

**Question 1:**

Charter Amendment to decide whether the city should do away with using party caucuses to nominate candidates for local offices. Without the caucus system, candidates will have to collect signatures to get their names on the ballot, which was already an option prior to the change.

Charter amendments require at least 30% of the total voters in the last November election to vote either yes or no on the question in order for the change to go into effect.

**Argument for YES**

- Westbrook is one of only 2 Maine municipality that uses party caucuses for local offices
- Caucuses are often poorly attended
- Caucuses may be more easily used by party insiders to influence which candidates get on the ballot
- May reduce partisanship in city governance

**Argument for NO**

- Caucuses are an opportunity for city residents to meet candidates and one another and exchange ideas
- 

**Question 2:**

Charter Amendment to raise the cap on the amount the city can spend without City Council approval from \$3000 to \$5000. The amount was last increased 22 years ago. School spending is not included.

Charter amendments require at least 30% of the total voters in the last November election to vote either yes or no on the question in order for the change to go into effect.

**Argument for YES:**

- The amount needs to keep pace with inflation
- Raising the limit will reduce the number of items on city council agendas

**Argument for NO:**

- Requiring city council oversight increases accountability for city spending

