

**Potential Definitions Section Entries**  
**(in *Incorporation, Powers, etc. or in General Provisions*)**

**Definitions**

Unless another meaning is clearly apparent from the manner in which the word or phrase is used, the following words and phrases as used in this charter shall have the following meanings:

Charter - The word "charter" shall mean the Amherst Home Rule Charter and includes any amendment to it hereafter adopted.

Emergency -The word "emergency" shall mean a sudden, unexpected, unforeseen happening, occurrence or condition which necessitates immediate action or response.

Ex-Officio – The word “ex-officio” by virtue or because of an office without the right to vote.

Full Council -The words "full Council" shall mean the entire authorized complement of the Town Council notwithstanding any vacancy which might exist.

general laws -The words "general laws" (all lower case letters) shall mean laws enacted by the state legislature which apply alike to all cities and towns, to all cities, or to a class of 2 or more cities, or cities and towns of which Amherst is a member.

General Laws -The words "General Laws" (initial letter of each word in upper case letters) shall mean the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, a codification and revision of statutes enacted on December 22, 1920, and including all amendments thereto subsequently adopted.

Initiative Petition -The words "initiative petition" shall mean a measure proposed by voters through the initiative process provided under this charter.

Law –The word “law” when used alone shall mean any statute enacted by the General Court of Massachusetts or any statute enacted by the Congress of the United States and whether otherwise called a General Law or a special law or a public law.

Local Newspaper -The words "local newspaper" shall mean a newspaper of general circulation within Amherst, with either a weekly or daily circulation.

Majority Vote -The words "majority vote" when used in connection with a meeting of a multiple member body shall mean a majority of those present and voting, unless another provision is made by charter, by bylaw, by law, or by its own rules.

Measure -The word "measure" shall mean any bylaw, order, resolution, or other vote or proceeding adopted, or which the Town Council might adopt.

Multiple Member Body -The words "multiple member body" shall mean any board, commission, committee, sub-committee or other body consisting of 3 or more persons whether elected, appointed or otherwise constituted, but not including the Town Council or the School Committee.

Organization plan or reorganization plan – The words “organization plan” or “reorganization plan” shall mean a plan submitted by the mayor to the council which proposes the abolition or consolidation of one or more municipal agencies, including the reassignment of functions from one agency to another, or the establishment of one or more new municipal agencies as deemed necessary to deliver one or more municipal services.

Quorum -The word "quorum" shall mean a majority of all members of a multiple member body unless some other number is required by law or by bylaw.

Referendum Measure -The words "referendum measure" shall mean a measure adopted by the Town Council that is protested by voters under the referendum procedures of this charter.

“Special act”: a law enacted by the state legislature which applies only to Amherst.

Supermajority - The word “supermajority” shall mean at least 5 members of a 7 member board or the Town Council or 4 members of a 5 member board or committee.

Temporary Absence – The words “temporary absence” shall mean a period after which the office holder intends to return to his or her office.

Town - The word "town" shall mean the Town of Amherst.

Town Agency -The words "town agency" shall mean any multiple member body, any department, division, or office of the Town of Amherst.

Town Bulletin Boards - The words "town bulletin boards" shall mean the bulletin board in the town hall on which the Town Clerk posts official notices of meetings and upon which other official town notices are posted, and the bulletin boards at any other locations as may be designated town bulletin boards by the Town Council.

Town website – The words “town website” shall mean a site established and maintained by the city as its online repository of municipal information, whether on the internet or accessed through electronic means or another comparable technology.

Vacancy- The word “vacancy” shall mean the permanent absence of an office holder from the position from which there is no intention that he or she shall return.

Voters -The word "voters" shall mean registered voters of the Town of Amherst.