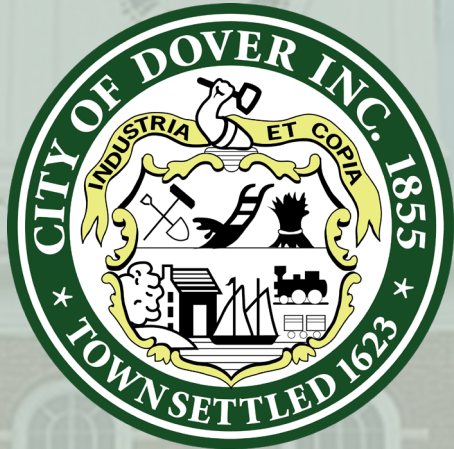


CITY OF DOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

## A VOTER GUIDE TO THE 2021

# BALLOT QUESTIONS



MUNICIPAL ELECTION:

**TUESDAY, NOV. 2, 2021**

Polling places open  
on Election Day  
7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

MORE INFORMATION:

<https://bit.ly/municipal2021>

## What are the ballot questions?

When voters head to the polls Nov. 2, they will decide more than who will serve as elected officials. The ballot also includes 20 questions pertaining to proposed changes to the City Charter. These proposed changes are intended mostly to correct typographical or grammatical errors, or address minor housekeeping items that help modernize the City Charter or align it with state law. The proposed changes are the result of work by the City of Dover's Ordinance Committee, which was tasked with drafting the language to be placed on the ballot. The proposed changes have also been endorsed by the City Council. Voting yes to the ballot questions will approve the proposed changes.

Because the City Charter is Dover's guiding document, and because it belongs to the people of Dover, all changes, including minor corrections and housekeeping, must be approved by Dover's voters. Although the proposed changes that comprise the 20 ballot questions before voters are not substantive, it's still important that voters understand the proposed changes. This short guide is designed to provide a summary of each question, along with why the change is necessary.

The guide also includes links to the complete language on the ballot, as well as where to find more information about the ballot questions.

More information about the ballot questions, including informational videos prepared by the Ordinance Committee, can be found on the City's 2021 Municipal Election online resource at <https://bit.ly/municipal2021>. A special section dedicated to the ballot questions can be found on the Municipal Election page, or directly at <https://bit.ly/dovertal-lotquestions2021>.

## QUESTION 1

### Ward Boundaries

Question 1 addresses the redistricting and adjustment of ward boundaries to reflect population changes determined by the United States Census. Normally, voters would be asked to approve new ward lines, if needed, this year. However, Census data arrived late due to delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Question 1 allows the City Council to approve by ordinance new ward lines in time for the 2022 state elections. This is a temporary fix to address a one-time need. The redistricting process may be moved back into the Charter before the next Census.

Full text of Question 1: <https://go.usa.gov/xMsnB>

## QUESTION 2

### City Council and School Board Vacancies

Question 2 clarifies what constitutes a vacancy on the City Council or School Board. The City Charter is not clear about when a vacancy is declared. This question addresses an issue that surfaced a year ago when an elected official moved out of the community but didn't immediately resign. Question 2 states that moving out of one's district creates a vacancy, and clarifies how that vacancy will be filled.

Full text of Question 2: <https://go.usa.gov/xMsnn>

## QUESTION 3

### School Board Term

Question 3 clarifies that School Board members serve for two years, from January to January, until their successors are sworn in.

Full text of Question 3: <https://go.usa.gov/xMsnV>

## QUESTION 4

### Budget Adoption Date

Question 4 states the City’s annual budget will be adopted by June 15.

Full text of Question 4: <https://go.usa.gov/xMsnV>

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## QUESTION 5

### Personnel Advisory Board

Question 5 clarifies that the City’s Personnel Advisory Board is intended for matters involving city employees, not appointed or elected officials.

Full text of Question 5: <https://go.usa.gov/xMsnz>

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## QUESTION 6

### Conflicts of Interest

Question 6 strengthens the City’s conflict of interest rules and disclosure requirements when a potential conflict may exist.

Full text of Question 6: <https://go.usa.gov/xMsnz>

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## QUESTION 7

### Notifications by the City Clerk

Question 7 recognizes the City Clerk may issue some notifications via email, not just regular mail.

Full text of Question 7: <https://go.usa.gov/xMsnz>

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## QUESTION 8

### Ethics Commission Responsibilities

Question 8 clarifies the responsibilities of a five-member Ethics Commission. Fortunately, Dover has not experienced issues requiring the Ethics

Commission in recent years. This question provides a mechanism should the need arise in the future.

Full text of Question 8: <https://go.usa.gov/xMsQ4>

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## QUESTION 9

### Violations of the City Charter

Question 9 makes the Charter consistent with state law regarding potential violations of the charter.

Full text of Question 9: <https://go.usa.gov/xMsQ4>

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## QUESTIONS 10, 11, 16, 19 and 20

### Grammatical, Typographical and Style Corrections

Question 10 makes 16 edits to consistently spell out numbers less than 10 (“nine” vs “9”) and use numbers larger than 10 (“14” vs “fourteen”).

Question 11 makes nine changes adding or deleting commas or apostrophes. Question 16 fixes five spelling errors or typos. One changes a reference from the “City of over” to the “City of Dover”.

Questions 19 and 20 correct the use of the wrong word in two places.

Full text of Questions 10 and 11: <https://go.usa.gov/xMsQ4>

Full text of Question 16: <https://go.usa.gov/xMsQV>

Full text of Questions 19 and 20: <https://go.usa.gov/xMsPm>

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## QUESTION 12

### Gender Neutral Terms

Question 12 removes six uses of gender-specific terms (“his”) with inclusive terms such as “their” or “the employee’s”.

Full text of Question 12: <https://go.usa.gov/xMsQV>

## QUESTIONS 13 and 17

### References to State Law

Questions 13 and 17 fix incorrect references to state laws.

Full text of Question 13: <https://go.usa.gov/xMsQV>

Full text of Question 17: <https://go.usa.gov/xMsUV>

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## QUESTIONS 14 and 15

### Missing Words

Questions 14 and 15 make five edits by inserting missing words (“or”, “as”, and “and”) in sentences.

Full text of Question 14: <https://go.usa.gov/xMsQV>

Full text of Question 15: <https://go.usa.gov/xMsUV>

## DOVER’S POLLING PLACES

Ward 1: Horne Street Elementary School, 78 Horne St.

Ward 2: Woodman Park Elementary School, 11 Towle Ave.

Ward 3: Parish of the Assumption, 150 Central Ave.

Ward 4: Elks Lodge, 282 Durham Road

Ward 5: St John’s Methodist Church, 28 Cataract Ave.

Ward 6: Hellenic Center, 219 Long Hill Road

**QUESTIONS?**  
**City Clerk’s Office**  
**603-516-6018**