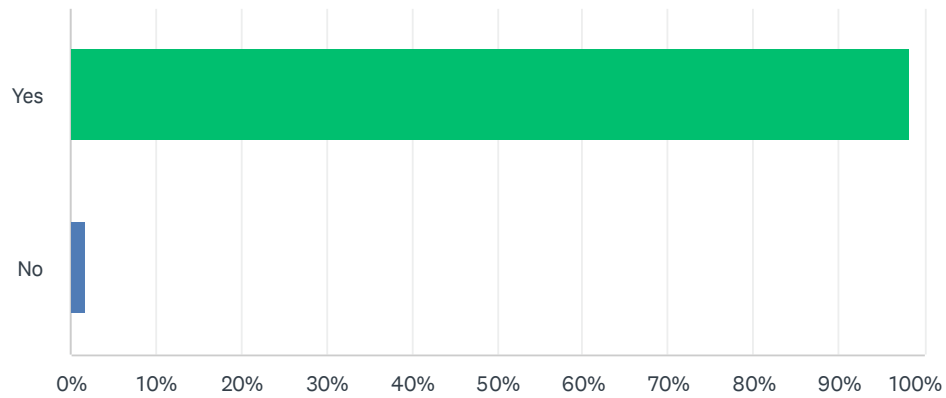


## Q1 Do you live in South Burlington?

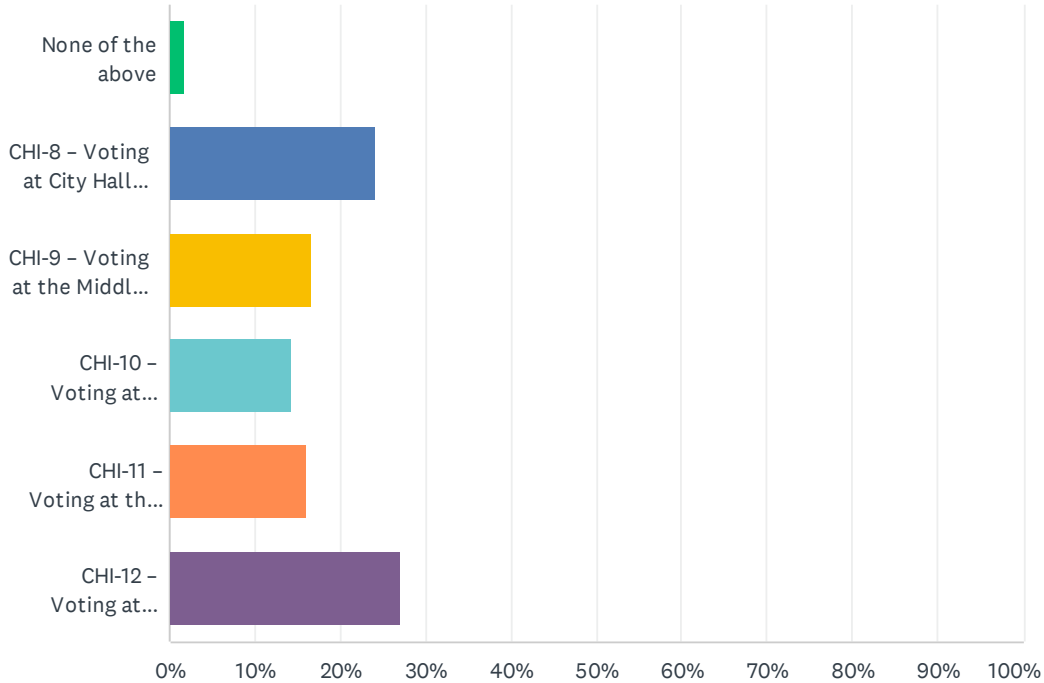
Answered: 175 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	98.29%	172
No	1.71%	3
TOTAL		175

Q2 The Charter Committee is trying to get input from across the city. To that end, please share the voting district you live in. You can find a map of the voting districts here.

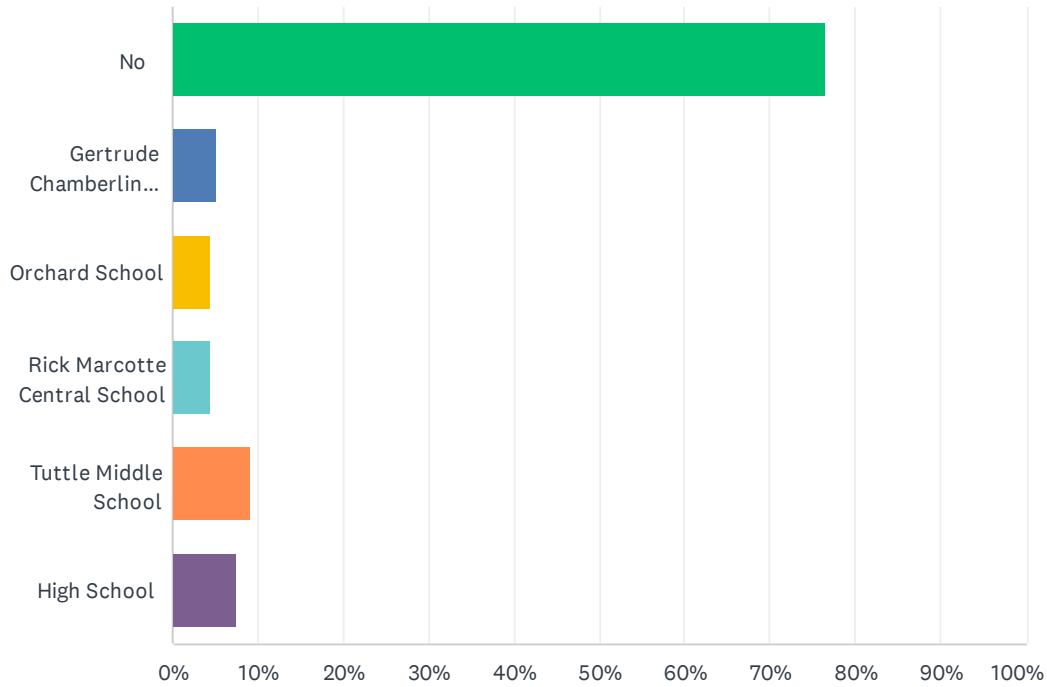
Answered: 174 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	1.72%	3
CHI-8 – Voting at City Hall and the Senior Center	24.14%	42
CHI-9 – Voting at the Middle School	16.67%	29
CHI-10 – Voting at Chamberlain School	14.37%	25
CHI-11 – Voting at the Middle School	16.09%	28
CHI-12 – Voting at Orchard School	27.01%	47
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>174</b>

### Q3 Do you currently have children in the South Burlington schools or attend the South Burlington public schools? Click all that apply.

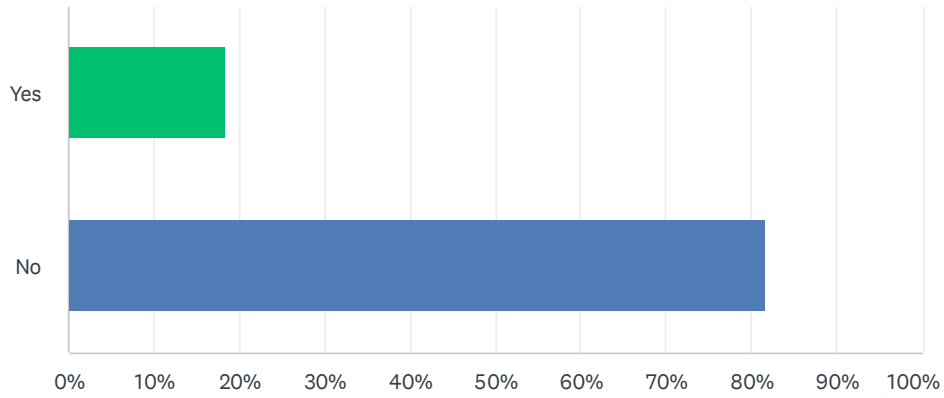
Answered: 175 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No	76.57%	134
Gertrude Chamberlin School	5.14%	9
Orchard School	4.57%	8
Rick Marcotte Central School	4.57%	8
Tuttle Middle School	9.14%	16
High School	7.43%	13
Total Respondents: 175		

## Q4 Did you attend a community meeting on this topic?

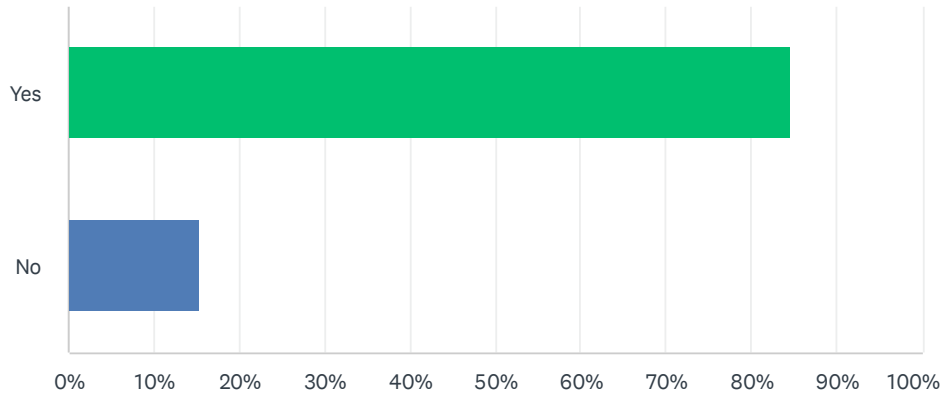
Answered: 175 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	18.29%	32
No	81.71%	143
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>175</b>

## Q5 Have you reviewed the Charter Committee’s spreadsheet of advantages and disadvantages, linked above?

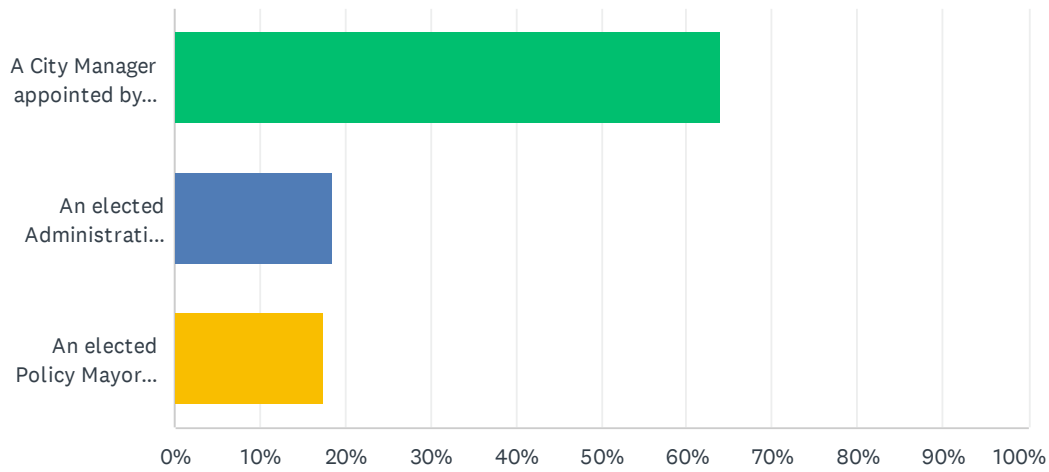
Answered: 175 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	84.57%	148
No	15.43%	27
TOTAL		175

