

# City of Ansonia



## Explanatory Text For City Questions On Ballot For Municipal Election November 5, 2013 Designation on the Ballot

Vote on 7th Question for Ansonia Charter Revision	Yes	No
	7. Revision of the Charter	

### EXPLANATORY TEXT FOR CITY QUESTION NUMBERED 7

#### PUBLIC VOTE ON BUDGET

##### Explanatory Text As To the Contents and Purpose

The purpose for this Amendment to the Charter would allow Ansonia residents to vote directly on the city budget in the event that the Board of Apportionment and Taxation approves a budget that carries a net tax increase of three percent (3%) or more from the previous year. Voters will have the opportunity to vote separately on the city and education budgets. The voters will be given the option to vote either "Yes" or "No" and additionally the option to vote "too high" or "too low" on each of the budgets. Rejected budgets will be sent back to the Board of Apportionment and Taxation for revision, and then back to the ballot for an additional referendum. The referendum process will continue until both budgets are approved by voters, or until the Board of Apportionment and Taxation makes a revision that brings the net tax increase below three percent (3%) from the previous year.

**Section of the Charter to be Amended**  
**Provisions to Amended are Underlined**

**Sec. 42**

**Referendum**

A public referendum on the budget must be held if the budget approved by the Board of Apportionment and Taxation represents an increase of three percent (3%) or more in "net taxes to be collected" from the previous year's budget. The referendum vote shall be by machine ballot.

The referendum shall be held not more than 5 days after approval by the Board of Apportionment and Taxation. The referendum questions shall be presented on the ballot as follows:

- a. Shall the City Budget, as recommended by the Board of Apportionment and Taxation of (dollar amount) for the fiscal year (specify year) be adopted?
- b. Shall the Board of Education Budget, as recommended by the Board of Apportionment and Taxation, of (dollar amount) for the City of Ansonia for the fiscal year (specify year) be adopted?

The voters shall be given the option to vote either "Yes" or "No" and additionally the option to vote "too high" or "too low" on each of the budgets.

If both budgets are rejected, both budgets shall be resubmitted to the ballot after revisions by the Board of Apportionment and Taxation. In case of further rejections, the aforesaid process, under this section, shall be repeated until said budgets are accepted, or until the increase in "net taxes to be collected" is less than three percent (3%) from the previous year's budget.

If only one of the aforesaid budgets passes, that budget shall be deemed to be approved. The budget question that is rejected shall be resubmitted to the ballot after revision by the Board of Apportionment and Taxation, and resubmitted again after further rejection and further revision by the Board of Apportionment and Taxation until said budget is accepted or until the increase in "net taxes to be collected" is less than three percent (3%) from the previous year's budget.

If the referendum vote rejects the budget, or either part thereof, the rejected portion shall be reconsidered by the Board of Apportionment and Taxation within five (5) calendar days. In case of further rejection this process shall be continued using a five (5) calendar day period of reconsideration by the Board of Apportionment and Taxation until the budget is adopted.

If the budget is not adopted by June 20 the City shall send out real estate tax bills based on the same taxation figures and adjusted mill rate of the prior fiscal year, which would include adjustments for the new revenues, debt service, and legal obligations for the next fiscal year, which begins on July 1. After the complete budget is passed the balance of the real estate plus personal property and motor vehicle tax bills shall be sent out based on any change brought about by referendum vote.

**Question Numbered 7**

"SHALL THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF ANSONIA BE AMENDED AND REVISED TO INSTITUTE A BUDGET REFERENDUM SYSTEM WHEREBY THE PUBLIC MAY VOTE DIRECTLY ON THE CITY BUDGET IN THE EVENT A PROPOSED BUDGET CARRIES A NET TAX INCREASE OF THREE PERCENT (3%) OR MORE?"

