

Proposal for 9 Councilors

(Adopted from the wording in Derry's Town Charter)

At the first regular Town election following the effective date of this Charter (2024), there shall be elected one councilor-at-large and five councilors by wards:

- Councilors for Districts 1 and 2 for one year
- Councilor for District 3 for two years
- Councilors for Districts 4 and 5 for three years

Thereafter, Town Councilors shall be elected on the same schedule in each ensuing 3-year cycle.

Salem had six wards/polling locations, but only five are currently used.

1. Fisk School
2. Soule School
3. Barron School
4. Senior Center
5. Lancaster School is no longer used for voting purposes.
6. North Salem School

I propose that we:

1. Elect one councilor from each of the five districts currently being used.
2. Elect another four councilors at-large (from across the town)

This proposal will give those who want at-large representatives the same number of councilors as they currently have (4+1 from their neighborhood).

It will give those who want to elect their representative from their district an opportunity to have someone closely familiar with their neighborhood, as well as the opportunity to elect four other councilors

My proposal does not call for adding additional wards, as this would increase costs for elections, and it would put a further drain on election officials.

My proposal does not call for a special election shortly after approving the charter, as some towns do, because:

- A staggered approach allows for continuity of government, so there would not be the risk of all new Councilors. We would have at least three experienced Councilors in the first year, and thereafter six experienced Councilors, who can help guide the new members.
- Special elections in a town of this size, is expensive.
- This would allow the Town adequate time to re-proportion the voting districts.
- This proposal is fair to the current Select Board members who campaigned with the expectation of serving for three years.

Why 9 Councilors

With this proposal for 9 Councilors, each resident will have the opportunity to vote for the same number of Councilors as they currently vote for Selectmen. There will be three members elected every year. With nine members on the Council, there are likely to be people elected that will please everyone. With nine members, there will be less concern about transparency, and nine will provide a fairer representation of councilors from the entire town to make important decisions for the entire town.

Why Wards?

This will ONLY apply to our Town Councilors. It will not impact State Reps — they can only be elected at large, or by a special vote of town residents. It will not impact special elections for positions such as the Charter Commission – the RSAs for charter commission require commissioners to be elected at large. However, looking at these recent past elections, shows us why having some ward representation would give fair representation, as the needs and concerns of different parts of town are different from others.

Why At-Large?

This gives a good balance. It's the way we currently elect all candidates. It gives candidates who are known throughout the town a better chance to be elected. When combined with one Councilor from each district, this is how we would reach nine councilors.

Why Both?

Salem is NH's seventh-largest community, and its second-largest town. For a community of our size, this proposal provides a very local representation as well as town-wide representation. It is this kind of representation that is successful in NH's larger communities. This gives those who want to elect by district the opportunity to have at least one person from their part of town. And this gives those who want to elect by At-Large the same number of candidates to elect as they currently have. If they aren't pleased with the candidate from their district, they have many others that they can turn to.

Current		Election Schedule				
	2022	2023 Charter Approved	2024 Charter In Effect	2025	2026	2027
At Large #1	Selectmen Keller & Bryant Year 2 of 3	Selectmen Keller & Bryant Year 3 of 3	Elect ONE At-Large Councilor	Year 2 of 3	Year 3 of 3	Elect one At-Large Councilor
At Large #2	Selectman Stacey Year 3 of 3	Elect One Selectman	Selectman now Councilor Year 2 of 3	Year 3 of 3	Elect one At-Large Councilor	Year 2 of 3
At Large #3	Selectman Lyons Year 3 of 3	Elect One Selectman	Selectman now Councilor Year 2 of 3	Year 3 of 3	Elect one At-Large Councilor	Year 2 of 3
At Large #4	Selectman Stramaglia Elected	Selectman Stramaglia Year 2 of 3	Selectman Stramaglia now Councilor Year 3 of 3	Elect one At-Large Councilor	Year 2 of 3	Year 3 of 3

	Election Schedule				
	2023 Charter Approved	2024 Charter In Effect	2025	2026	2027
Ward 1		1 year	x		
Ward 2		1 year	x		
Ward 3		2 year		x	
Ward 4		3 year			x
Ward 6		3 year			x

	2022	2023 Charter Approved	2024 Charter in Effect	2025	2026	2027
Selectmen Elected	1	2	--	--	--	--
Councilors Elected At-Large	--	--	1	1	2	1
Councilors Elected by Ward	--	--	5	2	1	2
Total Elected	1	2	6	3	3	3
Total on Committee	5	5	9	9	9	9

Proposal for 9 Councilors. 4-at large. 5 by wards. (one per polling location.)