## Q6 Executive Leadership - Do you prefer:

Answered: 161 Skipped: 14



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
A City Manager appointed by the City Council (current structure)	63.98% 103
An elected Administrative or Executive Mayor such as in the City of Burlington (CEO of the City)	18.63% 30
An elected Policy Mayor such as in the City of Montpelier or Winooski (serves as Chair of City Council), along with an appointed City Manager	17.39% 28
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>161</b>

## Q7 Executive Leadership – Why did you make this selection?

Answered: 131 Skipped: 44

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Less politics, more simple management responsibilities	6/13/2023 3:13 PM
2	i believe elected mayor best represents constituents.	6/13/2023 1:48 PM
3	I do not see my preference among the choices. I would like to see a city manager with a clearly administrative job description, qualifications and annual review process for nominations and election. The current structure comes the closest to this.	6/13/2023 10:40 AM
4	I want the professional skill set of a manager, and the public accountability of an at large mayor.	6/12/2023 10:52 PM
5	Experienced and has relevant expertise	6/12/2023 10:06 PM
6	A City Manager will give us greater competence in running the city. The City Council can fire them if not competent. The City Council can direct policy.	6/12/2023 7:52 PM
7	I do not want our city governance more politicized than it already is. Though Mayors are generally not drawn into polarizing political fights, the City Manager structure avoids the whole problem, as they serve at the behest of the council.	6/12/2023 7:41 PM
8	I have not been made aware that the current system is broken. It seems to work well enough. I am opposed to "reform" and "improvement" merely for the sake of "reform" and "improvement." If it ain't broke, don't fix it.	6/12/2023 6:14 PM
9	Tired of current politics	6/12/2023 4:59 PM
10	I no longer have any faith in local government. They have lost the trust of many. Hopefully we could vote them out if need be under the policy mayor model	6/12/2023 4:11 PM
11	combines advantages of city manager system with elected mayor who provides policy leadership	6/12/2023 2:52 PM
12	We need a new structure. A business leader	6/12/2023 2:37 PM
13	Important to have someone driving a vision for the City, independent of the City Council.	6/12/2023 2:31 PM
14	I've lived in cities with Mayors in the past, it is HIGHLY political, and a money game. People with means give to the elections instead of supporting nonprofits and services. Once a mayor is in, they buffer themselves with their own staff and are difficult to unseat, even when ineffective. The amount of money spent on city council and school board elections is already questionable for the size of our city.	6/12/2023 2:18 PM
15	I would support this option because of fewer politics & more consistency in managing the city, but ONLY IF the City Manager quickly implements the Council's policies (Kevin didn't, e.g., he didn't have departments consider climate crisis effects in their daily spending & operational decision-making).	6/12/2023 2:11 PM
16	Works for me	6/12/2023 2:01 PM
17	South Burlington has become a large enough city to need an elected leader rather than an appointed on by the council	6/12/2023 1:29 PM
18	To be in synch w/Montpelier	6/12/2023 1:21 PM
19	if we have a mayor it will just create more red tape/ the current structure works just fine	6/12/2023 12:53 PM
20	Seems to be the most non-partisan option	6/12/2023 12:37 PM
21	Diffusion of power.	6/12/2023 12:12 PM
22	Takes politics out of the decision.	6/12/2023 12:05 PM

## Governance Structures - South Burlington Charter Committee

23	Management of the city should be by a professionally trained person, not the result of politics that may influence city decisions.	6/12/2023 11:54 AM
24	As the second largest city and growing, it is time to consider a mayor, however much of SOBU's growth has come from qualified and knowledge city managers and the that structure - success of city center growth while Burlington which can be more 'mercurial' in long term decisions and has a giant hole in the ground are stark examples that come to mind	6/12/2023 11:02 AM
25	Likely more representative.	6/12/2023 10:57 AM
26	Balance	6/12/2023 10:54 AM
27	Current process is working well	6/12/2023 10:51 AM
28	Non partisan	6/12/2023 10:38 AM
29	Keep p;oolitice out of the mis!!!	6/12/2023 10:29 AM
30	We're quite a bit smaller than Burlington in terms of population. A City Manager seems to work for now.	6/12/2023 10:25 AM
31	the current system seems to work.	6/12/2023 10:22 AM
32	More accountability to voters	6/12/2023 10:18 AM
33	seemed the least of evils	6/12/2023 10:11 AM
34	I like not having conflict (partisan or otherwise) between the Chief Executive and the City Council.	6/12/2023 9:16 AM
35	An elected official is important to counterbalance the uniparty, such as Governor Scott balances the uniparty in Montpelier.	6/12/2023 7:39 AM
36	Because I believe we need a better representative of the residents of the town.	6/11/2023 7:29 PM
37	better representation of townsfolk, elected by people vs council	6/11/2023 7:22 PM
38	Accountability	6/11/2023 7:20 PM
39	South Burlington does not need to have a large bureaucracy. We do not need more taxes to pay more salaries. We do not need more layers, more rules, etc. we do not need to be a shining part of Chittenden county and not such separatists. We need more community not more government.	6/11/2023 6:47 PM
40	Given the types of decisions an executive needs to make regarding personnel, planning, policy (affordable housing, policing, etc.), I think it helps to have a professional as an executive.	6/11/2023 5:56 PM
41	We are large enough to need a CEO level leader	6/11/2023 3:06 PM
42	I think that political power needs to be split up. A single body tends to become too group oriented	6/11/2023 7:00 AM
43	I like having an elected point person for policy. South Burlington is large enough, we really need an appointed City Manager with professional qualifications.	6/10/2023 4:02 PM
44	To carry out projects and programs take time and stability is needed at the top to see through projects and programs to completion.	6/10/2023 9:13 AM
45	Given the growth that SoBu is experiencing, and that we are the 2nd largest municipality in the State (I think), I believe we should have an elected Executive to oversee all of our City operations.	6/10/2023 8:58 AM
46	Has the least political overtones	6/9/2023 10:17 PM
47	It clearly divides policy from administrative functions.	6/9/2023 9:18 PM
48	Having an appointed person means they will be more qualified. They will not be politically motivated.	6/9/2023 8:26 PM
49	Less political. Like current system.	6/9/2023 8:16 PM
50	Although South Burlington is large by Vermont standards it is small compared to cities in most New England states. I believe that the current City Manager structure has served us well and	6/9/2023 6:45 PM



## Governance Structures - South Burlington Charter Committee

should continue to do so. A mayoral system would result in a loss of continuity in overseeing the growth of the community and politicize the position.

51	It currently working just fine	6/9/2023 5:58 PM
52	It is efficient and the City can find the best candidate which is not always the case with an elected official.	6/9/2023 5:42 PM
53	They would have a broader idea of what is going on in the community	6/9/2023 5:40 PM
54	Non-partisan professionalism (hopefully)	6/9/2023 5:35 PM
55	Has generally worked well for SB currently and in the past; alternatives have the potential to become too partisan	6/9/2023 5:24 PM
56	It would promote a better synergy when setting policy and its practical execution. The city manager is hired based on relevant skill sets and experience and provides continuity during election cycles. While a Policy Mayor is helpful in driving policy, the presence of a city manager is a stabilizing force, perhaps less tempted by "politics" than a sitting mayor.	6/9/2023 5:13 PM
57	We do not need more politics in our system. The City Council are elected officials and should be trusted to hire a capable operator to run the city -- not a politician who may or may not have real-world work experience running a business.	6/5/2023 10:45 AM
58	Allows voter personal choice	6/1/2023 7:40 PM
59	Not political. No apparent advantage for having a mayor over current system.	6/1/2023 2:34 PM
60	I simply like our current structure, and I believe in neither a strong nor weak mayor. It's an additional "layer" of governance that could lead to gridlock.	6/1/2023 7:42 AM
61	Existing system works here. And, concerned that electing the executive will weaken Council and eventually erode performance of Council.	5/30/2023 11:37 AM
62	I have no strong opinion about this question but the City Manager has for the most part worked well for SB.	5/30/2023 9:35 AM
63	While the City certainly needs leadership, I am doubtful, especially based on the quality of our current City Council, that we would be lucky enough to find a mayor who (1) is a good leader, and (2) be representative of, and have the confidence of, the whole City.	5/28/2023 1:44 PM
64	Having previously lived in Burlington, I find its administrative mayor has consolidated too much power. Better for the balance of power to reside in the council.	5/27/2023 10:22 PM
65	Testing	5/26/2023 12:33 PM
66	Having both best serves the needs of a growing city the mayor can represent the city in Montpelier and DC while the CM can run the day to day operations.	5/25/2023 7:12 PM
67	I like how things are run now. I don't think a mayor would be an efficient change.	5/25/2023 5:37 PM
68	I'm satisfied with the current Administrative City Manager / City Council structure.	5/25/2023 10:12 AM
69	Good middle ground.	5/25/2023 6:01 AM
70	I think the current system works well and do not see the need for a change	5/24/2023 10:05 PM
71	I believe that this form of leadership offers South Burlington the focused expertise of a professional in public administration, which is vital in a growing and complex city like ours. I am also concerned that a Policy Mayor and professional City Manager would have a tendency to clash.	5/24/2023 9:31 PM
72	I am between Policy Mayor and City Manager. Elected mayor does not appeal. I support any option that promotes communication and collaboration between leaders and staff who run South Burlington	5/24/2023 5:33 PM
73	I like our current City Manager.	5/24/2023 2:54 PM
74	I felt the pros outweighed the cons for our current system. I have not liked what I have seen happening in either Burlington or Winooski in past years.	5/23/2023 8:46 PM
75	neutral, non-political decision maker with expertise in city governance.	5/23/2023 7:51 PM

