

B. Stevens
10-18-2024

Hi Hilliary,

I have been asked to review Section 602(M)(2) which states: Appointments to the Charter Revision Commission shall be made in accordance with Section 7-190(a) of the General Statutes and notwithstanding the provisions of Section 902(B) of this Charter, the Board of Selectmen may appoint any elector, except members of the Board of Selectmen, to serve on the Charter Revision Commission, provided, however, that no more than two (2) members of any particular board or commission may serve on the Charter Revision Commission while they are members of such other board or commission.

Section 902(B) of this Charter states:

Except as otherwise provided in this Charter, the First Selectman, the Selectmen, the Town Clerk, the Tax Collector, and members of the Board of Finance shall hold no other Town office, and the provisions of Section 9-210 of the General Statutes concerning incompatible Town offices, boards or commissions shall apply to the officers described therein.

Though Karen McWhirt is the current Chair of the Woodbury Board of Finance, I do not believe being a member of the WCRC constitutes holding a Town office and consequently Section 902(B) does not restrict her current membership on this commission.

Section 7-190(a) of the CT General Statutes states:

Within thirty days after such action has been initiated by vote of the appointing authority or by certification of a petition, the appointing authority shall by resolution appoint a commission consisting of not fewer than five nor more than fifteen electors, not more than one-third of whom may hold any other public office in the municipality and not more than a bare majority of whom shall be members of any one political party, which commission shall proceed forthwith to draft a charter, or amendments to the existing charter, or amendments to the home rule ordinance, as the case may be.

Our WCRC started with 13 members and now has 12 current members. No members hold a public office and all political parties associated with the WCRC maintain less than a bare majority of commission members.

Consequently, it is my opinion that there is no restriction limiting the number of members of any particular board or commission that may serve on the Charter Revision Commission while they are members of such other board or commission other than this Section 602(M)(2) which the current Commission may change if they choose to.

Thanks,
Burt

Burt Stevens