approval side put a picture of bipartisan heavyweights on the front: Jarjura and charter commission Chairman Paul Pernerewski, both

more than eight hours late. Olszewski, like a lot of others Tuesday, was surprised the polling place had changed because of redistricting. He had to go to Blessed Sacrament Church for work, he was turned away and had to go to Kennedy High School. "I almost didn't go," Olszewski, 43.

Instead, he headed to the polls when his work day ended. "I got to thinking about it, I don't do it, you have to wait for results until (the next election)," he said.



Election Day brought more than just the voters in to Wolcott High School, District 2 polling place. The school's National Honor Society had a bake sale.

As voters exited the school, James Fink, 16, National Society hospitality officer, and George Mitesser, 17, a member, asked if people wanted for 25 cents or more. Other baked goods covered the table. Fink said the money raised was used for the society's community service projects.



A couple who took their children to vote with them at Wolcott High School Tuesday night brought them into the voting booth with them.

When they emerged, the mother asked, "So, did you vote for Abraham Lincoln?"

Please turn to

DEATHS

Bartel, Mrs. Florence
Torrington

Dambrosky, Mrs. H.
Missoula, Mont., former

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Security and pre-
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Torrington

Dambrosky, Mrs. H.
Missoula, Mont., former
Britain and Waterbury

Formica, Mrs. Angelo
Norfolk

Linsley, Mrs. Marion
Litchfield

Massini, Mrs. Liberty
Torrington

O'Brien, Reginald A.
Watertown

O'Connor, George
Woodbury

Patnaude, Gerard E.
Bristol

Rabizon, Simon S.
Palm Beach, Fla., former
Waterbury

Robbins, Mrs. Elsie
Norfolk

Suchinski, Mrs. K.
of Torrington, formerly
Piquabuck

Telese, Roberta, 97,
Viggo, Mrs. Ruby,
Volta, Antonia, 87,
Werner, Mrs. John,
Watertown

Complete obituaries



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Dept. of Economics
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Toronto, ON M5S 3G7
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