

Print

Town Charter Revision Commission - Town Administration, Staff, Board/Commission Chairs - Submission #449

Date Submitted: 7/11/2024

First Name*

Elizabeth

Last Name*

Lane

Town Department or Board/Commission*

Bloomfield Public Library

Email Address*

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The following questions are optional:

Are you a resident of Bloomfield?



Yes



No

Proposed Recommendation to the Town Charter

The Bloomfield Town Charter is available
at: [https://library.municode.com/ct/bloomfield/codes/code_of_ordinances?
nodeId=CH](https://library.municode.com/ct/bloomfield/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=CH)

What section number of the Charter does your change affect?*

Chapter 6 Section 604

Proposed Recommendation *

Keep the Charter language from Chapter 6 Section 604 as it currently reads.

Brief description of the issue addressed by the proposed change:*

Changing the Charter language goes against the The 2024 Best Practices in CT Public Libraries as endorsed by the CT State Library Board. Please note that many libraries operate in this manner, including West Hartford and Wethersfield.

Impact of Proposed Change

What benefits will be realized by the citizens and/or government of Bloomfield?*

If the Charter language from Chapter 6 Section 604 remains as it, the library will stay on course to, as its mission statement reads, "provide all members of our diverse community with access to comprehensive services, expansive print and electronic resources, technology, and expert assistance from a caring and responsive staff. By breaking down barriers to access and opening doors to opportunity, building community, and encouraging lifelong learning, BPL works to improve the quality of life for all of our residents and strives to be the heart of our town."

What potential impacts may be associated with the proposal change?*

If the Charter language from Chapter 6 Section 604 changes, the library will move in a direction that goes against best practices in the field, including those outlined by The 2024 Best Practices in CT Public Libraries as endorsed by the CT State Library Board.

Can you provide data to assist in validating the impact of the proposed change?

Yes. The Best Practices in CT Public Libraries as endorsed by the CT State Library Board is used as an effective tool for general library operations by libraries across the state. It includes a section on Governance. It states that in exemplary libraries, "The governing body has the authority for hiring, evaluating and firing the library director." This is in line with our current charter. Changing this would go against established best practices. You can access the recent State Library Board endorsed 2024 Best Practices in CT Public Libraries here: https://libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/ld.php?content_id=76757505

Describe any obstacles, costs, or cost savings associated with the proposed change, if any?

Bloomfield Public Library continues to grow and improve. I have always worked with the Library Board, the Town Manager, the Town Council, The Friends, other Town Department heads and staff, and our deserving public. I look forward to continuing that work.