

The City of Revere, Massachusetts



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Ashley E. Melnik
City Clerk

Office of the City Clerk

To: All Revere Residents
From: Ashley E. Melnik, City Clerk
Subj: Charter of the City of Revere

Governance in our community dates back to 1630 when John Winthrop arrived in Massachusetts and established the Massachusetts Bay Colony in New England. Winthrop immediately placed all of the geographical territory of our area under his jurisdiction and authority. Subsequently, The General Court of Massachusetts, (now the Massachusetts Legislature), was established and by order of the General Court in 1634, annexed all of the lands that we now know as Chelsea, Revere and Winthrop into the new Town of Boston. For 105 years our area was part of the Town of Boston governed by the Board of Selectmen of Boston. In 1739 again by an Act of the Massachusetts Legislature the areas of Chelsea, Revere and Winthrop were set off from the Town of Boston and incorporated as the new Town of Chelsea under the authority of the Town of Chelsea Charter governed by the Board of Selectmen of Chelsea. For the next 107 years our area was a part of the Town of Chelsea. In 1846 the areas of the present day Revere and Winthrop were set off from the Town of Chelsea and incorporated as the Town of North Chelsea. Twenty-five years later in 1871 Winthrop was set off from the Town of North Chelsea as the Town of Winthrop and Revere was incorporated as the Town of Revere under the authority of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Revere. Forty-three years later, in 1914, pursuant to Chapter 687 of the Acts of 1914, the Town of Revere was incorporated as the City of Revere.

Chapter 687 of the Acts of 1914 became the first Charter of the City of Revere under which the City of Revere operated for thirty-six years subject to the authority of an elected Mayor and City Council.

By vote of the residents of the City of Revere in 1947 the form of government was changed to a Plan E Charter. Beginning in 1950, the new form of government with an elected City Council, including a Mayor elected from its members and a City Manager appointed by the City Council, came into effect with all elective bodies elected at large by proportional representation.

The Plan E City Manager form of government, with a City Manager as Chief Executive Officer, became the City of Revere's second City Charter.

In 1964 the voters of the City of Revere, once again, decided to change their form of government from Plan E to Plan B. In 1965 the Plan E Charter ended and in 1966 the City of Revere commenced operation under the Plan B Charter with an elected Mayor and City Council elected from districts and at large. The Plan B Charter is the City of Revere's third and current City Charter.

For the past forty-three years the City of Revere has operated under the standard Plan B Charter of the Massachusetts General Laws with the general provisions listed below:

- Chapter 43, Sections 56-63 as amended M.G.L. (Plan B Charter)
- Chapter 43, Sections 1-45 as amended M.G.L. (General Provisions)

Additionally, the City of Revere operates under the following other Massachusetts General

Laws:

- For Municipal Personnel Services (Civil Service) we operate under Chapter 31 and 31A M.G.L.
- For Retirement System and Pensions we operate under Chapter 32 M.G.L.
- For Group Health Insurance purposes we operate under Chapter 32B M.G.L.
- For certain portions of municipal government we operate under Chapter 39 M.G.L. which includes the Open Meeting Law.
- For general powers and duties of the city we operate under Chapter 40 M.G.L.
- For Zoning, Planning, and Board of Appeals we operate under Chapter 40A M.G.L.
- For powers and duties of officers of the City we operate under Chapter 41 M.G.L.
- For municipal finance we operate under Chapter 44 M.G.L.
- For births, deaths, and marriages we operate under Chapter 46 M.G.L.
- For the powers and duties of the fire department we operate under Chapter 48 M.G.L.
- For elections we operate under Chapter 50-57 M.G.L.
- For taxation we operate under Chapters 58-64A M.G.L.
- For public records we operate under Chapter 66 M.G.L.
- For public education we operate under Chapter 70-71 M.G.L.
- For enforcement of public health we operate under Chapter 111 M.G.L.
- For public safety we operate under Chapter 148 M.G.L.
- For labor relations we operate under Chapter 150E M.G.L.
- For Workers Compensation we operate under Chapter 152 M.G.L.
- For Cable T.V. we operate under Chapter 166A M.G.L.

Furthermore, the following Special Acts of the Massachusetts Legislature are also a part of the current City Charter of the City of Revere:

- Chapter 199 of the Acts of 1923 Tenure of City Clerk
- Chapter 188 of the Acts of 1934 License Commission
- Chapter 215 of the Acts of 1938 Tenure of City Engineer
- Chapter 314 of the Acts of 1946 Tenure of City Collector
- Chapter 424 of the Acts of 1952 Election Commission
- Chapter 345 of the Acts of 1953 Tenure of City Planner
- Chapter 402 of the Acts of 1965 City Council Meetings
- Chapter 551 of the Acts of 1972 Fire Chief, Civil Service
- Chapter 66 of the Acts of 1973 Est. Purchasing Dept.
- Chapter 269 of the Acts of 1973 Terms of School Comm.
- Chapter 125 of the Acts of 1983 Traffic Commission
- Chapter 13 of the Acts of 1984 Traffic Commission
- Chapter 580 of the Acts of 1986 Oath of Office
- Chapter 498 of the Acts of 1989 Billiard Licenses

- Chapter 497 of the Acts of 1991 Liens
- Chapter 441 of the Acts of 1996 Motel Licenses
- Chapter 102 of the Acts of 2001 Appointment of Police Chief
- Chapter 147 of the Acts of 2004 Filing vacancies, Mayor, City Council, School Comm.
- Chapter 407 of the Acts of 2006 Second Hand Auto Licenses
- Chapter 180 of the Acts of 2006 Certain Park Land for School Purposes
- Chapter 221 of the Acts of 2008 Terms of Certain Bonds
- Chapter 319 of the Acts of 2008 Firefighter Reserve List
- Chapter 128 of the Acts of 2009 Tenure of the City Clerk, Collector, and Engineer
- Chapter 81 of the Acts of 2009 Elimination of the Primary Election in 2009
- Chapter 155 of the Acts of 2010 Second Hand Auto Licenses
- Chapter 183 of the Acts of 2011 Conveyance of Certain Parcels of Land
- Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2011 Filing Vacancies, Mayor
- Chapter 102 of the Acts of 2011 Elimination of the Primary Election 2011
- Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2012 Voting Precincts

Moreover, the Revised Ordinances of the City of Revere, which govern the general provisions and the powers and duties of the various departments and boards and commissions of the City of Revere, are also considered ancillary to the Charter of the City of Revere.

The Massachusetts General Laws and Session Laws are available to you, on-line, at <http://www.malegislature.gov/>. From this website you can find the copies of the General Laws of interest to you. The Massachusetts General Laws are also available for public inspection in the City Clerk's Office. The Special Acts of the General Court are also available for public inspection in the City Clerk's Office. The Revised Ordinances of the City of Revere are available to you, on-line www.municode.com.