

**WARNING
TOWN OF CHARLOTTE
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
2024**

The legal voters of the Town of Charlotte are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Charlotte Town Hall, located at 159 Ferry Road in said Town, on the Tuesday, March 5, 2024 to vote by Australian ballot to begin at seven o'clock in the forenoon (7:00 A.M.) and to close at seven o'clock in the afternoon (7:00 P.M.).

The legal voters of the Town of Charlotte are further notified and warned that a public informational hearing to explain and discuss the Australian ballot articles set forth below will be held on Monday, February 26, 2024, at the Charlotte Town Hall, located at 159 Ferry Road in the Town, beginning at six thirty o'clock in the afternoon (6:30 P.M.). The public may attend the informational hearing in person or on Zoom at the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84047650499?pwd=bDVMOXhFUEJrUzZvNTlVZmdmc1I2dz09>

Meeting ID: 840 4765 0499
Passcode: 798972

ARTICLES TO BE VOTED BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT

- Article 1:** Shall the voters authorize the payment of property taxes, with the payment due on or before Friday, November 15, 2024, and to have payments made to the Town Treasurer as provided in 32 VSA § 4773(b)?
- Article 2:** Shall the voters approve total fund expenditures, as set forth in the Selectboard's budget, of \$3,252,147 for the fiscal year July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025, of which an anticipated sum of \$1,540,380 will be raised by taxes and an anticipated sum of \$1,711,767 will be raised by non-tax revenues.
- Article 3:** Will the voters of the Town approve an allocation of \$989,087 to Charlotte Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services, Inc. for the fiscal year July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025, to be raised by property taxes?
- Article 4:** To elect Town Officials.
- Article 5:** To elect Champlain Valley School District Officials.
- Article 6:** Shall the voters authorize the Town to submit to the General Assembly of the State of Vermont a proposal to adopt a municipal charter which contains the following sections:
- Section 1: Corporate Existence
 - Section 2: General Provisions
 - Section 3: Town Manager/Road Commissioner
 - Section 4: Separability
 - Section 5: Amendment
 - Section 6: Effective Date

The official copy of the Charter proposal, in its entirety, is on file and available for public inspection at the Charlotte Town Clerk's Office, 159 Ferry Road in said Town, during regular office hours, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Copies thereof are available to members of the public upon request.

Article 7: Shall the voters authorize the Town to issue general obligation bonds or notes in an amount not to exceed Three Hundred Sixty-Five Thousand Dollars and 00/100 (\$365,000.00) to purchase a new ambulance to be financed over a period not to exceed 10 years?

Dated this ____ day of January, 2024 at Charlotte, Vermont.

Town of Charlotte Selectboard

James Faulkner, Chair

Frank Tenney, Co-Chair

Louise McCarren

Lewis Mudge

Kelly Devine

Received for record this _____ day of January, 2024.

_____ Mary A. Mead, Town Clerk

NOTICE TO VOTERS

For Local Elections

BEFORE ELECTION DAY:

CHECKLIST POSTED at Clerks Office by **February 3, 2024**. If your name is not on the checklist, then you must register to vote. **SAMPLE BALLOTS** will be posted by February 14, 2024.

HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE: There is no deadline to register to vote. You will be able to register to vote on the day of the election. You can register prior by visiting the town clerk's office or going online to **olvr.sec.state.vt.us**.

REQUEST EARLY or ABSENTEE BALLOTS: You or a family member can request early or absentee ballots at any time during the year of the election in person, in writing, by telephone, email, or online at **mvp.sec.state.vt.us**. The latest you can request ballots for the Town Meeting Election is the close of the Town Clerk's office on March 4, 2024. (Any other person authorized by you who is not a family member must apply in writing or in person for a ballot for you.)

WAYS TO VOTE YOUR EARLY BALLOT:

- You may vote in the town clerk's office before the deadline.
- Voter may take his or her ballot(s) out of the clerk's office and return in same manner as if the ballots were received by mail.
- Have ballot mailed to you, and mail or deliver it back to the clerk's office before Election Day or to the polling place before 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.
- If you are sick or disabled before Election Day, ask the town clerk to have two justices of the peace bring a ballot to you at your home. (Ballots can be delivered on any of the eight days preceding the day of the election or on the day of election.)

ON ELECTION DAY:

If your name was dropped from the checklist in error, or has not been added even though you submitted a timely application for addition to the checklist, you can fill out a new registration form.

- ! If the clerk or Board of Civil Authority does not add your name, you can appeal the decision to a superior court judge, who will settle the matter on Election Day. Call the Secretary of State's Office at 1-800-439-VOTE (439-8683) for more information.

If you are a first time voter who submitted your application to the checklist individually by mail and did not submit the required document, you must provide a current and valid photo identification, or a bank statement, utility bill, or government document that contains your name/current address.

If you have physical disabilities, are visually impaired or can't read, you may have assistance from any person of your choice. If any voters you know have disabilities let them know they can have assistance from any person of their choice.

If you know voters who cannot get from the car into the polling place let them know that ballot(s) may be brought to their car by two election officials.

If you have any questions or need assistance while voting, ask your town clerk or any election official for help.

NO PERSON SHALL:

- ! Vote more than once per election, either in the same town or in different towns.
- ! Mislead the board of civil authority about your own or another person's true residency or other eligibility to vote.
- ! Hinder or impede a voter going into or from the polling place.
- ! Socialize in a manner that could disturb other voters in the polling place.
- ! Offer bribe, threaten or exercise undue influence to dictate or control the vote of another person.

FOR HELP OR INFORMATION: Call the Secretary of State's Office at 1-800-439-VOTE (439-8683). (Accessible by TDD)

If you believe that any of your voting rights have been violated, you may file an Administrative Complaint with the Secretary of State's Office, 128 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05633.

NOTICE TO VOTERS

Continued

If you believe you have witnessed efforts to commit any kind of fraud or corruption in the voting process, you may report this to your local United States Attorney's Office.
If you have witnessed actual or attempted acts of discrimination or intimidation in the voting process, you may report this to the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice at (800) 253-3931.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTERS using Paper Ballots

CHECK-IN AND RECEIVE BALLOTS:

- Go to the entrance checklist table.
- Give name and, if asked, street address to the election official in a loud voice.
- Wait until your name is repeated and checked off by the official.
- An election official will give you a ballot.
- Enter within the guardrail and go to a vacant voting booth.

MARK YOUR BALLOT: For each office listed on the ballot, you will see instructions to "Vote for not more than one, or Vote for not more than two, etc."

- To vote for a candidate, fill in the oval to the right of the name of the candidate you want to vote for.
- **WRITE-IN candidate(s).** To vote for someone whose name is not printed on the ballot, use the blank "write-in" lines on the ballot and either write-in the name or paste on sticker, then fill in the oval.

CHECK OUT:

- Go to the exit checklist table and state your name in an audible voice.
- Wait until your name is repeated and checked off by the official.

CAST YOUR VOTE by depositing your voted ballot in "Voted Ballots" box.

LEAVE the voting area immediately by passing outside the guardrail.