



New York City Charter Commission 2019

In November 2019,
New Yorkers will vote on
whether to revise the City
Charter.

WHAT IS THE NEW YORK CITY CHARTER?

The New York City Charter, established by the State Legislature in 1897, is the City's constitution, creating the framework for our government. The Charter controls how the City spends our tax dollars, how decisions are made about changes to our neighborhoods, and the powers of our elected officials.

Nearly 30 years ago, a Charter Revision Commission overhauled the city's government.

Now it's time for a fresh look.



HOW WILL THE CHARTER BE REVISED?

1

Establish a commission to review the Charter

The New York City Council passed a local law to create the Charter Revision Commission 2019. The Commission—which includes members appointed by the Mayor, the Speaker of the City Council, all five Borough Presidents, the Public Advocate, and the Comptroller—has a broad mandate to conduct a top-to-bottom review of the City Charter.

2

Get public input

This review includes you. Members of the public are encouraged to attend Commission hearings and propose new ways to improve our City government. Visit charter2019.nyc/contact to submit your ideas.

3

Gather recommendations & vote

After the Commission has reviewed the Charter and gathered information from the public, it will propose recommendations for a public vote in November 2019.

WHAT CAN THE CHARTER DO?

There are many areas the Charter may regulate, but there are some limits. Here are a few examples:

CAN

Establish the powers of and limits on City officials

Set the stage for governmental leaders to achieve desired changes

Decide how land in the city is developed

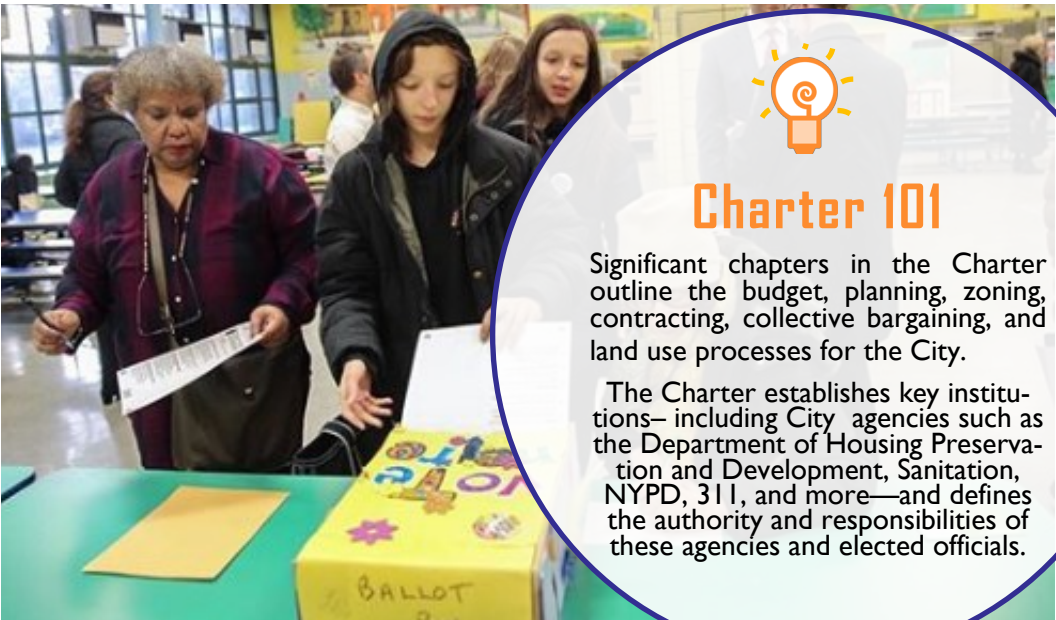
CAN'T

Eliminate political infighting

Decrease local crime

Stop a controversial project

Notes



Charter 101

Significant chapters in the Charter outline the budget, planning, zoning, contracting, collective bargaining, and land use processes for the City.

The Charter establishes key institutions— including City agencies such as the Department of Housing Preservation and Development, Sanitation, NYPD, 311, and more—and defines the authority and responsibilities of these agencies and elected officials.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Attend a public meeting or hearing: The Charter Revision Commission 2019 will hold a series of public meetings and hearings throughout the five boroughs beginning summer 2018.

Tell us what you think: What do you think works and doesn't work about New York City government? What is your vision for our city for the next 30 years? At the meetings and hearings you can learn more about the issues and share your suggestions and ideas. You can also submit your ideas on our website at charter2019.nyc/contact.

Vote: The Commission will submit a draft of a new or revised Charter to voters for approval in November 2019. It is vital that we hear from you.

Get in touch with us!

- ⇒ **Visit our website at charter2019.nyc**
- ⇒ **Visit charter2019.nyc/contact to submit your proposals**
- ⇒ **Email questions to info@charter2019.nyc**
- ⇒ **Tweet us [@charter2019nyc](https://twitter.com/charter2019nyc)**



HELPFUL RESOURCES

- * Jeffrey D. Friedlander, New York City Charter Revision, N.Y.L.J. (Sept. 22, 2003), available at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/law/downloads/pdf/ar092203.pdf>.
- * New York State Department of State, Revising City Charters in New York State – James A. Coon Local Government Technical Series, at 3 (2015), available at https://www.dos.ny.gov/lg/publications/Revising_City_Charters.pdf.

DID YOU KNOW?



New York City's government structure was completely overhauled in 1989. Before then the Board of Estimate, comprised of just 8 members, had more power than the City Council over the budget and land use.