## Governance Structures - South Burlington Charter Committee

76	Nothing wrong with current system. I'd rather have someone competent than local. I'd rather have a neutral party running day to day operations than someone who owes political favors.	5/23/2023 7:03 PM
77	The elected mayor is directly responsible to the citizens	5/23/2023 5:46 PM
78	It seems to be a more straightforward way to run the city, compared to having a council.	5/23/2023 4:59 PM
79	We do not need any more politicians in our community rubber stamping all the building! The schools are over populated and the city continues to cause more problems than helping to find a solution!	5/23/2023 4:22 PM
80	It is currently working well	5/23/2023 2:32 PM
81	I believe that this role will be less politicized than an elected mayor. I feel our history with managers has been satisfactory.	5/23/2023 9:18 AM
82	Keep the politics out of leadership.	5/23/2023 5:35 AM
83	Because it works well. More democratic and more competent governance. Having a mayor would make the process of governing more political and less collaborative. My experience living in town with mayor: high probability of mayor having no relevant experience (or worse, no experience and lazy, just seeking title), high probability of making elections even uglier. Why fix what is not broken? If people want more districts to have representation, then people from those districts need to run for office. If no one from a particular district runs, of course no one from that district will get elected.	5/22/2023 8:56 PM
84	I trust the council and like then choosing their leader.	5/22/2023 7:09 PM
85	More accountability and better visibility	5/22/2023 4:51 PM
86	Past city managers have been blind to the schools needs. Our schools are at over capacity and yet these past City Managers supported a rubber stamp to developers. A politically inclined Mayor will cow tow to developers and make our schools worse off then they are now by saddling tax payers with the school problems. All this while non resident developers enjoy the spoils of taking advantage of South Burlington.	5/22/2023 1:12 PM
87	Prefer professional expertise & objectivity over political posturing & influence/infusion of money into decisions.	5/19/2023 9:20 AM
88	City has many services which require professional staff that is competitively hired by a city manager.	5/18/2023 1:48 PM
89	Saw the system work very effectively in Falls Church City, VA (pop 14,658), which has a very high quality of living environment, excellent school system (International Baccalaureate program), and good services.	5/17/2023 9:29 PM
90	I don't think we should be adding more veto points. We need to get things done and adding yet another layer of administration seems to get in the way of that.	5/17/2023 2:32 PM
91	I believe it strikes an effective compromise between the current system and a Burlington-style system (in that it will be easier to avoid a situation where the mayor ends up at war with the council), will give the city a stronger sense of identity as an actual city, and will allow voters to have more direct control over the city's policy direction rather than having an unelected manager.	5/17/2023 2:28 PM
92	There should be more accountability for decisions made that effect the city	5/16/2023 7:53 PM
93	Professional, skilled, consistent leader over time	5/16/2023 10:41 AM
94	Gut feeling.	5/11/2023 7:50 PM
95	It seems to be a good mix of the 2 options	5/11/2023 5:20 PM
96	I think the current system is working very well. I get the sense that the City Manager is professional rather than political, which is how it should be.	5/9/2023 5:39 PM
97	Less opportunity for politics to get in the way of the actually managing the town. Elected officials will not result in people with the necessary background and training and will make it easier for ideologues to take over.	5/9/2023 5:30 PM
98	"Selected based on qualifications"	5/9/2023 10:23 AM

## Governance Structures - South Burlington Charter Committee

99	It seems to be working well. I would worry that adding an elected mayor would bring the political battles of Burlington to South Burlington.	5/9/2023 8:32 AM
100	You need balance of thought. That's what a council provides.	5/9/2023 7:58 AM
101	The advantage of having a council and a manager is that you have a governance structure that is run by a concern us of volunteers - not by a career politician who is only concerned with keeping their job. Why change that?	5/9/2023 7:41 AM
102	Not partisan political. Could live with Montpelier/Winooski model	5/9/2023 7:33 AM
103	I look at Burlington and the issues they're having with city politics, and I look at South Burlington and don't see that. I see no need to add a mayor and complicate leadership. The current structure works just fine. Don't try to fix what isn't broken.	5/9/2023 7:30 AM
104	Prefer professional City Manager rather than accepting whatever skills, or lack thereof the elected Mayor may bring. Don't think SB is large enough to warrant separately elected Mayor. I think an elected full-time "strong" Mayor would be a terrible idea. Current City Council President could adopt title of Mayor for ceremonial purposes, if that was desired, while keeping current selection process (this process was used in previous community I lived in in NJ and worked well.)	5/8/2023 7:58 PM
105	Too much potential for politics and conflict with Mayoral structure	5/8/2023 1:40 PM
106	It works	5/8/2023 8:59 AM
107	Brings career professionalism to the role	5/5/2023 7:14 PM
108	A good executive leader is not necessarily a good campaigner. The city councilors have done a great job over the years hiring and firing city managers, and I would like to let them continue that. Let the executive focus on running the city, not on campaigning. It gives them job stability, and helps the city run smoothly. Teams can build trust with a leader they know will stick around for a while.	5/5/2023 2:08 PM
109	Provides ability to hire the best possible person and eliminates politics	5/5/2023 10:02 AM
110	Having a Policy mayor to help rally public support for the goals of the city council while having a qualified city manager would make the possibility of goals being met greater.	5/4/2023 8:40 PM
111	The city seems to run very well from my perspective.	5/4/2023 8:07 PM
112	I think this has worked well for the city and I dont see the benefits of changing the structure	5/4/2023 7:00 PM
113	I think it has worked well in the towns you reference. It seems a traditional Mayor brings more politics to the table.	5/4/2023 3:20 PM
114	SB is big enough, it needs an accountable executive	5/4/2023 12:42 PM
115	It makes sense to have an election and have that person run the city. Of they people don't like it they don't get reelected.	5/3/2023 10:09 PM
116	Electing a mayor creates better checks and balances in the government system.	5/3/2023 6:13 PM
117	None of the above	5/3/2023 5:29 PM
118	The City Manager was not approved by the electorate and should not be making policy	5/3/2023 5:25 PM
119	I find that elected folks do not manage very well and are too invested in reelection. Burlington structure is a disaster.	5/3/2023 5:12 PM
120	I think the current structure works well and is balanced	5/3/2023 4:30 PM
121	I prefer not to have excessive power in a position held by one individual.	5/1/2023 12:19 PM
122	More accountability and more qualified.	4/29/2023 12:33 PM
123	Representation from my area of the city.	4/28/2023 12:06 PM
124	You have a greater chance of hiring a more qualified person to lead the city than electing just anyone as the Mayor. Also, the unfair and unbalance campaign financing that occurs in So. Burlington would not come into play if a city manager is hired. Our city should look into publicly	4/28/2023 10:29 AM

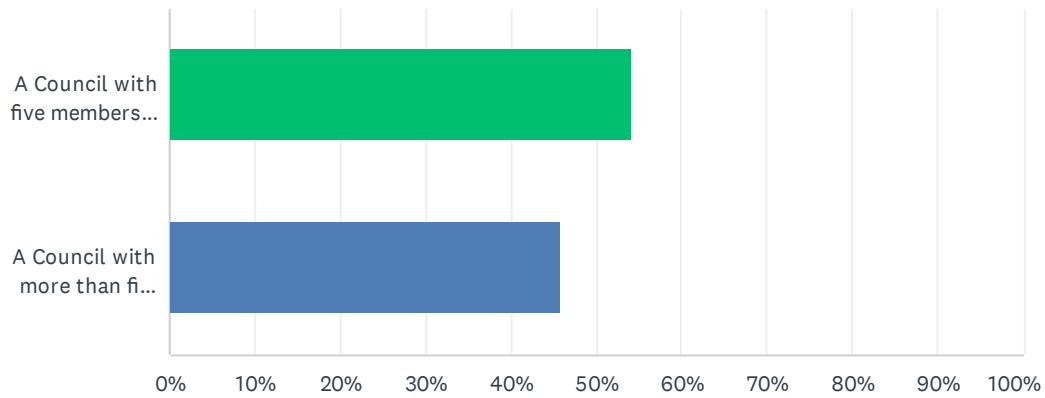
## Governance Structures - South Burlington Charter Committee

financing city council elections so that wealthy residents and business leaders don't continue to have an unfair influence on our city elections.

125	Accountable to residents. Determined by voters.	4/28/2023 9:32 AM
126	We need leadership that is elected by the taxpayers for accountability	4/27/2023 4:55 PM
127	We need solid clear knowledge based leadership right now and not an institutional change at the top.	4/27/2023 3:59 PM
128	Less political	4/27/2023 3:55 PM
129	larger pool with credentials to select a City Manager from. No politics involved	4/27/2023 3:21 PM
130	All councilors and the council elected chair is "at-large", I fail to see how a Policy Mayor would provide more impactful representation than a council chair	4/27/2023 3:14 PM
131	While our city is large and growing, I do not know that it warrants a change in governance structure. The current structure of a city council provides collaborative representation and that council provides oversight/supervision to the City Manager. I believe this to be a sufficient structure and do not see a compelling reason to change it.	4/27/2023 3:09 PM

## Q8 City Council Composition – Do you prefer:

Answered: 159 Skipped: 16



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
A Council with five members (current structure)	54.09%	86
A Council with more than five members	45.91%	73
TOTAL		159

## Q9 If more than five, how many City Councilors do you recommend?

Answered: 76 Skipped: 99

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Two members per district.	6/13/2023 10:45 AM
2	6 or 8 if there is an elected mayor. 7 or 9 if the mayor or council chair is elected by the councilors each year.	6/12/2023 10:56 PM
3	9	6/12/2023 10:06 PM
4	7	6/12/2023 4:59 PM
5	7	6/12/2023 4:13 PM
6	10. 2 from each ward	6/12/2023 2:55 PM
7	8	6/12/2023 2:38 PM
8	Seven	6/12/2023 2:19 PM
9	Seven	6/12/2023 1:22 PM
10	10	6/12/2023 12:13 PM
11	Odd number preferred, no more than 7. But would be happy with remaining at 5 as well.	6/12/2023 11:58 AM
12	7	6/12/2023 11:05 AM
13	I think slightly more representation is needed but growth to 7 only to move into the change	6/12/2023 11:04 AM
14	7	6/12/2023 10:58 AM
15	7	6/12/2023 10:38 AM
16	7	6/12/2023 10:30 AM
17	maybe 7	6/12/2023 10:12 AM
18	While I indicated more than five, I do not feel strongly about the size of the City Council. I do not find major objections with the current size of five.	6/12/2023 9:21 AM
19	9	6/12/2023 7:40 AM
20	7	6/11/2023 8:23 PM
21	9	6/11/2023 7:32 PM
22	7-8	6/11/2023 7:24 PM
23	Need to ensure the council is open and more representative of diversity but not of it means higher payroll. How about community reps that rotate on an annual basis?	6/11/2023 6:51 PM
24	Seven.	6/11/2023 6:01 PM
25	10, 2 from each ward, plus admin (mayor and other) are needed in order to run a city this size	6/11/2023 3:17 PM
26	8. Most people think and odd number is necessary, but this is not true. Whatever the number, it takes a majority of those present to pass a motion. 8 members works much better with the open meeting law. It still protects the necessity of not letting decisions be made in secret "meeting" out of the public eye, but at the same time allows up to 4 members discuss an issue and not have to go into board meetings stone cold. Humans are social animals and need contact to work well.	6/11/2023 7:13 AM
27	na	6/10/2023 4:04 PM
28	7	6/10/2023 9:14 AM

