HOME RULE CHARTER

for

TOWN OF WASHINGTON, LOUISIANA

Mayor William Dwight Landreneau

Members: Alonzo Harris, Ricky Ducote, Pat Fontenot, Angela Leday,

Marilyn Jones Smith, Claudia Blanchard, Donna Dardeau

PREFACE

The Town of Washington Home Rule Charter Commission respectfully presents to the citizens of the Town of Washington this proposed home rule charter. This charter was drafted under the authority of Article VI, Section 5 of the Louisiana Constitution and LSA-R.S. 33:1395, as amended. The Town of Washington Home Rule Charter Commission hereby requests that the Washington Town Council set a referendum election on this Charter in connection with the general election scheduled for June 27, 2026.

The Town of Washington Home Rule Charter Commission

MEMBERS

Alonzo Harris

Ricky Ducote

Pat Fontenot

Angela Leday

Marilyn Jones Smith

Claudia Blanchard

Donna Dardeau

February 16, 2026
Date of Proposal and Submission

CERTIFICATE

I, Halli Polotzola, hereby certify that this Charter was debated and approved by unanimous vote of the members of this Home Rule Charter Commission.

2/16/2026
DATE

HALLI POLOTZOLA, Town Clerk

TOWN OF WASHINGTON HOME RULE CHARTER

ARTICLE I - INCORPORATION; FORM OF GOVERNMENT; BOUNDARIES; POWERS

ARTICLE I - SECTION 1: INCORPORATION, AUTHORITY, INTERPRETATION

The inhabitants of the Town of Washington within the corporate limits as established by law shall be and continue to be a body politic and corporate, under the name of "TOWN OF WASHINGTON" herein under referred to as the "TOWN".

The Town is a local governmental subdivision as defined by Article 6, Section 44 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974 (hereinafter referred to as the Constitution), which wishes to operate under a home rule charter. Subject to its charter, the Town is entitled to exercise any power and perform any function necessary, requisite or proper for the management of its local affairs.

This Home Rule Charter shall be liberally construed in aid of its declared intent which is to establish for the people of the Town of Washington effective home rule free from legislative interference in the structure and organization of its local government, and with the power and authority to manage its local affairs, all as contemplated and intended by the provisions of Article 6, Section 5 and 6 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974.

This charter shall be construed, so as to grant any additional power, including the power to levy taxes beyond that which is already provided by the Lawrason Act or any other Constitutional or State law provisions applicable to Lawrason Act Municipalities. Those powers not listed in this Charter and not in direct contravention of said Charter shall be governed and provided by under the Lawrason Act. All powers granted to the Mayor and Council of a Lawrason Act municipality shall be granted to the Mayor and Council of the Town of Washington provided these powers are not inconsistent with the content and intent of this Charter.

ARTICLE I - SECTION 2: FORM OF GOVERNMENT

The municipal government provided by this Charter shall be known as the Mayor-Council form of government. It shall consist of an executive and a legislative branch of government. Headed by the office of an elected Mayor, the executive branch shall direct the departmental operations in conformity with law. The legislative branch shall be an elected Town Council.

ARTICLE I - SECTION 3: BOUNDARIES

The boundaries of the Town shall be those as originally set forth by original order or decree and as amended by annexation Ordinances adopted thereafter. Changes in the Town's boundaries shall be made in accordance with applicable state general law.

ARTICLE I - SECTION 4: POWERS; GENERAL AND SPECIAL

A. GENERAL POWERS: The Town shall have and continue to have all powers, rights, privileges, immunities and authority granted to or possessed by the Town under this Home Rule Charter and the general law of the State, and shall further have and exercise such other and additional powers, rights, privileges, immunities, authority and functions as may be conferred on or granted to municipalities adopting a Home Rule Charter under the provisions of Article 6 of the Constitution; provided that the specific mention of particular powers in this chapter shall not operate to limit in any way the general powers granted herein and further provided that reference to the Constitution herein shall not be construed as a relinquishment or surrender of any rights, privileges of immunities heretofore acquired by the Town by virtue of the adoption of this Home Rule Charter.

B. SPECIAL POWERS: The Town shall have all rights, powers, and authority to exercise general police power, and to this end the Town Council is specially empowered to pass all ordinances required or necessary to promote, protect and preserve the general welfare, safety, health, peace, and good order of the Town, including, but not by way of limitation, the right, power and authority to pass ordinances on all subject matter necessary requisite or proper for the management of the Town's local affairs, and all other subject matters without exception, subject only to the limitation that the same not be expressly denied by the Constitution or by general law applicable to the Town or by this charter.

