

Shall the City of Easthampton accept the following sections of an act approved by the General Court in the year 2019 entitled “An Act amending the home rule charter of the city of Easthampton”?

Summary: Questions #1 and 2 would change the method of voting for single winner city races to an election system in which voters rank candidates by order of preference. In casting a vote, a voter ranks candidates by first choice, second choice and continuing until the voter has assigned a single numerical ranking to each candidate on the ballot or until the voter chooses to stop ranking. A voter’s lower ranked choices will not impact the likelihood of a voter’s higher ranked choices being elected. A ranked choice voting ballot will not preclude a voter’s ability to rank at least 1 write-in candidate. When ballots are first counted, if one candidate receives at least 50% of the first choice votes cast for the office in the election, the candidate is declared the winner. If no candidate receives at least 50% an instant runoff automatically occurs. In an instant runoff, the candidate receiving the least number of votes in the prior round is withdrawn from the election. The highest ranked non-withdrawn candidate of each voter becomes the voter’s first choice vote and that vote is used in calculating the total number of votes for each remaining non-withdrawn candidate. This process repeats until a candidate receives at least 50 percent of the total first choice votes cast for the office in the election at which time the winner is declared.

General provisions for ranked choice voting shall be developed by an ad hoc committee and be implemented by the City Council through adoption of an ordinance. Dependent upon funding, the ordinance will be effective for the first regular biennial city election after approval. The budget limitation shall only be applicable for the first election after approval.

QUESTION 1. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the election for the office of mayor shall be conducted by Ranked Choice Voting.

A “YES” vote would indicate your support of Ranked Choice Voting for Mayor.
A “NO” vote would indicate your opposition to Ranked Choice Voting for Mayor.

YES:
NO:

QUESTION 2. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the election for the office of district city councilor shall be conducted by Ranked Choice Voting.

A “YES” vote would indicate your support of Ranked Choice Voting for District City Councilor.
A “NO” vote would indicate your opposition to Ranked Choice Voting for District City Councilor.

YES:
NO:

QUESTION 3. The term of office of the mayor shall be four (4) years beginning on the first Monday of January following the biennial city election at which chosen and until a successor is qualified.

Summary: Question 3 proposes to increase the term of office for Mayor from two (2) years to four (4) years. If adopted, this change will take effect beginning with the November, 2021 biennial city election, for the term of office starting on January 3, 2022.

A “YES” vote would indicate your support of a four (4) year term for the Mayor.

A “NO” vote would indicate your opposition to a four (4) year term for the Mayor.

YES:

NO:

QUESTION 4. (This question is non-binding)

Do you vote to ratify the two prior affirmative votes of the city council authorizing the city to take all necessary and appropriate action to establish and maintain, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 164 of the General Laws and in accordance with the rules, regulations and orders of the Department of Public Utilities and Department of Telecommunications & Cable, a municipal lighting plant for all purposes allowable under the laws of the Commonwealth, including without limitation the operation of a telecommunications systems and any related services?

Summary: Question 4 would give the city authority to establish a municipal light plant, which is a city-owned company that can provide utilities services including telecommunications systems and internet to households. A YES vote does not obligate the city to establish a municipal light plant, but the city cannot form a municipal light plant without voter ratification of the two prior city council votes authorizing the exploration and establishment of a municipal lighting plant.

A “YES” vote would indicate your support of authorizing a municipal light plant.

A “NO” vote would indicate your opposition of authorizing a municipal light plant.

YES:

NO: