

## Lynn Bielawiec

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**From:** Sue Errickson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 03, 2018 3:44 PM  
**To:** Katie Murray  
**Cc:** marilee beebe  
**Subject:** Re: Charter Revision Suggestion

Please forward to the Commission.

Thank you, Katie, for your suggestions. They will be distributed to the committee and will be part of our correspondence package.

However,  
as we have been laboring over the Charter since last November, and ....  
as we have a very rigid schedule to follow,.....  
and as we are at the point TONIGHT where the schedule says to approve our FINAL  
rendition of our Proposed Changes to the Charter,.....  
we cannot POSSIBLY entertain any more suggestions!

I sincerely hope you understand....

Sent from my iPad

On May 3, 2018, at 2:27 PM, Katie Murray [REDACTED] wrote:

Co-Chairs Beebe and Errickson -

First I want to thank you for all the time and effort you have put into the Charter Revision process. I know you both to be dedicated and thoughtful, and I am so glad you are leading the group of volunteers who are undertaking this effort.

I wanted to suggest a Charter revision for the Commission's consideration. Since the Charter was revised in 2004, the turnout for the yearly Budget Referendums has been declining. Attached is a table of turnout percentages per the Tolland Registrars of Voters.

We have had 30 Budget Referendums in the 15-years since we started the practice (2004-2018). The average (mean) turnout for Referendums is 29.81%, however we have seen a 10-point drop in turnout in the past five years, going down to 22.20%, compared to turnout in the first 10-years which averaged 32.12%.

With such a small portion of the electorate casting their vote in Budget Referendums, I feel that they are an unnecessary expense and exercise for Town.

I would propose that the Town Council be authorized to set the budget in a process which includes multiple public hearings and calls for resident input. If the Council sets a town budget with a change of mill rate from the previous year exceeding +/- 3%,

then the budget must go out to Referendum. (In other words, if the Council sets a budget with a mill rate increase of 3.17%, that budget would have to go to Referendum; if the mill rate were to decrease more than 3%, it would also have to go to Referendum.)

I appreciate your consideration of my suggestion. If you have any further questions or would like to discuss with me further, my contact info is below.

Thank you,  
Katie

Katie Murray  
8 Lisa Ln  
Tolland, CT 06084

(860) 874-8060

[REDACTED]

<Tolland Budget Referendum Voter Turnout 2004-2018.pdf>