

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN CONNECTICUT, 3rd EDITION

Instructor's Guide

Chapter 6

Class Discussion

1. Why is the charter process important? Explain why it is designed to take a long time with lots of input and hearings.
2. What are the political implications of having a special referendum vs. placing the charter revision on the normal November ballot? (Much harder to get approval on special election due to the 15% majority rule—thus a person could publically state they are in favor of the charter change, but because they are secretly against it, vote to put it on a special ballot and not the regular election when it only takes a simple majority vote)

Class Assignments

1. Determine if the town where students live is a charter town and what form of government it is?
2. If charter town, when was the charter adopted? Has it been amended?
3. If not a charter town, interview selectmen on their thoughts of operating under the general statutes. Advantages? Disadvantages?
4. Are any towns in the area planning on revising their charter? Why?
5. Locate the Council –Manager towns on a map (See Appendix) and determine what part of the State they are located in. Have discussion as to why they are grouped in one particular section of the State?

Field Trips-Other Ideas

- Contact the Secretary of State's office to see how many towns have changed their charter in the last few years.
- Invite to class a representative from the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) in New Haven to speak about the process and the importance of self-governance.