Voters approving will vote "Yes"

Voters opposing will vote "No"

## DESIGNATION ON THE BALLOT

Vote on 8 <sup>th</sup> Question for Ansonia Charter. Revision	Yes	No
<b>8. Revision of the Charter</b>		

### EXPLANATORY TEXT FOR CITY QUESTION NUMBERED 8

#### PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICES

##### Explanatory Text As To the Contents and Purpose

This revision of the Charter would decrease the cost the City of Ansonia incurs in publication of notices and other legal documents not otherwise required by state statutes or federal regulations to be published in full in a local newspaper having a substantial circulation in the City of Ansonia. Various sections of the Charter, City Code and Land Use Regulations of the City of Ansonia require advertisement by publication in a newspaper having a substantial circulation in the City of Ansonia. Examples of this publication requirement are solicitations for bid proposals for services or consideration of a new ordinance. This revision of the Charter would permit the content of the notices be abbreviated provided the full contents of the legal notice is available at the Town and City Clerk and on the City of Ansonia official website. This section would not apply to those matters which must be fully advertised pursuant to local regulations, state statutes and federal regulations.

##### Section of the Charter to be Amended

##### Provisions to Amended are Underlined

Sec. 155 Publication of Legal Notices Legal Notices on behalf of the City of Ansonia may be abbreviated for publication, where required, provided that the full publication of the legal notice shall be on file with the Town and City Clerk and on the official website of the City of Ansonia. The abbreviated notice shall state that the complete information corresponding to the legal notice is on file with the Town and City Clerk and on the City of Ansonia official website.

##### Question Numbered 8

"SHALL THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF ANSONIA BE AMENDED AND REVISED SO THAT LEGAL NOTICES, WHERE REQUIRED, MAY BE ABBREVIATED PROVIDED THE FULL PUBLICATION OF THE LEGAL NOTICE SHALL BE ON FILE WITH THE TOWN AND CITY CLERK AND ON THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF THE CITY OF ANSONIA?"

Voters approving will vote "Yes"

Voters opposing will vote "No"

## DESIGNATION ON THE BALLOT

Vote on 9 <sup>th</sup> Question for Ansonia Charter Revision	Yes	No
<b>9. Revision of the Charter</b>		

### EXPLANATORY TEXT FOR CITY QUESTION NUMBERED 9

#### ABSENTEE POLICY FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

##### Explanatory Text As To the Contents and Purpose of Question Numbered 9

The City of Ansonia municipal government is comprised of many Boards and Commissions which are appointed by the Mayor and affirmed by the Board of Aldermen. These Boards and Commissions meet on a frequent basis. However, a quorum of members of the particular Board or Commission must be present in order for the Board or Commission to conduct business. However business cannot be conducted when a quorum is not present. The purpose of this proposed Charter change is to provide an absentee policy for attendance by members of Boards and Commissions for the City of Ansonia to ensure that there are members present to hold meetings.

##### Section of the Charter to be Amended

##### Provisions to Amended are Underlined

Sec. 154. Absentee Policy for Boards and Commission (New)

A member of any aldermen-appointed Board or Commission of the City of Ansonia who is absent from three (3) consecutive regularly scheduled and duly called meetings of said Board or Commission shall be considered to have resigned from such body and the seat occupied by such member shall be deemed to be vacant. Any vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. The requirements of this section may be waived by the Board of Aldermen for good cause, duly shown, where illness or other extenuating circumstances has made it impossible for a member to have met the attendance requirement of this section.

##### Question Numbered 9

"SHALL THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF ANSONIA BE AMENDED AND REVISED TO REQUIRE AN ABSENTEE POLICY FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS?"

Voters approving will vote "Yes"

Voters opposing will vote "No"

# Designation on the Ballot

Vote on 10th Question for Ansonia Charter Revision	Yes	No
	10. Revision of the Charter	

## EXPLANATORY TEXT FOR CITY QUESTION NUMBERED 10

### CONTRACTS

#### Explanatory Text As To the Contents and Purpose

The purpose for this Amendment to the Charter would increase the level of the monetary amount the City of Ansonia would be required to seek through bids for contracts for work and supplies without having to advertise the notice requesting sealed bids or proposals in a local publication. The current monetary amount is \$5,000.00. The cost of services has increased over the years resulting in the increase frequency of legal notices to solicit bids or proposals. The proposed increase to \$25,000.00 which would result in a savings of costs to the city by eliminating publication in a local newspaper.