## Governance Structures - South Burlington Charter Committee

29	8	6/10/2023 8:51 AM
30	7	6/9/2023 5:40 PM
31	Seven: 5 in a ward system and 2 at large.	6/9/2023 5:37 PM
32	7	6/9/2023 5:27 PM
33	5 is enough. Boards are challenging enough as they are, more than 5 invites more room for "taking up air time" and avoiding consensus.	6/5/2023 10:47 AM
34	I do not perceive any reduction for the workload of a councilor just because more seats are added. A councilor still needs to do just as much work if they wish to represent the entire community and if the what to understand all issues.	6/1/2023 2:47 PM
35	7	6/1/2023 7:44 AM
36	seven	5/30/2023 9:36 AM
37	7	5/30/2023 12:32 AM
38	7-10. A larger council would allow for ad hoc subcommittees concerning important topics.	5/28/2023 1:53 PM
39	Ten. Allows more of a diversity of opinions and more people to do the work.	5/27/2023 10:25 PM
40	9	5/25/2023 7:14 PM
41	Not a strong preference. Would consider 5 from each district plus 2 or 4 at large members. Would like to keep it to an odd number.	5/24/2023 5:35 PM
42	10	5/24/2023 2:56 PM
43	7	5/23/2023 8:56 PM
44	7; 5 wards and 2 at large	5/23/2023 7:53 PM
45	One representative for each legislative district	5/23/2023 5:48 PM
46	We need more voices on the city council looking out for the school district. If you keep up the reckless building we will have the worst schools in the state and NO ONE will want to move here! Is that what you all want?	5/23/2023 4:24 PM
47	7	5/23/2023 2:40 PM
48	Unsure.	5/23/2023 9:19 AM
49	7	5/21/2023 11:53 AM
50	Prefer to have an odd number to prevent deadlocks. Research on maximum size for effective committees is 5-7; however such small numbers result in work overload & time constraints. I would suggest 2 per current district and 1 (or 3) city wide to insure a balance of perspectives & reduce the potential of deadlocks and/or political alliances to sway decisions.	5/19/2023 9:41 AM
51	Seven. Two at large and 5 by Leg. District	5/18/2023 1:51 PM
52	Seven (7)	5/18/2023 11:07 AM
53	Seven members. Maintain an odd number for voting purposes, but hopefully broaden the tent a bit.	5/17/2023 9:41 PM
54	not more than 7	5/16/2023 10:44 AM
55	Not sure yet. Would have to do an evaluation of possible districts. 5 and maybe a couple more. The current at large system is Not working for many parts of our City.	5/11/2023 7:57 PM
56	7?	5/11/2023 7:30 PM
57	5 seems to be about right	5/9/2023 5:43 PM
58	I would increase to 7 members. I think increasing the number of members would give the council more capacity and flexibility. However, the 5 member council seems to be working fairly well now, so this isn't a strong opinion.	5/9/2023 8:37 AM

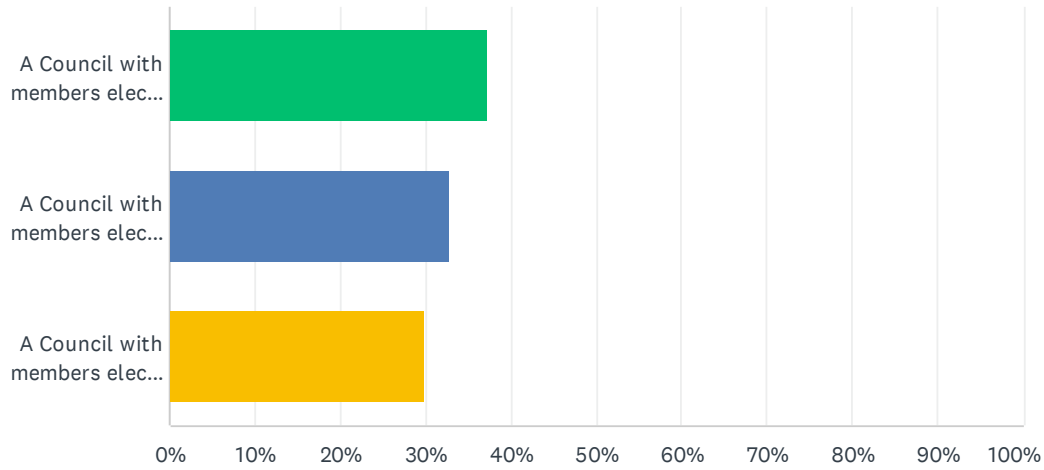
## Governance Structures - South Burlington Charter Committee

59	No more than five. How would they ever get anything done?	5/9/2023 7:44 AM
60	Seven	5/9/2023 7:43 AM
61	5 seems perfectly reasonable for the size of the community.	5/8/2023 7:58 PM
62	7	5/8/2023 11:18 AM
63	8	5/5/2023 8:15 PM
64	7	5/5/2023 2:13 PM
65	7-9	5/5/2023 10:04 AM
66	7	5/4/2023 7:01 PM
67	Seven feels good to me. As we have grown this will get it back to where we had been in terms of councilors per voter.	5/4/2023 3:21 PM
68	7	5/3/2023 10:10 PM
69	Five is fine if they represent the districts; would support a couple at large members also.	5/3/2023 6:17 PM
70	At least 9	5/3/2023 5:14 PM
71	Seven, five for each ward, two elected at-large.	5/1/2023 7:25 PM
72	5	4/28/2023 12:10 PM
73	One for each ward. If more than 5 wards are needed, then the council should have more than 5 members (total number of members always been an odd number).	4/28/2023 10:35 AM
74	8	4/28/2023 9:34 AM
75	7	4/27/2023 5:53 PM
76	7 the City is growing and with only 5 I do think all are represented	4/27/2023 3:23 PM



## Q10 City Council Districts – Do you prefer:

Answered: 158 Skipped: 17



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
A Council with members elected at large (current structure)	37.34%	59
A Council with members elected only from the 5 legislative districts (wards)	32.91%	52
A Council with members elected from the 5 legislative districts (wards) and the remainder elected at large	29.75%	47
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>158</b>

## Q11 City Council - Why did you make these selections?

Answered: 132 Skipped: 43

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Most qualified from the whole city	6/13/2023 3:14 PM
2	fair representation with less cost to tax payers	6/13/2023 1:49 PM
3	To expand representation across the city and create a more diverse city council.	6/13/2023 10:45 AM
4	I would prefer either 2 per ward, with fewer wards, with only a mayor elected at large. Or more wards with one from each.	6/12/2023 10:56 PM
5	Better diversity of opinions	6/12/2023 10:06 PM
6	Each council person can bring the perspective of their constituents, one rich area of the city doesn't dominate. I don't mind that SEQ will have a smaller population as it is a voting district shared with the neighboring city, therefore a larger voice on City Council.	6/12/2023 7:55 PM
7	This will confine highly polarizing political city enclaves to one representative, assuring a diversity of viewpoints on the council. It also allows for political party politics to get involved in the city council races (in an official capacity in the sense of going through the primary process, presumably). Political party endorsements and funding will become more important as South Burlington grows, and it will inevitably grow.	6/12/2023 7:44 PM
8	Same rationale as regards the Executive. Is it broken? Doesn't seem to be. Then there's no need to fix it.	6/12/2023 6:16 PM
9	The current makeup represents a small group of citizens.	6/12/2023 4:13 PM
10	No section of the city should be unrepresented while another section has double or triple representation.	6/12/2023 2:55 PM
11	Need a more diverse input	6/12/2023 2:38 PM
12	Creates closer ties with the wards and its issues.	6/12/2023 2:32 PM
13	may be hard to have candidates from all 5 districts	6/12/2023 2:19 PM
14	I don't know if we have a large enough population to have district voting. However, if we stay with the current structure, it's very important that funds be available for people with low incomes so they can effectively compete in running for office.	6/12/2023 2:19 PM
15	Works for me	6/12/2023 2:02 PM
16	Council elected by wards. But ward quantity based on best representation, so if more wards than 5 needed, add wards.	6/12/2023 1:53 PM
17	I think with the expansion of the city areas like the Airport area are being forgotten and left behind. Having an elected official from the ward will help to focuses on the needs of that area and incorporate that focus into the greater city plan.	6/12/2023 1:32 PM
18	i THINK EVERY AREA OF THE CITY SHOULD BE SPECIFICALLY REPRESENTED	6/12/2023 1:07 PM
19	does it really atter where in sb they live we all live in sb wouldnt we all want whats best for sb therefore keep as is	6/12/2023 12:54 PM
20	most fair way to have individuals compete	6/12/2023 12:38 PM
21	More representative as economic classes diverge, which seems to be the trend.	6/12/2023 12:14 PM
22	Prefer just 5. But if we are to go to 10, a mixed Council maintains the benefits of local input, complimented with a city-wide perspective.	6/12/2023 12:13 PM
23	Would like to see more direct representation tied to various areas of the city, not all officials	6/12/2023 11:58 AM

## Governance Structures - South Burlington Charter Committee

from just one or two areas.

24	I don't have a strong opinion on this issue to want overall changes made	6/12/2023 11:04 AM
25	Feels like better representation would be the result.	6/12/2023 10:58 AM
26	Representation	6/12/2023 10:55 AM
27	Would like all districts to be represented	6/12/2023 10:38 AM
28	distribution of votes	6/12/2023 10:30 AM
29	While the idea of City Council coming from various districts seems like a good idea, for whatever reason (such as education, energy, money, time), the City Council currently has difficulty fielding candidates from more than 1-2 districts. Also, a City Councilor coming from the SEQ shouldn't necessarily be disqualified for helping citizens in the Chamberlain School area.	6/12/2023 10:28 AM
30	Seems the fairest with districts giving voice to location within the system but the view of a majority of voters as well.	6/12/2023 10:25 AM
31	Better representation of geographical diversity in SB	6/12/2023 10:19 AM
32	seems fair	6/12/2023 10:12 AM
33	I do not believe the results of the current at-large system are producing a one-person, one-vote fair representation. The folks that live in the SEQ, effectively, have a one-person, three or four votes representation, depending on the issue.	6/12/2023 9:21 AM
34	Representation for the 5 legislative districts is the better balance.	6/12/2023 7:40 AM
35	We need more diverse representation	6/11/2023 7:32 PM
36	Same as above-better representation	6/11/2023 7:24 PM
37	Accountability	6/11/2023 7:22 PM
38	We need to think differently about city leadership and not just mimic others	6/11/2023 6:51 PM
39	I think five can be too small a number if there are absences or recusals that affect the ability to meet quorum requirements. I support have representatives for geographical areas as the needs may be different in each district and to ensure a potentially broader discussion. If there are disparities in the population of each district, efforts can be made for an additional representative from the district or a combined two districts (see the Burlington model).	6/11/2023 6:01 PM
40	Ward specific elections will help with decision making. More councilors will help get things done	6/11/2023 3:17 PM
41	This option gives all areas of the city equal representation. I think it should be 2 councilors from each ward. That will bring more ideas to the table and works even better than 8 with the open meeting law. Also, there should be little difficulty in getting a quorum the vast majority of the time.	6/11/2023 7:13 AM
42	We don't have broad representation in City Council currently, it seems like a ward system could improve this. This doesn't help with the cost of running for council, this could be a barrier for many candidates who are otherwise well qualified.	6/10/2023 4:04 PM
43	Better representation, and more representation from different socioeconomic backgrounds.	6/10/2023 9:14 AM
44	Each ward has it's on challenges/issues, some very unique. Having councilors elected on a Ward basis would allow residents to elect someone who understands these challenges unique to their ward.	6/10/2023 9:01 AM
45	Residents of the legislative districts should have a voice on the Council	6/9/2023 10:18 PM
46	Because it gives more equitable representation to each area of the city and decreases cost of running for office.	6/9/2023 9:19 PM
47	Having too many cooks in the kitchen make it difficult to get things done. South Burlington is not that large, and I think our councilors do a good job representing all parts of the city.	6/9/2023 8:28 PM
48	More focused.	6/9/2023 8:17 PM