CURRENT	2023	2024	2025										
Stacey	Expires												
Lyons	Expires												
Bryant	1 yr left	Expires											
Keller	1 yr left	Expires											
Stramaglia	2 yrs left	1 yr left	Expires										
ELECT	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	
At Large #1	Elect for 3 years			Elect for 3 years			Elect for 3 years			Elect for 3 years			
At Large #2	Elect for 3 years			Elect for 3 years			Elect for 3 years			Elect for 3 years			
At Large #3	Bryant/ Keller Yr 3	Elect for 3 years			Elect for 3 years			Elect for 3 years			Elect for 3 years		
At large #5 (for 1 yr)	Bryant/ Keller Yr 3												
At Large #4	Stramaglia Yr 2	Stramaglia Yr 3	Elect for 3 years			Elect for 3 years			Elect for 3 years			Elect for 3 years	
Ward #1		Elect for 1 years	Elect for 3 years			Elect for 3 years			Elect for 3 years			Elect for 3 years	
Ward #2		Elect for 1 years	Elect for 3 years			Elect for 3 years			Elect for 3 years			Elect for 3 years	
Ward #3		Elect for 2 years		Elect for 3 years			Elect for 3 years			Elect for 3 years			
Ward #4		Elect for 3 years			Elect for 3 years			Elect for 3 years			Elect for 3 years		
Ward #6->5		Elect for 3 years			Elect for 3 years			Elect for 3 years			Elect for 3 years		
Total	5	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	

Proposal:

In 2023: Elect two members to the Select Board, as Ms. Stacey and Mr. Lyons' terms expire.

Upon adoption of the charter (approved 2023, adopted ?2024?), all 5 Select Board members will automatically be retitled as Councilors, including the two newly elected members.

All five will stay as a councilor until their natural term expires.

In 2024: Still have 2 at large (elected in 2023) and 1 (Stramaglia) elected 2022.

Elect 1 at large, 5 by wards (staggered # of years). Total 9 Councilors

In 2025: Elect one at large, and 2 by wards (#1 and #2). All for 3 years this year and going forward, every three years.

In 2026: TWO at large, and one from Ward 3. All for 3 years this year and going forward, every three years.

In 2027: Elect One at large, and two from Wards (#4 and #5). All for 3 years this year, and going forward, every three years.

Current selectmen to complete their current terms.

Effective 2024:

9 Councilors (4 at large, plus one per ward.)

After initial schedule, 3 people elected per year for a 3-year term

Vacancy to be elected the following year, to complete that person's term.

Current		Elected	Expires	
	Cathy Stacey (Ward 6)		2023	
	Michael Lyons (Ward 1)		2023	
	Bob Bryant (Ward 1)		2024	
	James Keller (Ward 3)		2024	
	Keith Stramaglia (Ward 3)	2022	2025	

2023 (Normal election in 2023, as charter won't be in effect)		Elected	Expires	
	Bob Bryant		2024	Completes last year of current 3-year term
	James Keller		2024	Completes last year of current 3-year term
	Keith Stramaglia	2022	2025	Completes current 3-year term in 2025
	At Large #1	2023	2026	Could be Cathy Stacey, Mike Lyons or someone new.
	At large #2	2023	2026	Could be Cathy Stacey, Mike Lyons or someone new.

2024 1st Election after Charter is in approved. 6 people elected as Councilors		Elected	Expires	
	At large #1	2023	2026	Person elected in 2023
	At Large #2	2023	2026	Person elected in 2023
	At Large #3	2024	2027	Elected this year for 3 years
	At large #4 (Keith S.)	2022	2025	Completes current 3-year term.
	Ward 1	2024	2025	Elected for 1 year
	Ward 2	2024	2025	Elected for 1 year
	Ward 3	2024	2026	Elected for 2 years
	Ward 4	2024	2027	Elected for 3 years
	Ward 6	2024	2027	Elected for 3 years

2025	3 people elected every year starting this year			
		Elected	Expires	
	At Large #1	2023	2026	
	At Large #2	2023	2026	
	At Large #3	2024	2027	
	At Large #4	2025	2028	Elected for 3 years
	Ward 1	2025	2028	Elected for 3 years
	Ward 2	2025	2028	Elected for 3 years
	Ward 3	2024	2026	Completes 2nd year of 2-year term
	Ward 4	2024	2027	
	Ward 6	2024	2027	

2026	Everyone elected for 3-year terms starting this year			
		Elected	Expires	
	At Large #1	2026	2029	Elected for 3 years
	At Large #2	2026	2029	Elected for 3 years
	At Large #3	2024	2027	
	At Large #4	2025	2028	
	Ward 1	2025	2028	
	Ward 2	2025	2028	Elected for 3 years
	Ward 3	2026	2029	Elected for 3 years
	Ward 4	2024	2027	
	Ward 6	2024	2027	