#### Section of the Charter to be Amended

#### Provisions to Amended are Underlined

#### Sec. 138 Contracts and purchases generally.

All contracts to be made or let for work to be done, or for supplies to be furnished to said city, except as in this Act otherwise provided, and all sales of personal property in the custody of the several departments or officers of said city, shall be made by direction of the board of aldermen. Whenever any work is necessary to be done to execute or perfect a particular undertaking, or any supply is needful for any particular purpose, and the several parts of said work or supply shall together involve the expenditure of up to two thousand five hundred dollars, such purchase may be made by simple award of purchase order. For expenditures of two thousand five hundred dollars to twenty five thousand, such purchase shall require solicitation of at least three bids, written or by telephone and followed up by a written bid. For expenditures of more than twenty five thousand dollars a written contract for such work or supplies shall be made, under such regulations as the Board of Aldermen may by vote direct, which contract shall be founded on sealed bids or proposals, made in compliance with public notice, duly advertised by publication at least ten days before the time fixed for opening said bids or proposals. If said board shall not deem it for the interest of the city to reject all bids, it shall award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder, provided, however, that if it shall not deem it practicable or for the best interests of the city to proceed as above required, for any particular work, or the obtaining of any particular supplies, it shall make a written statement to that effect, giving its reasons and the manner in which, in its opinion, the work should be done, or the supply obtained, and submit the statement to the mayor. The mayor, if he concurs, shall endorse his approval thereon, and said statement shall then be filed with the proper officer for reference, where it shall be and remain subject to public inspection; and then, and not until then, the work may proceed or the supply may be obtained in the manner therein stated. The terms of each contract shall be settled by the corporation counsel, and shall form a part of the specifications, and the contractor shall give security to the satisfaction of the mayor for the faithful performance of his contract. All bids or proposals shall be publicly opened by the department or officer advertising for the same, in the presence of the mayor; but the opening of bids shall not be postponed if the mayor shall, after due notice, fail to attend. If the lowest bidder shall neglect or refuse to accept the contract within five days after written notice that the same has been awarded according to his bid or proposal, or if he fails to execute his contract or to give proper security, it may be re-advertised and re-let, in the manner above provided, or with the written approval of the mayor, filed for public record with the city clerk, said contract may be awarded to the next lowest responsible bidder. If any work shall be abandoned by any contractor, it may be re-advertised and re-let in the manner provided for the original contract, or with the written approval of the mayor, the board of aldermen may cause said work to be finished without making any new contract, and the original contractor shall be liable to the city for any excess in the cost of said work over the amount of the original contract. No bid shall be accepted from or contract awarded to any person who is in arrears to the city upon debt or contract, or who is a defaulter as surety or otherwise upon any obligation to the city. Three copies of every contract shall be executed, and one of the original copies thereof shall be filed in the city clerk's office. Whenever proposals for furnishing supplies or doing work are invited by advertisement by any department or officer, such department or officer is directed to require, as a condition precedent to the reception of any proposal, the deposit with the mayor of a check drawn to the order of the mayor and certified by some reliable bank. Such checks shall accompany the proposal, and be for an amount of not less than five per centum of the amount required by said bid to be paid by the city for the proposed work to be done or supply to be furnished. Within three days after it is decided who is the lowest bidder, the mayor shall return all such checks to the persons depositing the same, except the check deposited by the lowest bidder for such contract; and if the said lowest bidder shall refuse or neglect, within five days after due notice that the contract has been awarded to him, to execute the same, the amount of the deposit made by him shall be forfeited to and retained by said city, as liquidated damages for such neglect or refusal, and shall be paid into the treasury of said city; but if the lowest bidder shall execute the contract within the time aforesaid, the amount of his deposit shall be returned to him.

#### Question Numbered 10

"SHALL THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF ANSONIA BE AMENDED AND REVISED TO INCREASE THE SOLICITATION OF BIDS AND PROPOSALS BY DULY ADVERTISING BY PUBLICATION FROM FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS TO TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS?"

Voters approving will vote "Yes"

Voters opposing will vote "No"

Town City Clerk Madeline Bottone