## Governance Structures - South Burlington Charter Committee

49	I can't comment on the workload of the Council and whether having more Council members would be beneficial. However, I am opposed to a ward structure that would inevitably politicize the community, pitting one ward against another.	6/9/2023 6:46 PM
50	We currently have 5 talented members and don't need to change what is currently working well	6/9/2023 6:16 PM
51	Councilors should serve the entire city and be elected based on their merits and their ability to do what is good for the entire City, not just for a district/ward.	6/9/2023 5:44 PM
52	Right-size workload, and represent a more diverse, representative cross-section of SB	6/9/2023 5:37 PM
53	There are some issues which may be more fairly represented by ward representatives and this structure doesn't throw out everything which has worked well but leans toward more inclusive representation.	6/9/2023 5:27 PM
54	The current structure works well.	6/9/2023 5:14 PM
55	Better representation, but also allows for election at large should the ward positions not be able to be filled.	6/5/2023 10:47 AM
56	better community representation	6/1/2023 7:41 PM
57	I am concerned that the City may not find competent, interested and dedicated councilors from each district. I know that some folks do not believe they are well represented with only having at large councilors and they blame the cost of running for the City Council as the reason that candidates in some districts do not have the funds to run for office. Based on personal experience, any candidate that wants to serve should be able to go house to house and request citizens to contribute to their campaign even if it is \$25 from households in their districts or at large. If a candidate is already involved in the community and committees, etc., then they should have the network and reputation to raise funds. I do not want a councilor whose only reason to be on the Council is that they were to only one to run in their district.	6/1/2023 2:47 PM
58	I don't at all like dividing us into "wards" beyond for voting. We are all South Burlington citizens. There is far too much division in the world today.	6/1/2023 7:44 AM
59	The difficulty recruiting strong candidates from each district may erode quality of Council. Electing council by district may fragment South Burlington, pitting one legislative district against another.	5/30/2023 11:40 AM
60	I don't think at large members work for the city any more given the very distinct parts of the city that need representation.	5/30/2023 9:36 AM
61	The City currently suffers from income inequality which is reflected in the composition of the City Council and, more importantly, in City policy. Any "at large" members would likely result the continuation in the policy arena with, as now, one area of the City dominating the rest. Therefore, perhaps five districts with two members elected from each district would be my first preference, or 7-10 districts designed around neighborhoods each with its own representative.	5/28/2023 1:53 PM
62	Our City is diverse, and the wealthiest residents are currently the best represented on council. We need to make sure each part of the city is properly represented.	5/27/2023 10:25 PM
63	Testing	5/26/2023 12:33 PM
64	Each area of the city should have representation with the at large members expanding the pool of potential candidates	5/25/2023 7:14 PM
65	I think it keeps things efficient with five members. But I would not be opposed to more than five if more councillors are needed to get work done.	5/25/2023 5:41 PM
66	I'm satisfied with the current structure.	5/25/2023 10:13 AM
67	City is Not big enough for more wards to make sense.	5/25/2023 6:02 AM
68	I think it will be difficult to get, from each district, committed, informed candidates who understand the whole city's challenges, if that were the structure.	5/24/2023 10:10 PM
69	Legislative districts are the most reflective division of city neighborhoods interests and needs. Those interests and needs are not accounted for when a disproportionate number of Councilors are elected from only one or two districts.	5/24/2023 9:33 PM
70	I like the appeal of ensuring broad neighborhood representation, although given how small	5/24/2023 5:35 PM

## Governance Structures - South Burlington Charter Committee

South Burlington is, I don't know it will make a difference. Maybe it will make for an easier avenue for someone to get involved. I support the choice that offers the most opportunity for collaboration and communication.

71	Want councilors elected by districts. There are five districts so must have five or ten. Prefer ten but five is ok.	5/24/2023 2:56 PM
72	I think districts should be represented equally at the very least. There will be meetings when not all will be in attendance.	5/23/2023 8:56 PM
73	equal representation from across all 5 legislative districts and a few extras for greater mix of discussion.	5/23/2023 7:53 PM
74	At large candidates are not beholden to represent the citizens in the ward	5/23/2023 5:48 PM
75	I think a larger council would create more difficulty coming to a consensus and electing members at large seems to have been fine so far.	5/23/2023 5:00 PM
76	I think it is good for councilors' interest to be for all South Burlington residents and not just their districts.	5/23/2023 2:40 PM
77	All districts may not have candidates or qualified candidates	5/23/2023 1:33 PM
78	I do not think the current structure properly represents all areas of the city, especially the Chamberlin neighborhood where I reside.	5/23/2023 9:19 AM
79	It works well now. Please don't change this.	5/23/2023 5:36 AM
80	Because we have a highly educated, highly dedicated, exceptionally competent council as it is, and 5 is a number that is neither too large nor too small for the group to function smoothly. More than 5 would probably delay decision making and potentially create more division. 5 is the sweet spot.	5/22/2023 8:58 PM
81	I think balanced representation from our districts would better represent our community and don't feel the need for more than 5 councilors.	5/22/2023 7:10 PM
82	May result in more qualified individuals	5/22/2023 4:52 PM
83	More members equals more disagreements and nothing gets done. Just look at congress	5/22/2023 1:12 PM
84	We do not need to follow the legislative districts. Fewer representative councilors or at-large all. Just to get at least a few from an area other than SEQ! We do need representation from those who live in "less-privileged" areas.	5/21/2023 11:53 AM
85	Prefer to have an odd number to prevent deadlocks. Research on maximum size for effective committees is 5-7; however such small numbers result in work overload & time constraints. I would suggest 2 per current district and 1 (or 3) city wide to insure a balance of perspectives & reduce the potential of deadlocks and/or political alliances to sway decisions.	5/19/2023 9:41 AM
86	Best combination using existing Leg. boundaries to elect 5 and 2 at large to provide 7. 7 will better cover Council tasks.	5/18/2023 1:51 PM
87	It makes sense to have more members to share the vast responsibilities for outside meetings	5/18/2023 11:07 AM
88	Again, I saw a seven member city council work very effectively in Falls Church, which reasonably well reflected the diversity in the community and its different neighborhoods. The seven Council Members are elected at-large for four-year terms and are not affiliated with any national political party and are elected on odd-numbered years for staggered terms. The Council members elect from among themselves a Mayor and Vice Mayor for a two-year term.	5/17/2023 9:41 PM
89	Prefer 4 ward elections with a mayor elected at large	5/17/2023 2:37 PM
90	Wards are a terrible idea and would only make our city's NIMBY problem worse. The bigger the political districts, the broader the perspective of each council member.	5/17/2023 2:33 PM
91	I will note that since Chittenden-8 contains part of Williston, the ward boundaries would probably have to be slightly different than the legislative boundaries if all of the wards are to have approximately the same population in the interest of one person, one vote.	5/17/2023 2:29 PM
92	It would be good to have a representative from your own ward	5/16/2023 7:55 PM
93	Problem: the 5 districts are really 4 1/2; so that 1/2 gets half the residents per its councilor.	5/16/2023 10:44 AM

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However: I would have one councilor who would connect more closely with our district and its neighborhoods; plus the at-large who would reflect all of us.

94	No at large is fair to much of our city at this time.	5/11/2023 7:57 PM
95	I think it's important to have a diverse group of councilors serving our city. However, I don't want them to lose sight of the whole city, so I also would like to see councilors elected at large. I also feel there are a few councilors who are doing a great job, and I wouldn't want to see them excluded because they live in the same area.	5/11/2023 5:22 PM
96	City council is not an easy job, with almost no compensation, so I wonder if you would even find candidates willing to serve from different districts.	5/9/2023 5:43 PM
97	Going to the wards system results in councilors having to only appeal to a much smaller part of the electorate. Narrowing the constituency like that results in decisions that only benefit fewer and fewer members of the community.	5/9/2023 5:32 PM
98	Splitting into wards is unnecessary	5/9/2023 10:25 AM
99	If the city council remains 5 members, I think having those members represent their geographical areas is good. Closer ties to constituents is a positive. If the council increases above 5 members I think having some elected at large also makes sense as I appreciate the benefits of members with a city wide perspective to help balance and compromise among the needs of different geographical areas of the city.	5/9/2023 8:37 AM
100	A ward system won't change the composition of the council. It will only get the richest people from those wards. If you want to get more people to run, change what's asked of the council. It takes 10 hours a week minimum to be a hood councilor. Name a single parent with that kind of time.	5/9/2023 8:01 AM
101	I want more diversity on the council. But a ward system will NOT accomplish this. We have a homogenous body because what we ask of the council cannot be done by people with jobs, or who are struggling to make ends meet. A ward system doesn't solve that problem - it only makes it easier for individuals like Paul Engles - retired people who live in a ward with a lot of working class people - to get elected.	5/9/2023 7:44 AM
102	South Burlington already is too divided. Lack of councilors from certain area has as much to do with voter turnout & individuals not being willing to run. This last election was so expensive because two issue "camps" (not geographical) were vying to have their perspective on the council.	5/9/2023 7:43 AM
103	It seems to me every part of the city should have equal representation	5/9/2023 7:31 AM
104	SB doesn't seem large enough to warrant wards; especially given typical voter turnout. I see little advantage to going this route and think it would divide the City rather than make things better.	5/8/2023 7:58 PM
105	Broader perspectives	5/8/2023 11:18 AM
106	It works	5/8/2023 9:00 AM
107	Assurance of qualified people from across the City vs. maybe having to settle for a less qualified candidate(s) just to satisfy the district allocations	5/5/2023 7:16 PM
108	It will help ensure the council has representatives from across the city, while not restricting every representative to a small area of the city. Wards can help councilors build relationships with their constituents and reduce the barrier to entry, while at-large is an opportunity for people who have the means and desire to campaign to and represent a larger group. It seems like a good balance between the options.	5/5/2023 2:13 PM
109	I feel a greater number would provide more diverse voices and share work load.	5/5/2023 10:04 AM
110	I think we should only change one thing at a time. Move to a policy mayor/city manager system first and add more council members later if needed.	5/4/2023 8:41 PM
111	The city council seems to work well with the current structure	5/4/2023 8:09 PM
112	I would like yo see broader representation of the board to help divide work and keep fresh perspectives	5/4/2023 7:01 PM
113	I think councilors fro the legislative districts will know more about the hyper-local issues but	5/4/2023 3:21 PM

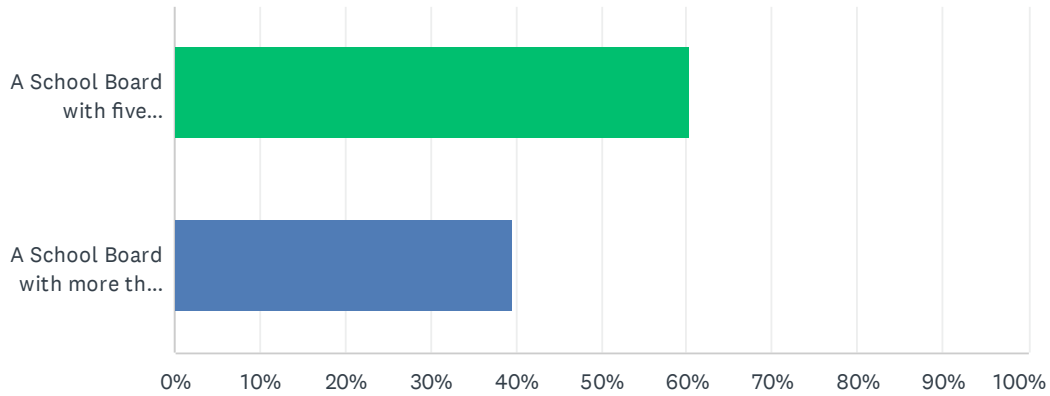
## Governance Structures - South Burlington Charter Committee

the at large can also add some more city-wide perspectives.