2027		Elected	Expires	
	At Large #1	2026	2029	
	At Large #2	2025	2028	
	At Large #3	2027	2030	Elected for 3 years
	At Large #4	2025	2028	
	Ward 1	2025	2028	
	Ward 2	2026	2029	
	Ward 3	2026	2029	
	Ward 4	2027	2030	Elected for 3 years
	Ward 6	2027	2030	Elected for 3 years

Rank			Fisk	Soule	Barron	Sr. Center	N. Salem	Total	Home		
									%	Ward	
1	1	Bernard W	Campbell	76	70	48	136	133	463	39.4%	2
2	2	DJ	Bettencourt	75	69	56	129	123	452	38.4%	6
3	3	Bonnie	Wright	72	65	57	129	126	449	38.2%	4
4	4	Kevin J	Breen	63	55	60	122	99	399	33.9%	4
5	5	Kelly	Moss	64	48	54	94	117	377	32.1%	4
6	6	Joe	Sweeney	48	58	52	89	101	348	29.6%	2
7	7	Joseph	Feole	50	45	47	90	110	342	29.1%	6
8	8	John	Janigian	53	51	42	92	87	325	27.6%	4
9	9	Donna	Loranger	52	46	42	87	95	322	27.4%	2
10	Lisa	Withrow		59	44	37	70	72	282	24.0%	2
11	Betty I	Gay		49	34	42	82	71	278	23.6%	4
12	Patrick M	Hargreaves		49	29	44	82	71	275	23.4%	3
13	Pamela	Berry		47	42	29	84	71	273	23.2%	2
14	Steven L	Goddu		45	53	32	71	68	269	22.9%	2
15	Wayne	Haubner		44	44	40	65	73	266	22.6%	2
16	Phil	Cammarata		22	19	16	60	141	258	21.9%	6
17	Laurence K	Disenhof		35	27	36	73	79	250	21.3%	6
18	Michael	Banks		34	39	30	73	57	233	19.8%	4
19	Carla C	Billingham		39	25	33	69	65	231	19.6%	1
20	Patricia E	Good		29	22	35	65	58	209	17.8%	6
21	Fred	Doucette		36	35	29	55	52	207	17.6%	1
22	Linda	Harvey		34	20	19	78	45	196	16.7%	1
23	Peter	Edgerly		21	32	35	44	39	171	14.5%	6
24	Tanya	Donnelly		44	21	13	49	34	161	13.7%	1
25	David	Coombs		14	19	36	43	40	152	12.9%	2
26	Tom	Linehan		23	25	13	44	44	149	12.7%	2
27	Eugene J	Bryant		23	13	9	30	28	103	8.8%	1
28	Richard R	Gregory		16	10	12	36	28	102	8.7%	1
29	Robert B	Gibbs		19	16	15	32	17	99	8.4%	2
30	John	Morris		15	7	9	21	29	81	6.9%	2
31	Jaime	Thornock		12	10	17	21	17	77	6.5%	1
32	Joseph	Abdulla		14	7	13	27	14	75	6.4%	3
33	Stephen	Boyd		19	8	7	19	16	69	5.9%	3
34	Brian	Thornock		7	7	18	18	15	65	5.5%	1
35	Brian	Keaveny		4	1	6	20	12	43	3.7%	3
Write-In				5	4	6	11	10	36		
Blank				336	410	297	714	740	2497		
Total				1647	1530	1386	3024	2997	10584		

1,176 people voted out of 19,135 registered voters.

6.15% voter turnout

White numbers indicate home ward.

**TOWN CHARTER WOULD NOT IMPACT WARDS IN SPECIAL ELECTIONS LIKE
THE TOWN CHARTER COMMISSION.**

TOWN CHARTER WOULD NOT IMPACT WARDS IN STATE REP ELECTIONS

These are provided for comparison only.

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS		Home Ward	1. Fisk	2. Soule	3. Barron	4. Sr. Center	6: N. Salem
Cathy	Stacey	6					1
Michael	Lyons	1	1				
Bob	Bryant	1	1				
James	Keller	3			1		
Keith	Stramaglia	3			1		
TOTAL SELECT BOARD MEMBERS BY WARD			2	0	2	0	1

State Reps: (For Info only, would not be in			1. Fisk	Soule	Barron	Center	Salem
Daryl	Abbas	1	1				
Fred	Doucette	1	1				
Robert	Elliott	1	1				
Betty	Gay	4				1	
John	Janigian	4				1	
Everett	McBride	1	1				
Joe	Sweeney	2		1			
John	Sytek	4				1	
Susan	Vandecastee	4				1	
TOTAL STATE REPS BY WARD			4	1	0	4	0

