

# Salem Charter Commission June 2, 2022



# NEWMARKET STATS

- Population: 9,460
  - Smallest Town Council Form of Government in the State
  - About the Third Smallest Council Form in the State
- Single Town School District independent of Town government
- Public Schools– provides Grades K-12 education



# Town Charter History

- Adopted in 1991
- Last Charter Commission – 2013
- Last Amendments – 2020
- Potential Commission - 2023



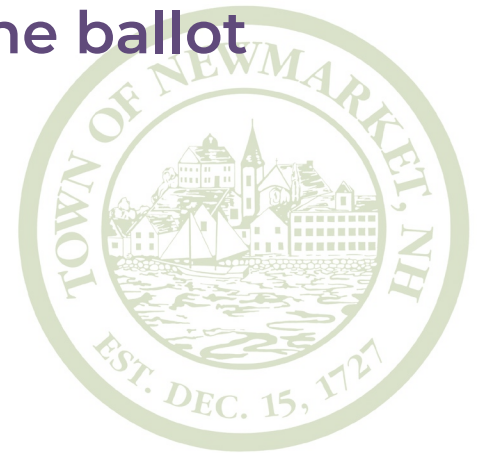
# Town Charter Current Structure

- RSA 49-D:3 II-a structure – Town Council is governing and legislative body except for Monetary Items
  - Similar to a city form of government
  - Budget and Bonds are handled like and SB2 Community
    - Municipal Budget Committee Reviews Budget
  - Regardless of title, must have CAO with Town Manager RSA 37 powers and duties
- 7 Councilors – All at large
  - Staggered, three-year terms (3/2/2)
- Council Chair elected annually by Councilors



# Charter - Highlights

- Town Manager Proposed budget to Town Council by October 15
- Town Council Approves Budget by November 15
- Municipal Budget Committee follows SB2 Statute
  - Only the budget and bonds go on the ballot
- Council laws adopted by ordinance
- Policies set by resolutions



# Charter - Highlights

- Council confirms direct reports to the Manager
- Manager appoints Town Treasurer
- Elected Planning Board
- Council must invite School Board Annually
- CIP Committee Submits CIP Plan
- Same Petition Process as Derry



# Charter - Advantages

- Town government becomes a truly representative government
- Town can react more quickly
  - Ordinances throughout the year
- Additional oversight on senior staff appointments
- Oversight of individual controlling funds
- Higher threshold on citizen petitions
- Required to work with the School District
- Long established and common form of government in region
  - Cities of Portsmouth, Dover, Rochester, Somersworth NH and Sanford, ME
  - Durham NH and Kittery, South Berwick ME
- The community can change their government to fit its need instead of relying on the State

