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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Town Council, Town of Lisbon

FROM: Kristin M. Collins

DATE: July 10, 2025

RE: **Language for Ballot re: Petitioned Charter Amendments**

The petitioned charter amendment to be considered at the Town Council's July 15, 2025 meeting is presented in a series of stricken through text that is proposed for deletion, and proposed new text. The amendments cover two subsections of Article VI, Section 6.04 of the Charter.

The formatting and length of the petitioned amendments may prove confusing to voters if reprinted verbatim on the municipal ballot. Title 30-A M.R.S. § 2104, which governs charter amendments, provides as follows:

> **6. Summary of amendment**. When the municipal officers determine that it is not practical to print the proposed amendment on the ballot and that a summary would not misrepresent the subject matter of the proposed amendment, the municipal officers shall include in their order a summary of the proposed amendment, prepared subject to the requirements of [Title 30-A] section 2105, subsection 3, paragraph C, and instruction to the clerk to include the summary on the ballot instead of the text of the proposed amendment.

I would advise the Council to order that a summary of the petitioned amendments be placed on the ballot. A proposed Council order is attached:

ORDER

OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN OF LISBON, MAINE

July 15, 2025

Upon receipt of a duly certified citizens petition for a charter amendment, the Town Council hereby orders that the following question to consider a petitioned request for charter amendment, as summarized pursuant to 30-A M.R.S. § 2104(6), be placed on the ballot for a municipal referendum to be held on November 4, 2025:

"Shall the municipality approve the charter amendment summarized below?

- Article VI, Section 6.04(c) is repealed, removing current language authorizing the Town Council to adopt the Manager's proposed municipal budget and the School Committee's proposed school budget with or without amendment.

- Article VI, Section 6.04(d) is repealed, removing current language requiring the Town Council to take a final vote on the town budget on or before the last Thursday of June, and providing that if the Council fails to adopt a budget by that date, the budget as presented by the Town Manager is implemented on a month to month basis until such time as a final budget is adopted.

- Article VI, Section 6.04(c) is amended to add new provisions summarized as follows:

    - A validation referendum must be held on the municipal budget on the second Tuesday of June.

    - If the budget is defeated at a first referendum attempt, a second referendum is called. Interim spending continues at the same level as the previous year's budget until the second referendum can be held.

    - If the budget is defeated at the second referendum attempt, the Town Council shall adopt the prior fiscal year's municipal budget, reduced in total by 33%.

The Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to take all actions necessary in furtherance of this order and in accordance with state law and the Town of Lisbon Charter."

So ordered.