

Ballot Question 1B

Amending Town of Johnstown Home Rule Charter

Ballot Question 1B Reads As Follows:

SHALL SECTIONS 3.3, 4.2(B) AND 4.7(A) OF THE TOWN OF JOHNSTOWN HOME RULE CHARTER BE AMENDED TO CLARIFY THE STATUS OF THE MAYOR AS A MEMBER OF THE TOWN COUNCIL FOR THE PURPOSE OF CALCULATING QUORUM AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING THE MAJORITY VOTING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS, MOTIONS AND EMERGENCY ORDINANCES?

___ YES ___ NO

Explanation:

The ballot question seeks to amend Sections 3.3, 4.2(B) and 4.7(A) of the Town of Johnstown Home Rule Charter to clarify the intended status of the Mayor. The Charter, which has not been amended since its adoption in November 2006, does not clearly identify the Mayor as an equal member of Town Council, which complicates voting requirements in conducting Town business.

Specifically, the Charter defines the “Entire Council” to include the Mayor, and defines “Councilmember” to exclude the Mayor. By use of the term “Councilmember” to calculate quorum* and determine the majority voting requirements for the adoption of resolutions, motions and emergency ordinances, the current language in the Charter inadvertently excludes the presence of the Mayor for the calculation of the quorum necessary to transact Town business.

** The term “quorum” refers to the minimum number of members who must be present to lawfully conduct business.*

If Ballot Question 1B is PASSED:

The Town of Johnstown Home Rule Charter will be clarified with amended language to affirm the status of the Mayor as a member of the Town Council, who is included in the qualifications for a quorum and as a voting member for resolutions, motions and emergency ordinances.

If Ballot Question 1B is NOT PASSED:

The Charter will remain unchanged. Under the Home Rule Charter, while the Mayor is a voting member of the Entire Council, in certain instances, he/she may not be included in the aggregate total to establish a quorum or passage of certain policies of the Town. Limiting the equal value of the position of Mayor, compared to those of Councilmembers, minimizes the Citizen’s voice represented through the elected officials as a singular elected legislative body.

More information can be found on the Town of Johnstown’s website at <https://townofjohnstown.com/240/Election-Information>.

