

*Salem Charter
Commission
June 2, 2022*

**The Derry
Experience**

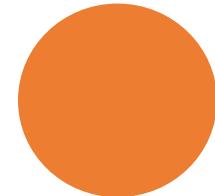


Derry at a Glance

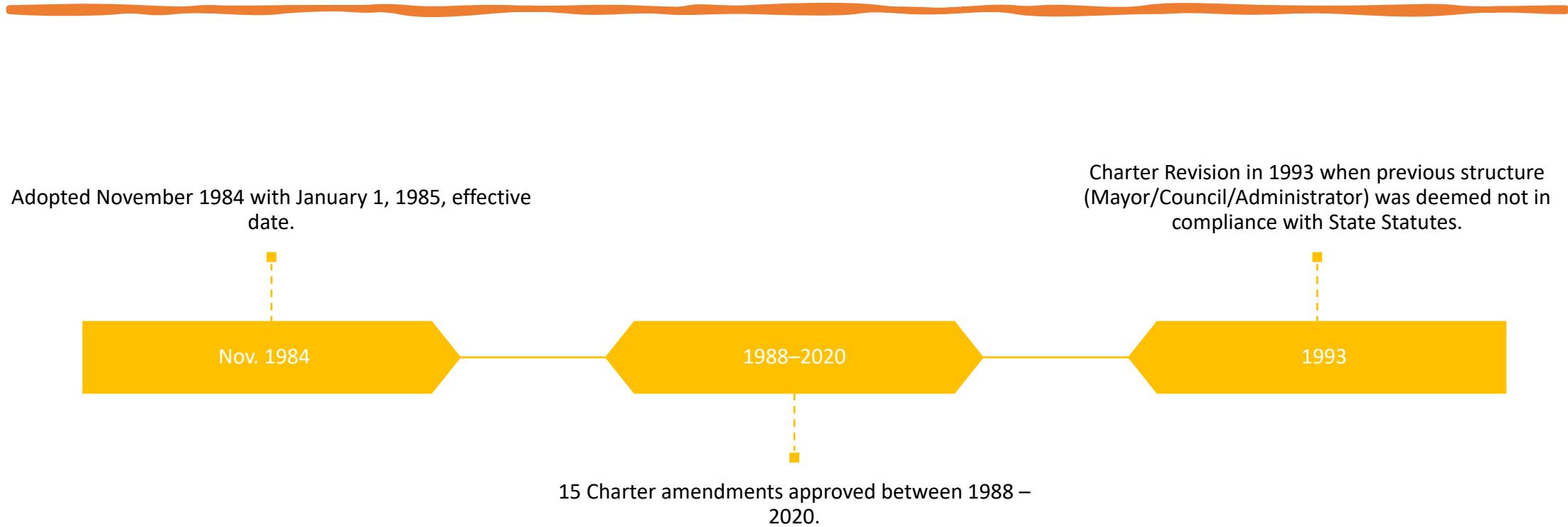
Population: 33,482 – largest Town and 4th largest community in State

Single Town School District independent of Town government

Pinkerton Academy – private, provides Grades 9-12 education



Derry Town Charter - History



Derry Town Charter

Current Structure

- RSA 49-D:3 I structure – Town Council is governing and legislative body.
 - Similar to a city form of government – Derry and Durham have adopted
 - Regardless of title, must have CAO with Town Manager RSA 37 powers and duties
- 7 Councilors – 4 elected by District and 3 at large
 - Staggered, three-year terms (3/2/2)
- Council Chair elected annually by Councilors

Derry Town Charter - Highlights

- Council adopts the annual budget by May 31 or Administrator's proposed budget is deemed to have been adopted. (Article 9)
- Council may approve Supplemental Appropriations during the fiscal year – 2/3 approval of entire Council required. (Article 9)
- Council actions adopted by ordinance (Article 6)
- Council confirms direct reports to the TA (Article 8)
- Capital Improvements Plan responsibility of TA, with input from PB. (Article 9)

Derry Town Charter Highlights

- Citizen petitions at different levels (Article 3)
 - Individual Petitions – Town Council action discretionary
 - Group Petitions – At least 100 signatures; Council must hold public hearing and act upon the petition
 - Initiative Petitions – Signatures must be at least 20% of votes cast at last regular Town election.
 - Council passes measure without alteration
 - Council schedules special Town election
 - Referendum Petitions – Same procedure as Initiative; “protest petition”
 - Measure being protested may be suspended
 - Council may vote to repeal action
 - If not repealed, must bring issue forward to special Town election

Derry Town Charter Highlights

Tax Cap on Town portion of Tax Rate (Article 9)

- Based upon changes to the Northeast CPI-U for the preceding calendar year.
- Overrides available:
 - Debt Service
 - State or Federal Mandates
 - General Override

| Implementation of Town Charter Section 9.4 (A) | | |
|---|-------------|----------------|
| Prior Year Tax Rate (FY 22 - 2021) | | \$ 7.22 |
| CPI Adjustment per Section 9.4 (A) | 5.9% | \$ 0.43 |
| Northeast Region CPI-U for CY2021 | | |
| Authorized Tax Rate for FY23 - 2022 | | \$ 7.65 |
| Projected 2022 Town Tax Rate | | \$ 7.43 |
| Projected Tax Rate Adjustment | 2.9% | \$ 0.21 |

Derry Town Charter - Consequences

- Town government becomes a truly representative government
- Town can react more readily to opportunities and challenges
 - Supplemental Appropriation authority
 - Ordinance (including zoning changes) throughout the year
- Additional oversight on senior staff appointments
- Higher threshold on citizen petitions
- Budget expectations under Tax Cap
- Supermajority required for critical issues (2/3 of entire Council)
 - Supplemental Appropriation
 - Emergency Ordinances
 - Tax Cap Override