

Possible scenario with 4 year overlapping terms

	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019
7:	XXXX	- - - -	XXXX	- - - -	YYYY
	YYY	YYX	- - - -	YYY	

In the first year, 7 are elected; 4 for a 4-year terms and 3 for 2-year terms. After that every person is elected for a 4 year term.

I have used x and y to denote 2 parties. It is possible that z would be a third, thus creating a double minority representation issue.

Now, consider what happens when candidates are fielded in the second (2013) year. It is possible that there would be nine candidates, but only one 'majority' and 2 'minority could be elected. Nothing changes (in my scenario) in 2015, but change starts to happen in 2017. This could be healthy. It could also generate heated debate – also healthy? The fact that winners will probably lose could cause rancor in the community.

I am aware of the argument that the first-time candidate elected to the Town Council can be somewhat overwhelmed at first as the councilor has so much to learn, and it takes probably ½ of the first year to become familiar with the process. However, Congressmen have the same situation as do State Senators and Reps and their constituencies are successively larger.

Why is Hebron the only other town in the state to have established 4 year overlapping terms? Canton will have 4 year (non-overlapping terms) as of 2011.

**Food for thought!**

Town	question	question	question
	4 yr terms - downside and why it has not been considered	Removing language re residency restriction	When do you hold your organizational meeting
Plymouth, CT	2 yrs - had a bad Mayor and did not want to have him in for 4 yrs	n/a - has a Mayor which the town feels is cheaper	Monday after election with new Town Council
Avon	happy with 2 yr terms	residency not required, but has to have Town Council approval	Town Council takes office in January
Meriden	has 12 Town Council - 6 elected to 4 yr term. Has staggered terms		
Hebron	has staggered terms - did not provide downside	No residency requirement	
Ellington	2 year terms	no proposal to remove residency requirement for First Selectman	
Salem	has Board of Selectmen with 4 yr terms	First Selectman has to reside in town	2 weeks after election they take office
Newington*	Issue never came up	residency requirement	week after election.
Southbury			first week after election
Wethersfield	4 yrs is too long of a commitment for a volunteer	residency requirement; they plan to look into superintendent having same requirement - recent dismal of superintendent and possible ethics issues	Monday after election with new Town Council. CGS requires recounts within 6 days after election.
Wolcott	2year term - Mayor/Town Council form of government		
North Branford	no staggered terms - 2 years issue never brought up	Town Manager must be resident	Tuesday following election with previous council's terms expiring on Tuesday following election
Vernon	never brought up for review	not addressed in charter	Monday following date of election
Cheshire	2 years no staggered term- not an issue	No residency requirement	organizational must occur no later than 7 days after its members take office. Town Council takes office first Monday in December.

Mansfield	no discussion about changing two year term	No residency requirement	changed charter to reflect organizational meeting will be at the next regular meeting of the Town Council.
Watertown	2 years no staggered term- not an issue		next regular meeting
*charter revision failed last February.			

## CHAPTER 96\*

### TOWN MANAGER

\*Cited. 103 C. 424.

#### Table of Contents

Sec. 7-98. Appointment, removal and salary of manager.

Sec. 7-99. Duties. Bond.

Sec. 7-99a. Appointment of departmental coordinators or deputy city or town managers and assistants.

Sec. 7-100. Approval or abandonment of town manager plan.

---

**Sec. 7-98. Appointment, removal and salary of manager.** Any town having a board of finance and which has adopted the provisions of this chapter as provided in section 7-100 may appoint a town manager. Such board shall nominate to the board of selectmen one or more persons for the office of town manager and the selectmen shall, within ten days from the date of such nomination, appoint from the list of nominees a suitable person, who shall have a practical and technical knowledge of road and bridge building, to be town manager, to hold office for a term of three years and until his successor is appointed and has qualified. Such manager may be removed from office by the board of finance, upon charges preferred by a majority vote of the board, after notice to such manager and a hearing upon such charges. Any vacancy in the office of manager shall be filled by the selectmen upon nomination by the board of finance. The board of finance shall fix the salary of such manager, which shall be payable in monthly installments.

(1949 Rev., S. 617.)

Cited. 128 C. 293.

Courts of equity are without jurisdiction to enjoin the appointment or removal of public officers. 9 CS 528.

(Return to  
Chapter Table of  
Contents)

(Return to  
List of  
Chapters)

(Return to  
List of  
Titles)

**Sec. 7-99. Duties. Bond.** The town manager shall exercise the powers and perform the duties in and for such town which are conferred and imposed by law upon selectmen, except such duties as relate to the making of electors. Such manager shall be limited as to expenditures made and liabilities incurred during the fiscal year to the appropriations made by the board of finance and approved by such town, except in case of actual necessity involving the immediate repair of a highway, bridge or sidewalk, and then such expenditure shall not exceed one thousand dollars. All bills against such town shall be certified by such manager and approved by the board of finance and, when so certified and approved, shall be paid by the treasurer of the town upon requisition of such manager. Such manager shall give such bond as is required by the board of finance, with sufficient surety, conditioned upon the faithful discharge of his duties. The premium upon such bond shall be paid by the town. On or before the first day of September in each year, such manager shall file, with the board of finance, an

itemized statement of his disbursements and receipts during the preceding fiscal year, with his vouchers therefor and an estimate of disbursements and receipts for the ensuing year. Such account shall be approved by the board of finance and filed with the town treasurer, who shall incorporate the same in his annual report.

(1949 Rev., S. 616; September, 1957, P.A. 11, S. 35.)

See Sec. 7-348 re limitations on expenditures.

Cited. 121 C. 298.

Cited. 9 CS 528.

<u>(Return to</u>	<u>(Return to</u>	<u>(Return to</u>
<u>Chapter Table of</u>	<u>List of</u>	<u>List of</u>
<u>Contents)</u>	<u>Chapters)</u>	<u>Titles)</u>

**Sec. 7-99a. Appointment of departmental coordinators or deputy city or town managers and assistants.** Any special act to the contrary notwithstanding, the legislative body of any town having a city or town manager as its chief executive officer, may, by ordinance, permit the chief executive officer to appoint (1) not more than six departmental coordinators to coordinate work of department heads and (2) a deputy city or town manager and assistants to such deputy. A departmental coordinator may be designated as a deputy city or town manager or as an assistant to such deputy. Any coordinator, deputy city or town manager or assistant to such deputy shall serve at the pleasure of the chief executive officer.

(P.A. 74-234; P.A. 91-370.)

History: P.A. 91-370 deleted provision limiting applicability to towns of 50,000 or more population, designated existing appointment authority as Subdiv. (1) and added new Subdiv. (2) concerning appointment by city or town manager of a deputy city or town manager and assistants and added language re designation of departmental director as deputy and re terms.

<u>(Return to</u>	<u>(Return to</u>	<u>(Return to</u>
<u>Chapter Table of</u>	<u>List of</u>	<u>List of</u>
<u>Contents)</u>	<u>Chapters)</u>	<u>Titles)</u>

**Sec. 7-100. Approval or abandonment of town manager plan.** Any town may, in the manner prescribed by section 9-369, vote to adopt the provisions of this chapter at any annual or special town meeting, provided such town may, in the same manner, at any annual meeting, not previous to the third meeting thereafter, vote to abandon the provisions of this chapter and reestablish the former town management.

(1949 Rev., S. 618; 1953, S. 246d.)