114	Too many councilors is a mess, just look to Burlington. And having geographic representation is important as our community grows more diverse. I don't think being almost solely represented by the McMansion elite is good for anyone.	5/4/2023 12:43 PM
115	Better to represent the town	5/3/2023 10:10 PM
116	It's important that are councilors represent their respective districts. I see the makeup and needs of the districts changing in the future.	5/3/2023 6:17 PM
117	Each ward or district may have needs not shared by the others.	5/3/2023 5:30 PM
118	More diversity.	5/3/2023 5:14 PM
119	I feel that the council needs to be balanced and representative of all areas of the city. Electing members from the 5 legislative districts allows opportunity for that.	5/3/2023 4:31 PM
120	Four of the five current councilors, and two former councilors, all reside in one ward that makes up less than 25% of the city's population.	5/1/2023 7:25 PM
121	I would like to see ward-specific councilors as I feel the current citywide setup diminishes the perspectives of parts of the city.	5/1/2023 12:21 PM
122	Have seen no indication that the present structure is not working effectively.	4/29/2023 12:33 PM
123	To have a representative from my part of my the city.	4/28/2023 12:10 PM
124	Better representation for each district, and a more balanced Council.	4/28/2023 10:35 AM
125	A City Council member can represent the wishes of his neighbors.	4/28/2023 9:34 AM
126	Unbalanced representation with current city council	4/27/2023 5:53 PM
127	Leadership needs to be elected by the taxpayers	4/27/2023 4:56 PM
128	Stability and equality and fairness.	4/27/2023 4:00 PM
129	Better representation	4/27/2023 3:56 PM
130	council members need to look at what is best for the whole city, not what is best for their section of town so they may get re-elected	4/27/2023 3:23 PM
131	While I don't love how the council can swing to be more representative of one area of the City, as has occurred in recent years, I feel the elected obligation to serve to all districts as a whole is important for South Burlington. Also, in the current process, the opinion of the electorate should balance out any district over-representation, if in the end it fails to address the concerns of all residents.	4/27/2023 3:18 PM
132	First, I do not believe that a larger council or municipal board necessarily equates to better representation. It is the role of elected officials to "do the work" of engaging with their entire constituency, and then make the best decisions they can with the entirety of the information they receive. A bigger council does not mean better work. In regards to representation at large or from wards: In general, I believe that a municipal board that is functioning well does not have members who are there solely to make decisions based on their ward. I believe each member of the council should represent the entire city. That would imply an at-large structure is appropriate. That said: I know that our current council is largely representative of only a small portion of our city that represents a certain demographic. I do think that it may instill more trust in the council to make that membership more fully representative of the city. I still believe, though, that once a council member is on the council, their collective job is to represent ALL of us.	4/27/2023 3:14 PM

## Q12 School Board Composition – Do you prefer:

Answered: 154 Skipped: 21



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
A School Board with five members (current structure)	60.39%	93
A School Board with more than five members	39.61%	61
TOTAL		154



## Q13 If more than five, how many School Board members do you recommend?

Answered: 66 Skipped: 109

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	6 - 9	6/12/2023 10:59 PM
2	7	6/12/2023 4:15 PM
3	10	6/12/2023 2:56 PM
4	10	6/12/2023 2:39 PM
5	seven	6/12/2023 2:20 PM
6	Seven	6/12/2023 1:23 PM
7	7	6/12/2023 12:15 PM
8	10	6/12/2023 12:13 PM
9	Maximum 7	6/12/2023 11:59 AM
10	It has been difficult to find 5 people who stay on the board it seems for the last few years, more board members would make that more difficult	6/12/2023 11:05 AM
11	7	6/12/2023 10:58 AM
12	Hard to find even 5 to serve	6/12/2023 10:31 AM
13	With the rapid turnover of School Board members, often with less than one term or just one term, not sure that having more Members is manageable. Sounds like a good idea.	6/12/2023 10:29 AM
14	7	6/12/2023 10:19 AM
15	7	6/12/2023 10:12 AM
16	Seven	6/12/2023 9:26 AM
17	9	6/12/2023 7:41 AM
18	8	6/11/2023 7:23 PM
19	7 but they must have to dedicate a minimum of 25 hours within the schools and with teachers	6/11/2023 6:54 PM
20	Seven. Given the issues facing school districts, I think having additional members would help with the work load.	6/11/2023 6:03 PM
21	At least eight, for the open meeting law advantages explained above. If from wards, ten, again as explained above.	6/11/2023 7:20 AM
22	seven	6/9/2023 9:21 PM
23	Seven.	6/9/2023 6:54 PM
24	7	6/9/2023 6:03 PM
25	Seven: five in a ward system and two at-large.	6/9/2023 5:37 PM
26	7	6/9/2023 5:28 PM
27	I would recommend nine members to help share the workload.	6/1/2023 2:52 PM
28	7	6/1/2023 7:50 AM
29	seven	5/30/2023 9:37 AM

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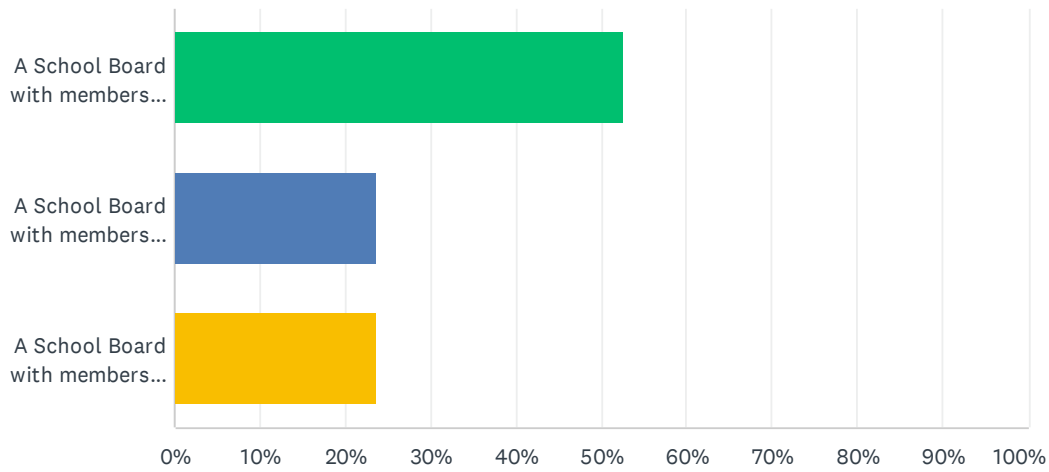
30	Same as City Council and for the same reasons.	5/28/2023 2:01 PM
31	Ten. I like more opinions, more diversity & more people to share the work.	5/27/2023 10:27 PM
32	Testing	5/26/2023 12:34 PM
33	7	5/25/2023 7:14 PM
34	n/a	5/25/2023 10:14 AM
35	Consider 7 members.	5/24/2023 5:36 PM
36	10	5/24/2023 2:58 PM
37	7	5/23/2023 8:56 PM
38	7	5/23/2023 7:54 PM
39	We need the city and schools to get on the same page!!! The schools age the draw to our community but it will not continue if we do it slow down the building and concentrate on the infrastructure of schools, police and fire!!!! Our school budget is at a minimum and we cannot meet the needs of our students and families without more of a focus on the schools. The schools are our heartbeat and that heartbeat is getting softer and softer!!!!!!	5/23/2023 4:27 PM
40	7	5/23/2023 2:42 PM
41	I prefer 5. Many school board members run unopposed currently	5/23/2023 1:35 PM
42	Unsure.	5/23/2023 9:20 AM
43	7	5/23/2023 5:36 AM
44	7	5/21/2023 11:54 AM
45	10-13 members per above commentary	5/19/2023 9:42 AM
46	7. Same configuration as CC	5/18/2023 1:53 PM
47	Seven (7)	5/18/2023 12:43 PM
48	Seven to broaden the tent.	5/17/2023 9:47 PM
49	Not sure. But there needs to be more diversity of thought in the school board so it is not a monopoly	5/16/2023 7:56 PM
50	At least 7	5/11/2023 7:30 PM
51	I would like to keep the 5 current school board members, but add at least 3 more who are knowledgeable about and able to make good decisions to serve only in matters related to facilities.	5/9/2023 5:47 PM
52	I would match it to the city council to keep consistency and reduce confusion,	5/9/2023 8:38 AM
53	Why more? What's the problem we're trying to solve?!	5/9/2023 7:48 AM
54	Seven	5/9/2023 7:46 AM
55	7	5/8/2023 11:19 AM
56	7-9	5/5/2023 10:05 AM
57	7	5/4/2023 8:44 PM
58	9	5/4/2023 7:03 PM
59	7	5/3/2023 10:10 PM
60	7	5/3/2023 6:22 PM
61	Ten (10); two from each ward	5/3/2023 5:34 PM
62	As many as are interested	5/3/2023 5:17 PM
63	Seven, same composition as council (wards + two at-large).	5/1/2023 7:25 PM

## Governance Structures - South Burlington Charter Committee

64	7	4/27/2023 6:23 PM
65	7	4/27/2023 5:54 PM
66	7 the City is growing and needs more diversity on boards	4/27/2023 3:24 PM

## Q14 School Board – Do you prefer:

Answered: 156 Skipped: 19



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
A School Board with members elected at large (current structure)	52.56%	82
A School Board with members elected only from the 5 legislative districts (wards)	23.72%	37
A School Board with members elected from the 5 legislative districts (wards) and the remainder elected at large	23.72%	37
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>156</b>

## Q15 School Board – Why did you make these selections?

Answered: 113 Skipped: 62

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	most qualified from the whole city	6/13/2023 3:14 PM
2	fair representation	6/13/2023 1:49 PM
3	Honestly, I'd prefer 2 members from each elementary school district, and any more being at large.	6/12/2023 10:59 PM
4	During the time my three children attended middle school and high school, I saw it was difficult to find quality people willing to serve as School Board Directors.	6/12/2023 7:56 PM
5	My biggest concern with the School Board seats is *filling them.* We have a very hard time fielding qualified candidates. It may be easier if we use the party primary process to help filter here too.	6/12/2023 7:47 PM
6	Same as previous.	6/12/2023 6:16 PM
7	The schools are a mess. They represent a small number of citizens but have control because of the current system	6/12/2023 4:15 PM
8	every section of the city should have equal representation	6/12/2023 2:56 PM
9	Our schools are suffering. I am an SB and was proud to move back to SB to raise my kids. Unfortunately, our experience has been horrendous to the point that my youngest will be finishing at a different school.	6/12/2023 2:39 PM
10	Creates tighter relationship with the wards and their issues.	6/12/2023 2:34 PM
11	If the legislative districts coincide with individual elementary schools, then having one representative per district could help represent/address local issues.	6/12/2023 2:21 PM
12	same concern as city council	6/12/2023 2:20 PM
13	Each ward has it's own needs and wants.	6/12/2023 1:33 PM
14	because no matter where they live they would hopefully want whats best for sb so does it really matter where in sb.	6/12/2023 12:55 PM
15	Most fair way for competition	6/12/2023 12:38 PM
16	Balance between better neighborhood representation and city-wide view; also, more members = easier quorum.	6/12/2023 12:15 PM
17	Prefer just 5. But if we are to go to 10, a mixed Board maintains the benefits of local input, complimented with a city-wide perspective.	6/12/2023 12:13 PM
18	Better representation from different parts of the city.	6/12/2023 11:59 AM
19	It feels like it would be better representation.	6/12/2023 10:58 AM
20	The city has one school system.	6/12/2023 10:56 AM
21	Representative	6/12/2023 10:39 AM
22	Same reasons as with City Councilors	6/12/2023 10:29 AM
23	It is hard to find people willing to run and then serve. The current system seems to get the best results.	6/12/2023 10:27 AM
24	Need more people on schoolboard	6/12/2023 10:19 AM
25	fair	6/12/2023 10:12 AM

