

## Madalyn Letellier

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**From:** Y. S. [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 8, 2025 2:08 PM  
**To:** Public Comments; Mayor  
**Cc:** All City Council  
**Subject:** Mayor Ballantyne, please sign the Charter Reform Home Rule Petition

Dear Mayor Ballantyne,

I email today to urge you to sign the Council-approved Charter Reform Home Rule Petition and send it to the State House.

I am a Somerville resident, living in Ward 2, and I am invested in the betterment of our city. It is important to me that we modernize our charter and include the vital improvements outlined in the Home Rule Petition. It would be a shame if all the work of dozens of people over the past several years, and the progress enabled by this petition, was stalled any longer.

Please sign it, and send the Home Rule Petition to the State House, so it can be enacted by the Commonwealth and we can realize these improvements.

Thank you and best regards,

Yhiedania Santiago

## Madalyn Letellier

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**From:** Crystal Huff [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 8, 2025 4:53 PM  
**To:** Mayor; Mayor; City Clerk Contact; All City Council; Public Comments; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Please send the city charter along to the state ASAP.

Dear Mayor Ballantyne,

Speaking frankly, I no longer care if the mayoral term or the city council term is 2 years or 4 years. I think the length of terms should be the same for mayor and city council, but I no longer care which it is. There are more important issues to fret over right now, as I'm sure everyone reading this note is aware.

What I still passionately care about is that this process continue to make progress toward the goal of having the proposed charter on our ballot this fall. We didn't get the proposed language to the state by January's legislative deadline. We will have to call in favors if we want to get our charter addressed this year. If we can't get the charter to the state within the next week or two, **we aren't going to get it to the ballot until FALL OF 2027 at the earliest.**

The most recent iteration of Somerville's charter review committee was formed in late 2019/early 2020. The final report of that committee was presented to our city council in 2022. City council has sent multiple versions to your office, Mayor Ballantyne, over the past three years. I've attended countless public meetings as it has been discussed and dissected. The process has been extensive. *It should not take another two years!*

I am sympathetic to the fact that hard choices and potential risks are involved, with long-reaching implications and uncertainties.

**I am NOT sympathetic to inaction at this point.** If we do not get this charter on the fall ballot, we lose momentum and we lose the assistance from staff and electeds currently working with us. We may never get that back, once lost.

Please get it done. Thank you.

Best,

Crystal M. Huff  
Ward 5 resident  
Editor of [Recognize Fascism](#)  
[Gardening Collective](#) Coordinator, [Mutual Aid Medford And Somerville \("MAMAS"\)](#)

PS - This is definitely a public comment to be attached to the city council agenda.

## Madalyn Letellier

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**From:** Jeff Byrnes [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 8, 2025 11:23 AM  
**To:** Mayor  
**Cc:** Public Comments; All City Council  
**Subject:** Please sign & send Charter Reform to the State House

Mayor Ballantyne:

I write today to urge you to sign the Council-approved Charter Reform Home Rule Petition and send it to the State House.

Many members of our community have spent countless hours crafting the current version of Charter Reform before you, and it modernizes our Charter and introduces a number of vital improvements to how our City works.

Please sign it, and send the Home Rule Petition to the State House, so it can be enacted by the Commonwealth and we can realize these improvements.

Thank you.

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Jeff Byrnes  
[my.pronoun.is/he/him](https://my.pronoun.is/he/him)

[REDACTED]

## Madalyn Letellier

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**From:** Darci Hanna [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 9, 2025 12:32 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** Sign the Somerville Charter Revision

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Mayor Ballantyne,

Please sign the revised Somerville Charter immediately so that it can be enacted. It is long past time to update the city's charter and the changes it makes are important to modernizing our city's operations. Please don't throw away the years of work that have already occurred or continue to block this progress over mayoral term-limits, which can be addressed later.

Thank you,  
Darci Hanna

[REDACTED]  
Ward 4

## Madalyn Letellier

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**From:** megan foley [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 9, 2025 3:12 PM  
**To:** Mayor; Public Comments  
**Cc:** All City Council  
**Subject:** Somerville Charter

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Mayor,

I am writing today to ask that you sign the updated city charter. While I understand that not all issues are addressed in this charter, including a 4 year term for mayor I also understand that a good number of things ARE addressed in the charter. Additionally, there are other mechanisms for changing the term for the Mayor including additional charter updates. I do not think this is a sufficient reason to forgoe the improvements the updated charter would provide.

Regards,  
Megan Foley  
Ward 5  
[REDACTED] Somerville MA 02144