ARTICLE I - SECTION 5: POWERS OF ENFORCEMENT

For the purpose of carrying out the powers generally or specifically conferred on the Town, the Town Council shall have the power to grant franchises, to require licenses and permits and fix fees to be paid therefore, to charge compensation for any privilege or franchises granted or service rendered, and to provide penalties for the violation of any ordinance or regulation. All utility and other service charges presently in effect shall remain in full force until changed or modified by the Town Council. All license fees or license taxes shall remain in full force until changed or modified by the Town Council.

ARTICLE I - SECTION 6: POWER TO LEVY TAXES

The Town Council will have the power to perform any function necessary, requisite or proper for the management of its affairs shall specifically include the power to levy and collect taxes and to assume indebtedness as provided by the Constitution, Louisiana Revised Statutes and all other applicable law.

All tax measures proposed after this charter has received voter approval shall require a public hearing one month prior to passage and at least a three-fifths vote of the entire Council membership. All taxes of the Town in force prior to the effective date of this Home Rule Charter shall remain in force and effect until amended or repealed by the Town Council or until they expire by their own terms.

ARTICLE I - SECTION 7: INTERGOVERMENTAL COOPERATION

The Town is authorized to exercise and perform any of its authorized powers and functions, including the financing thereof with one or more political subdivisions (as defined by Article 6, Section 44 of the Constitution), with State or its agencies, or with the United States or its agencies.

ARTICLE I - SECTION 8: ORDINANCES; PRIOR ACTIONS

All Ordinances and Resolutions administrative rules and regulations of the Town in force prior to the effective date of this Home Rule Charter shall remain in full force and effect until amended or repealed by the Town Council or until they expire by their own terms.

ARTICLE II -THE COUNCIL

ARTICLE II - SECTION 1: DECLARED GOVERNING AUTHORITY

The Town Council shall be the legislative branch of government and shall be the governing authority of the Town for purposes of legislation and policy making.

ARTICLE II - SECTION 2: COMPOSITION

The Town Council shall consist of five members. A Council member shall be elected to each of the four separate and distinct voting districts, known as districts "one" "two" "three" and "four" of the Town pursuant to the current districts in existence at the time of this Charter. The fifth Council district shall be an "at-large" district comprised of the entire corporate limits of the Town. The Council members shall be elected to a term of four years in accordance with the election laws of the State, the Lawrason Act, and the provisions of this Charter.

ARTICLE II - SECTION 3: QUALIFICATIONS

A Council Member shall have the following qualifications:

A candidate for Council Member shall be a qualified elector, shall be legally domiciled and shall have continuously resided within the district he/she represents for at least one (1) year immediately preceding the time of qualification. A candidate for Council Member shall continue to be legally domiciled and to actually reside within the Town and the district he/she represents.

A candidate for Council Member ceasing to possess these qualifications or being charged with a felony shall be disqualified. A candidate for Council Member shall hold no other public office for which they shall receive remuneration except that of notary public or membership in the Armed Forces of the United States of America. The death, resignation, permanent disability, removal by any lawful means or failure to take office of any candidate shall maintain the vacancy in the office.

ARTICLE II - SECTION 4: COMPENSATION

The four District Council Members shall receive Six Hundred and 00/100 ($600.00) and the Council at Large Member shall receive Eight Hundred and 00/100 ($800.00) per month as compensation.

ARTICLE II - SECTION 5: VACANCIES

Vacancies in the office of Council Member shall be filled by Council appointment. If the unexpired term is greater than one (1) year, an election shall be held at the earliest election date provided for such election by the laws of the State of Louisiana. A Council member convicted of a felony, or who fails to remain qualified, or change legal domicile and/or residence change from district or residence in the Town, the member's office shall automatically become vacant.

ARTICLE II - SECTION 6: ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

Each Council shall elect one of the Council Members to be Mayor Pro Tempore who shall preside at all meetings in the absence of the Mayor as per Article III Section 5 "Mayor's Temporary Absence".

ARTICLE II - SECTION 7: COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Mayor and Council shall hold not less than one regular meeting in each month on a date and place and hour to be fixed by Ordinance. The Mayor and Council may hold more than one meeting per month. The Council shall give public notice of the contents of any change in this Ordinance pursuant to R.S. 42:19. The public shall be offered the opportunity to address the Council prior to the taking of any action on any matter listed on the agenda for that meeting.