## Governance Structures - South Burlington Charter Committee

26	The board has so many meetings, in addition to the regular board meetings, makes the time commitment required with a five-member board more burdensome that that required of a City Councilor. I believe there should be more School Board members to make the time commitment less and want the members to represent districts to produce a one-person, one-vote representation of residents on all parts of the city.	6/12/2023 9:26 AM
27	Elected representatives from our legislative districts are the better balance.	6/12/2023 7:41 AM
28	Accountability	6/11/2023 7:23 PM
29	School board representation should require members to participate within the school and listen to the teachers and have a minimum investment in the school of 25 hours within the first six months of serving. School boards are not, especially effective because they take political views and views of parents and do not fully represent what is best for the children which they must also listen to teachers and observe and celebrate the accomplishments not just criticize.	6/11/2023 6:54 PM
30	I think the third model would help create a more diverse school board. Doing so would help focus on the needs of special needs students and minority population students.	6/11/2023 6:03 PM
31	Local representation	6/11/2023 3:18 PM
32	As explained above, I think this should give all areas of the city representation, and two from each ward gives a council that can very effectively work within the open meeting law.	6/11/2023 7:20 AM
33	I think we need broader representation in the school board.	6/10/2023 4:04 PM
34	Better representation	6/10/2023 9:15 AM
35	I think our schools share most of the same challenges/issues, so an at-large election seems appropriate.	6/10/2023 9:02 AM
36	See response to prior question.	6/9/2023 10:19 PM
37	Again each district would get better representation on the board.	6/9/2023 9:21 PM
38	Same reason as counselors.	6/9/2023 8:29 PM
39	School issues are not particularly localized.	6/9/2023 8:19 PM
40	I am a former School Board member and appreciate the work that goes with the position. Inevitably, some board members contribute more than others. Expanding the board would allow for a more reasonable distribution of the workload than currently exists. On the other hand I don't think that electing board members from 5 wards would yield a sufficient number of qualified candidates. I believe that the needs of the various districts are well-served by considering the school system as a whole.	6/9/2023 6:54 PM
41	All the districts would have a voice in decisions etc..	6/9/2023 6:03 PM
42	This structure seems to work well.	6/9/2023 5:45 PM
43	Right-size workload, and represent a more diverse, representative cross-section of SB	6/9/2023 5:37 PM
44	Agree with past Board members recommendations.	6/9/2023 5:28 PM
45	This is a structure I trust and have had the most experience with in various towns. I'm happy with what we have.	6/9/2023 5:17 PM
46	*The school board is a tough board to fill...it's thankless, payless work and they are dealing with really big issues now. Let's not limit their ability to serve.	6/5/2023 10:48 AM
47	Abstain	6/1/2023 7:42 PM
48	Getting qualified candidates to run for the school board at large already is hard enough. Furthermore, having five from the legislative districts does not link them to the location of the schools.	6/1/2023 2:52 PM
49	Once again, I truly believe all of the citizens in South Burlington should be able to vote for all school board members. The number of board members should be increased as a function of work load and institutional knowledge. A larger board allows its tasks (e.g, negotiations, addressing aging buildings and overcrowding) to be dealt with far more easily and efficiently. It would also allow for greater institutional knowledge and far more members to not so often be subject to frequent voting.	6/1/2023 7:50 AM

## Governance Structures - South Burlington Charter Committee

50	Some Board seats have been filled in election with no competitor. This suggests expanding number is would make worse the problem of recruiting candidates. The same reason applies to preferring at large district where there is larger pool to draw from.	5/30/2023 11:44 AM
51	At large for school board makes sense to me since their focus is entirely on school issues	5/30/2023 9:37 AM
52	Asterisk- Consider more districts from different neighborhoods with likely different needs, each with its own member. SBHS has long had a culture where attitudes towards students depended on "whether you turned right or turned left when driving out of the parking lot onto Dorset Street. A more representative school board might, over time, work to ameliorate that culture. More study would be helpful to ascertain whether, and to what extent, this is still a problem.	5/28/2023 2:01 PM
53	Need better representation of every ward.	5/27/2023 10:27 PM
54	Testing	5/26/2023 12:34 PM
55	Same as city council reasoning.	5/25/2023 7:14 PM
56	It seems that five member is more efficient to get things done. Would like to know more if electing from different wards would be good to get more diverse perspectives.	5/25/2023 5:44 PM
57	My preference is a city-wide pool of candidates.	5/25/2023 10:14 AM
58	See no issues at this time	5/25/2023 6:03 AM
59	Same concerns as with councilors elected by district.	5/24/2023 10:12 PM
60	I am not knowledgeable enough to recommend a change in the current structure. I will point out that current elementary school districting in South Burlington does not correspond with legislative districts and I question whether that kind of geographic distribution is possible.	5/24/2023 9:34 PM
61	I like the appeal of ensuring broad neighborhood representation, although given how small South Burlington is, I don't know it will make a difference. Maybe it will make for an easier avenue for someone to get involved. I support the choice that offers the most opportunity for collaboration and communication.	5/24/2023 5:36 PM
62	Mirrors the City Council.	5/24/2023 2:58 PM
63	There will be times when not all members will be at important meetings. Extra at large members help that situation.	5/23/2023 8:56 PM
64	same reason as city council.	5/23/2023 7:54 PM
65	I prefer representation from each ward	5/23/2023 5:49 PM
66	Honestly, I don't really pay attention to the school board because I don't have children.	5/23/2023 5:01 PM
67	Again, I think it is good for the school board members to represent all South Burlington residents and not just their districts.	5/23/2023 2:42 PM
68	Currently board members run unopposed. We may not have anyone running for seats if done by district	5/23/2023 1:35 PM
69	Same as my reasoning for City Council.	5/23/2023 9:20 AM
70	More perspectives, spread out the work load.	5/23/2023 5:36 AM
71	If people from certain districts are under-represented, is it because no one from those districts ran for office? People must be engaged in the process and be willing to run if they want to be represented.	5/22/2023 9:00 PM
72	Indifferent	5/22/2023 4:53 PM
73	As per above commentary.	5/19/2023 9:42 AM
74	Keep uniformity of election configuration to avoid confusion	5/18/2023 1:53 PM
75	Better representation	5/18/2023 12:43 PM
76	Adding additional voices will broaden the perspective on education and different needs and expectations. Also a student representative, if it is not now the case, should join the Board at all public meetings and participates in discussions but not vote.	5/17/2023 9:47 PM

## Governance Structures - South Burlington Charter Committee

77	Same as before. Localism can go too far. Wards are localism too far.	5/17/2023 2:34 PM
78	Same problem as before with the ward boundaries needing to be different than the legislative districts to ensure that the wards are approximately equal in population.	5/17/2023 2:31 PM
79	At least each ward should have representatives as well as more opinions so the opinion of the group is not monolithic	5/16/2023 7:56 PM
80	Closer connection to voters and to particular needs of the local schools	5/16/2023 10:45 AM
81	Again, I think it's important to have all neighborhoods represented. At the same time, I want members to be engaged with the whole city, so I like the idea of a mix of the 2 ideas.	5/11/2023 5:23 PM
82	School board members often seem to represent a narrow set of interests that almost never seem to deal with facilities. This is why our facilities are suffering from lack of budget and attention.	5/9/2023 5:47 PM
83	Enlarging the school board will make it too unwieldy and not able to respond to community needs quickly enough.	5/9/2023 5:33 PM
84	Again, unnecessary	5/9/2023 10:25 AM
85	Same reasons as the city council. I think matching them up makes sense from a consistency perspective.	5/9/2023 8:38 AM
86	Same reason. A ward structure or more board members won't make the board more diverse.	5/9/2023 8:01 AM
87	A ward structure Will not change the composition of the board, or increase diversity. If you want fiversity of thought, make it easier (or possible) for lower income people to participate on the board - the time commitment alone prevents almost anyone from applying, let alone a single parent.	5/9/2023 7:48 AM
88	To be consistent with city council & the work is too much for 5. Wards don't conform to elementary school locations	5/9/2023 7:46 AM
89	See previous comments about equal representation	5/9/2023 7:31 AM
90	Same comments as above for Council	5/8/2023 7:58 PM
91	Broader perspectives	5/8/2023 11:19 AM
92	School decisions and policy are community-wide issues, not tied to districts	5/5/2023 7:17 PM
93	I think the school issues are less local than the city issues, so the school board should remain all at-large. We have one high school and one middle school, so all kids, no matter where they live, attend the same school. If we have multiple schools (besides elementary) in the future, I could see this question being raised again.	5/5/2023 2:15 PM
94	Same reasons as council- sharing work load, especially the contract negotiations and greater diversity of views	5/5/2023 10:05 AM
95	This would ensure each voting district has a voice and hopefully increase the diversity of the school board. 7 members would lessen workload for each school board member.	5/4/2023 8:44 PM
96	I would like to see more members on the board to help spread out the work the board takes on. I would also like to allow more community represented on the board.	5/4/2023 7:03 PM
97	It is more difficult to get candidates for school board so I think leaving it as it is works best.	5/4/2023 3:22 PM
98	There's no hope for public education, I don't give the School Board much thought. The Unions dominate everything with no regard to the taxpayer.	5/4/2023 12:44 PM
99	Brings greater diversity and representation to the board.	5/3/2023 6:22 PM
100	Board members need to meet the educational needs of the parents and students without getting involved and bogged down in political correctness and politics.	5/3/2023 5:34 PM
101	Diversity to include, seniors, people with disabilities, people of many colors and opinions	5/3/2023 5:17 PM
102	Similar to City Council, this would allow for a wider span of representation throughout the geography of the community	5/3/2023 4:32 PM



## Governance Structures - South Burlington Charter Committee

103	Same reasoning as city council -- more representative.	5/1/2023 12:21 PM
104	No compelling evidence that districts are necessary.	4/29/2023 12:34 PM
105	More balance representation.	4/28/2023 10:36 AM
106	Acceptable as it exists.	4/28/2023 9:35 AM
107	To represent all community members	4/27/2023 5:54 PM
108	Accountability	4/27/2023 4:56 PM
109	Mirrors the new Council configuration.	4/27/2023 4:01 PM
110	Better representation	4/27/2023 3:56 PM
111	School Board members need to think district wide, not just about one school	4/27/2023 3:24 PM
112	I am not sure how to balance it. But, it would be nice to have an equal distribution of school board members representing the three elementary school districts. If the elementary school districts merge, as they inevitably should, than this is much less important.	4/27/2023 3:20 PM
113	Exact same answer as earlier: Larger boards do not equate to better representation and in fact can become bogged down and unwieldy. I also know that if we required school board members to be elected from each ward, we risk having vacancies go unfilled. Unlike city council, school boards are notoriously hard to fill, and requiring representation from each ward may only make that harder. Once the board is elected its job is to gather input from all of the city, regardless of where they reside.	4/27/2023 3:15 PM