CHARTER COMMISSION - ELECTED			1. Fisk	Soule	Barron	Center	Salem
Bernard W	Campbell	2		1			
DJ	Bettencourt	6					1
Bonnie	Wright	4				1	
Kevin J	Breen	4				1	
Kelly	Moss	4				1	
Joe	Sweeney	2		1			
Joseph	Feole	6					1
John	Janigan	4				1	
Donna	Loranger	2		1			
TOTAL COMMISSIONERS ELECTED BY WARD			0	3	0	4	2

CHARTER COMMISSION - OTHER CANDIDATES							
Lisa	Withrow	2		1			
Betty I	Gay	4				1	
Patrick M	Hargreaves	3			1		
Pamela	Berry	2		1			
Steven L	Goddu	2		1			
Wayne	Haubner	2		1			
Phil	Cammarata	6					1
Laurence K	Disenhof	6					1
Michael	Banks	4				1	
Carla C	Billingham	1	1				
Patricia E	Good	6					1
Fred	Doucette	1	1				
Linda	Harvey	1	1				
Peter	Edgerly	6					1
Tanya	Donnelly	1	1				
David	Coombs	2		1			
Tom	Linehan	2		1			
Eugene J	Bryant	1	1				
Richard R	Gregory	1	1				
Robert B	Gibbs	2		1			
John	Morris	2		1			
Jaime	Thornock	1	1				
Joseph	Abdulla	3			1		
Stephen	Boyd	3				1	
Brian	Thornock	1	1				
Brian	Keaveny	3			1		
OTHER COMMISSION CANDIDATES BY WARD			8	8	3	3	4

ALL COMMISSION CANDIDATES BY WARD	8	11	3	7	6
TOTAL SELECT BOARD MEMBERS BY WARD	2	0	2	0	1
TOTAL STATE REPS BY WARD		4	1	0	4
TOTAL WARD REPRESENTATION	14	12	5	11	7

Categories

1. Cities with Mayor, Aldermen, no City Manager (Strong Mayor):
Manchester, Nashua
2. Cities with Mayor, City Council, City Manager (Weak mayor)
Berlin, Claremont, Concord, Dover, Franklin, Keene
Laconia, Lebanon, Portsmouth, Rochester, Somersworth
3. Town Councils, which function as both the governing and legislative body, similar to city councils. RSA 49-D:3, I(a)
Derry, Durham
4. Town Councils with an official ballot vote (SB2) on all budgetary matters. The Town Council handles zoning and ordinances.
Hooksett, Londonderry, Merrimack, Newmarket
5. Town Council with town meeting to vote only on the operating budget; the Town Council handles zoning and ordinances.
Bedford
6. Town Selectmen with town meeting (SB2) to vote on everything including zoning, ordinances, and the operating budget.

All 7 NH Towns with Town Charters

	Salem	Bedford	Derry	Durham	Hooksett	Londonderry	Merrimack	Newmarket
Population	30,089	23,322	34,317	15,490	14,871	25,826	26,632	9,430
Square Mile	24.7	32.8	35.6	22.4	36.4	42.0	32.6	12.5
Density	1218.2	711.0	964.0	691.5	408.5	614.9	816.9	754.4
Wards/Distr	5	1	4	1	6	1	3	2
<hr/>								
Town Representatives								
Select Board	5							
Councilors		7	7	9	9	5	7	7
At Large	5	7	3	9	3	5	7	7
By Wards/Districts			4		6			
Terms	3 year	3 year	3 year	3 yr	3 yrs	3 yrs	3-year	3-year
Salary (+ exp)	\$3,000	1500	2500	1500	1500	2000	3600	1500
Chair Salary		+500	+1500	+500	+500	+500	--	+500

All 13 NH Cities (Incomplete)

	Salem
Population	30,089
Square Mile	24.7
Density	1218.2
Wards/Distr	5
Manager	
Mayor	
Salary	
Manager	x
Town Representatives	
Aldermen	
Councilors	
Select Board	5
At Large	5
By Wards/Di	0
# wards	
Salary (Some)	\$3,000
Chair Salary	

Berlin	Claremont	Concord	Dover	Franklin	Keene	Laconia
9,425	9,425	43,976	32,741	8,741	23,047	16,871
61.4	43.2	64.0	26.7	27.4	37.1	19.9
153.5	218.2	687.1	1,226.3	319.0	621.2	847.8
			6			
3000			1200	2000		
			x ?			
150000				?		
8	7	14	8	9	15	6
8	4	4	2	0	5	0
0	3	10	6	9	10	6
3	10	6	3	5		6
700			1000	\$300/yr		

	Salem
Population	30,089
Square Mile	24.7
Density	1218.2
Wards/Distr	5
Manager	
Mayor	
Salary	
Manager	x
Town Representatives	
Aldermen	
Councilors	
Select Board	5
At Large	5
By Wards/Di	0
# wards	
Terms	3 year
Salary (Some)	\$3,000
Chair Salary	