

Plymouth Charter Review Committee 2015

Articles for the October, 2015 Town Meeting

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to delete in its entirety, Chapter 2, Section 10, 10-1, 10-2, and 10-3, of the Town Charter as follows:

Chapter 2: ~~Section 10 Conflict of Interest~~

~~2-10-1 Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, any representative town meeting member who also holds a position of employment by the town shall be prohibited from voting on any town meeting article in which such employee, or such employee's department, has a financial interest. Such representative town meeting member shall notify the Town Clerk, in writing, prior to the representative town meeting session or during such session at such time as such member becomes so aware, as to any articles giving rise to such financial interest. This section shall apply to the annual budget article, or any later amendment thereto, as follows: The representative town meeting member is prohibited from voting on the budget line item for his or her department or agency, but shall not be prohibited from voting on any other line item, or from voting on the overall budget appropriation.~~

~~7~~

~~2-10-2 Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, no representative town meeting member shall vote on any town meeting article in which an immediate family member, or any business or organization in which the representative town meeting member serves as an officer, director, partner, or employee, or has a financial interest. For purposes of this section, "immediate family member" shall be defined as the representative town meeting member, his or her spouse and each of their parents, children, brothers, and sisters. Any such representative town meeting member shall notify the Town Clerk, in writing prior to the representative town meeting session, as to any articles giving rise to such financial interest.~~

Plymouth Charter Review Committee 2015

~~2-10-3 For the purposes of Section 10 of Chapter 2 of this Charter, the "financial interest" of a representative town meeting member shall be determined pursuant to the interpretation of the term "financial interest" by the State Ethics Commission and applicable reported appellate court decisions, which are hereby incorporated by reference. The "financial interest" of a department shall be defined as any particular warrant article and related motions or votes which specifically refer to said department.~~

The Committee voted 7-2 to recommend that town meeting delete the section in its entirety.

There is existing Massachusetts law governing the conduct of town meeting representatives with respect to conflict of interest.

The current charter sections appear redundant in relation to state law, questionable enforcement provisions, and confusing to many representatives.

The consensus among the seven committee members who voted to remove this section (from the Charter) is this matter belongs before town meeting, and the representatives should vote on this section.

The committee recommends a roll call vote, recorded and published.

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE 2015