## Q16 Is there anything else you'd like to share with the Charter Committee?

Answered: 73 Skipped: 102

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Less regulations and more freedom to build and prosper will help all citizens	6/13/2023 3:15 PM
2	While I think wards can help diversify representation. I'm not convinced the legislative boundaries are the best ones for our city. Four wards: a south east and south west ward, along with either a city center and center periphery ward, or an old neighborhoods and transitional ward, could achieve a better diversity of members and constituent concerns.	6/12/2023 11:08 PM
3	Thank you for asking!	6/12/2023 7:47 PM
4	Shopping on Market Street!!!!	6/12/2023 6:44 PM
5	It is unclear to me what is motivating this discussion. If there are genuine structural problems with South Burlington city government, we need to have a full public process of defining them and proposing solutions specific to them. Otherwise, it's mere undirected tinkering, and nothing good will come of it. Why are we talking about a mayor? Expanding the Council? Expanding the School Board? Etc. Why does anyone think any of these steps may be needed? No idea. The resolution on the Charter Committee is totally vague, considering change merely for the sake of considering change Tinkering with a functional government structure without clear motivation, that is to say in a vacuum, is worse than dangerous.	6/12/2023 6:24 PM
6	I do not feel the current government is up front with folks. They are constantly looking for ways to spend money on projects that are not needed. Every year a tax increase is absurd. The unions own the management team	6/12/2023 4:18 PM
7	Invite the mayors of Winooski, Montpelier, and Burlington to attend and provide recommendations about value of city manager and an elected mayor.	6/12/2023 2:59 PM
8	Need more student involvement including students who serve different pop groups (technical education)	6/12/2023 2:40 PM
9	Thanks for your hard work!	6/12/2023 2:34 PM
10	Thank you for all the thought and work you have put into this issue.	6/12/2023 2:22 PM
11	The city manager / council chair relationship is interesting. I've seen a lot of success with co-directors lately.	6/12/2023 2:21 PM
12	Disappointed with lack of shops/restaurants/pubs on Market St. Also, might need a traffic light at the intersection of Market and Rte 116	6/12/2023 1:25 PM
13	don't fix things that aren't broken.	6/12/2023 12:56 PM
14	This change should not be taken lightly and I hope you continue to ask for resident feedback as this proceeds through the various steps to a decision.	6/12/2023 12:01 PM
15	Eliminate the Local Option Sales Tax. With the state keeping 30%, it's a bad deal for city residents.	6/12/2023 10:58 AM
16	In general, the City (City and Schools) seems less accessible than in the past. Maybe this is due to Covid, security issues, etc. Thanks to Sandy Dooley for sending out an email reminder to fill out the survey.	6/12/2023 10:30 AM
17	DRB committee. Should they be appointed or elected?	6/12/2023 10:29 AM
18	I don't want to see our city become so twisted in its governance as has Burlington	6/12/2023 10:13 AM
19	I suggest that you extend the deadline for participation in this survey to June 30.	6/12/2023 9:27 AM
20	No	6/11/2023 7:23 PM

## Governance Structures - South Burlington Charter Committee

21	Please do not be duplicative of other structures. This is an opportunity to be creative and imaginative and think of the future.	6/11/2023 6:54 PM
22	Running the ad in the zither Paper was a good idea!	6/11/2023 3:19 PM
23	I would like to again emphasize that the common idea that boards or councils need to have an odd number of members does not stand up to scrutiny, and an even number is more advantageous when considering the open meeting law. Vermont has a great open meeting law, and municipalities should organize themselves to take full advantage all of its parts.	6/11/2023 7:29 AM
24	I value diversity of voices on city council, changing the structure may help this. I think the economics behind running for council is also an important factor that is not being addressed with these changes.	6/10/2023 4:06 PM
25	Thank you for your work.	6/9/2023 8:30 PM
26	Not in favor of larger councils or school boards. More members makes it harder to make decisions and reach consensus.	6/9/2023 8:20 PM
27	No.	6/9/2023 6:54 PM
28	I'd like the Charter Committee to keep the status quo which has served the residents of South Burlington well. Councilors serving the community "at large" provide what is best for the entire community.	6/9/2023 5:49 PM
29	The SEQ is over-represented in SB, and it shows in the decisions being made.	6/9/2023 5:40 PM
30	No	6/1/2023 7:42 PM
31	I do not agree with moving Councilor elections to November as I believe their election may get lost in the mix with all the Statewide and Federal elections. I'm open to rank choice voting if no candidate is elected with at least 50.1% of the votes. Thank you for all the work performed by the Committee and the helpful public meetings.	6/1/2023 2:59 PM
32	I so appreciate that South Burlington runs fairly smoothly at present. I also LOVE that a City Clerk is elected. Donna Kinville is a true representative of us residents and is relatively independent.	6/1/2023 7:53 AM
33	There is no mention of whether residents and voters would prefer partisan elected officials or not. At least give folks the choice and ask the question if partisan or party oriented candidates are preferable or not.	5/30/2023 9:39 AM
34	The City governance needs to be more representative for the reasons stated above. Since the Planning Commission is also a major policy making body, responsible for creating the Comprehensive Plan and the LDRs, it should also be elected on the same basis as the City Council and the School Board. Currently the membership on the Planning Commission is carefully curated by the City Council majority resulting in the rejecting from membership of great talent and skills as well as a greater diversity (beyond merely race).	5/28/2023 2:11 PM
35	I would like all elections to be conducted using Instant Runoff Voting or the equivalent.	5/27/2023 10:28 PM
36	Testing	5/26/2023 12:34 PM
37	Great job. Thank you	5/25/2023 7:15 PM
38	Need to understand tax implications of different options. At the end of the day for most the vote will come down to cost / taxes.	5/25/2023 6:04 AM
39	Thank you for reaching out for citizen input and considering these changes.	5/24/2023 9:35 PM
40	If it is within the Charter Committee's jurisdiction, I would support moving to rank-choice voting for any election the City has control over.	5/24/2023 5:36 PM
41	Please make the City Council representative of all sections of the city.	5/24/2023 2:59 PM
42	appreciate the work and for asking good questions	5/23/2023 7:54 PM
43	The message I want you to hear is that the schools are struggling due to population increases as a result of the careless rubber stamping of all building in south Burlington! I moved here for the schools but I would not at this point I my life! I also moved here for the open space and farm land but you all keep building and building! It is irresponsible and your need to take a	5/23/2023 4:30 PM

## Governance Structures - South Burlington Charter Committee

stand to stop it so that we can be out thriving community again! Also SoBu is a stupid name!! We are south Burlington, not some midwestern honky tonk!

44	I do not think that the city's structure and the school's should be linked	5/23/2023 1:35 PM
45	Thank you for doing this important work.	5/23/2023 9:20 AM
46	I believe we should keep things as they are. Our city government functions extremely well. I strongly disagree with the proposals to change the system. If people feel under-represented, the solution is to become involved by running for office or volunteering in some other capacity (committees, etc). Creating a system where each district has to be represented by a councilor, for example, is no guarantee that people from each district will run.	5/22/2023 9:03 PM
47	Thank you for doing this important work	5/22/2023 7:12 PM
48	Past city managers have been blind to the schools needs. Our schools are at over capacity and yet these past City Managers supported a rubber stamp to developers. A politically inclined Mayor will cow tow to developers and make our schools worse off then they are now by saddling tax payers with the school problems. All this while non resident developers enjoy the spoils of taking advantage of South Burlington.	5/22/2023 1:13 PM
49	Thank you for your work.	5/21/2023 11:54 AM
50	I would encourage the consideration of term limits and limiting campaign contributions so decisions are based on values & policies, not political or personal agendas.	5/19/2023 9:45 AM
51	I am not sure change is really demanded by circumstances. However if change we must, my recommendations are stated above.	5/18/2023 1:55 PM
52	The information provided for this discussion was well outlined and thorough.	5/18/2023 12:45 PM
53	With only 20% of the SB population voting and only approximately 200 plus residents attending the comprehensive plan discussion sessions for City Plan 2024, it may be constructive for SB to emulate the efforts of Arlington, VA to cultivate a more diverse and representative group at the table. <a href="https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Arlington-Neighborhoods-Program/College">https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Arlington-Neighborhoods-Program/College</a>	5/17/2023 10:05 PM
54	I think that elected leaders should have the power to make policy effectively and then be held accountable by voters at the next election. We don't want to make it impossible to govern.	5/17/2023 2:35 PM
55	I'm extremely glad to see this conversation taking place!	5/17/2023 2:32 PM
56	In addition to structure, it would be worth exploring the kinds of events or opportunities for leaders to connect with residents. Town meetings, neighborhood gatherings, etc.	5/16/2023 10:47 AM
57	I appreciate that someone is thinking about this, but with so many more pressing concerns, I'd leave well enough alone.	5/9/2023 5:48 PM
58	Please consider going to a public funding system for local campaigns. Seattle has a system called democracy vouchers that South Burlington should consider.	5/9/2023 5:35 PM
59	Thank you for soliciting feedback like this! It's much easier to work into a schedule than attending a forum.	5/9/2023 8:39 AM
60	Please don't move to a ward system. It only benefits those who didn't win the last election.	5/9/2023 7:49 AM
61	Only how strongly I feel that the city does not need a mayor!	5/9/2023 7:32 AM
62	Not everyone is as progressive as council	5/8/2023 9:00 AM
63	Thanks for taking the time to look at these options!	5/5/2023 2:15 PM
64	Thank you for your thoughtful efforts	5/5/2023 10:06 AM
65	Thanks for taking this on. It is good to keep our eyes on not only where the city is right now but where it will be in the next few years as it continues to grow.	5/4/2023 3:23 PM
66	This is important and a big deal but just keep it moving and make a decision in a timely manner	5/3/2023 10:11 PM
67	It is imperative that the City Manager does not have unlimited authority and law enforcement abilities and decision making.	5/3/2023 7:25 PM

## Governance Structures - South Burlington Charter Committee

68	I think it's important that as our community grows and changes that we have representation from all the districts and those of varying economic backgrounds.	5/3/2023 6:24 PM
69	No, except thank you for your work.	4/29/2023 12:35 PM
70	Outlaw political campaign signs on public property in the city, which would force candidates to hold more public forums and go out and meet and engage with residents more often (more money = more campaign signs = unfair advantage for candidates with less campaign financing). This would also get residents to learn more about what candidates believe in, and reduce the amount of votes candidates get based on who has the most signs up. It would also reduce the unsightly visual pollution that all these signs cause on public property. This new sign policy could be coupled with public financing of City campaigns. There's no reason why each candidate needs more than \$1000 to run a campaign, if they hold more public forums, and go door to door more often.	4/28/2023 10:50 AM
71	Market Street is a Housing Street! Where are the stores, or places to bring people to our City Center? Aside from the City Hall/Library building, the new buildings are huge, ugly, and housing units. Once again, residents were sold a "Bill of Goods" when funding was approved.	4/28/2023 9:39 AM
72	Yes you neglected to mention the possible configuration of 10 Councilors from five wards. I think we should take these changes one at a time and the most important is equality through a ward system that will end the SEQ oligarchy.	4/27/2023 4:05 PM
73	the city needs to figure out how to get a wider range of diversity on council and school board so all feel they are being represented	4/27/2023 3:26 PM