

# Rescheduling Special Election on Charter Amendments

July 14, 2020

The logo for Addison, featuring the word "ADDISON" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font centered within a white circle. This circle is set against a blue background that is part of a larger graphic design on the right side of the slide, which includes diagonal grey and blue sections.

- Fall 2019-Early 2020
  - Charter Review Commission evaluated the current Charter and ultimately recommended 26 propositions to amend the Charter
- February 13, 2020
  - City Council called a Special Election to be held on May 2, 2020
- March 18, 2020
  - Governor Abbot issued a Proclamation allowing political subdivisions to move elections scheduled for May 2, 2020 to November 3, 2020
- April 14, 2020
  - City Council postponed the Special Election without specifying a date

- Because the May 2, 2020 Special Election was not cancelled outright, the Governor's Proclamation appears to require the election to be held on November 3, 2020.
- **Pros:**
  - Soonest available date following the scheduled May 2020 date
  - Addresses identified Charter issues more quickly than May 2021
- **Cons:**
  - Effects of COVID-19 unknown in the Fall
  - Propositions will be included on ballot after all other election items in November 2020

# Alternative – May 1, 2020

- Town could formally request permission from the Governor's Office to allow Town to reschedule the Special Election to May 1, 2020
- Town could choose to not call the Special Election in November and proceed with a May election knowing that there are risks associated with such a decision
  
- **Pros:**
  - Fewer items on May ballot will allow voters to focus on Charter amendments
  - Effects of COVID-19 still unknown, although could be better than Fall
  
- **Cons:**
  - Additional delay in addressing known Charter issues
  - Tests limits of the current Proclamation

# Question for Council

- Does Council prefer to reschedule the Special Election on the 26 propositions to amend the Town's Home Rule Charter to Tuesday, November 3, 2020 or Saturday May 1, 2021?
- If November 3, 2020:
  - The last day to order the election on that date is August 17, 2020.
  - Staff would prepare an ordinance for Council action on the August 11, 2020 meeting agenda