ARTICLE II - SECTION 8: PRESIDING OFFICER

The Mayor shall preside at all meetings of the Council and in case there is an equal division or tie vote, he shall give the deciding vote.

ARTICLE II - SECTION 9: QUORUM

A majority of the full Council shall constitute a quorum of the Council at any meeting, whether regular, special, or emergency.

A meeting, whether regular, special or emergency may be continued to another date announced at the meeting with the consent of majority of the Council Members. A regular, special or emergency meeting that fails for want of a quorum may be continued to a date announced at the meeting with consent of the majority of Council Members present, or if only one entire Council Member is present, to the date he announces, but a meeting that fails for want of a quorum shall not be continued but once.

ARTICLE II - SECTION 10: OPEN MEETINGS LAW

All meetings of the Council shall be subject to the provisions of R.S. Title 42, et seq.

ARTICLE II - SECTION 11: RULES OF PROCEDURE

The Council shall adopt rules and regulations governing its own organization and business, petitions, hearings and like matters.

ARTICLE II - SECTION 12: ENACTMENT, RECORDING, AND PUBLICATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

The Town shall follow Louisiana RS 33:406 to regulate the enactment, recording, and publication of ordinances and resolutions.

ARTICLE II - SECTION 13: INVESTIGATION OF TOWN AGENCIES

The Council, a committee of the Council or a committee authorized by the Council may investigate the operations of any employee, public officer, or agency of the Town government or any agency which derives or accepts support from appropriations made by the Council. In such investigation a member of the Council Committee or Committee authorized by the Council may administer oath, subpoena witnesses and compel the production of records. Enforcement of this section may be obtained through the State District Court.

ARTICLE II - SECTION 14: EMPLOYMENT, QUALIFICATION OF AUDITOR, AUDITING PROCEDURE, SUBMISSION TO THE COUNCIL

The Council shall execute a contract each year with a certified public accountant or a firm of certified public accountants for an examination of the accounts of the Town to include all funds appropriated or approved by the Council. The contractee shall not be a public officer, official or employee, nor shall he/she hold any political office or be an officer, an employee of a political party or organization. The audit report shall be tendered to the Council through the Clerk.

ARTICLE III – THE MAYOR

ARTICLE III - SECTION 1: DUTIES

The Mayor and his/her department shall comprise the executive department and he shall be the chief executive officer who shall direct the department operations in conformity with the legislation passed by the Council; make appointments as required by this Charter and State law; sign all contracts on behalf of the Town; issue proclamations; represent the Town on all occasions where representation is required by resolution, ordinance, state law or this Charter; authorize custody of the seal for the Town and perform any other duty that may be required of him/her.

ARTICLE III - SECTION 2: ELECTION TERMS

The Mayor shall be elected according to the election laws of the State for a four (4) year term concurrent with that of the Council.

ARTICLE III - SECTION 3: QUALIFICATIONS

The candidate for Mayor shall be a qualified elector and domiciled in the Town and shall hold no other elected office. If the candidate for Mayor shall be charged with a felony, the candidate for Mayor shall immediately become disqualified.

ARTICLE III - SECTION 4: COMPENSATION

The salary of the Mayor shall be determined by ordinance. The Mayor may be compensated for actual expenses when on official business of the Town. The Council may by Ordinance increase or decrease Mayor's compensation. However, the Council shall not reduce the compensation for the Mayor during the term for which he/she is elected.

ARTICLE III - SECTION 5: MAYOR'S TEMPORARY ABSENCE

When there is a temporary absence of the Mayor from the Town, the Mayor shall designate the Mayor Pro Tempore as acting Mayor. If the Mayor Pro Tempore is unavailable to serve, the Mayor shall designate a Council Member as acting Mayor.

While serving as acting Mayor, the Mayor Pro Tempore shall continue to have a vote as a Council Member.

ARTICLE III - SECTION 6: VACANCY

If the Mayor is convicted of a felony, fails to remain qualified, or changes legal domicile and/or actual residence changes in the Town, the Mayor's office shall automatically become vacant. A vacancy shall also be created by death, resignation, removal by any means in accordance with state law or failure to take office.

In the event of a vacancy in the office of Mayor when the term will expire in less than one (1) year, the Council shall appoint a Mayor by majority vote of the Council Membership to serve the remainder of the unexpired term of office.

If the unexpired term of office shall be for a greater period than one (1) year, a special election to be held at the earliest election date permitted by State law shall be called to fill the vacancy.

ARTICLE III - SECTION 7: LOCATION OF MAYOR'S OFFICE

The Mayor shall maintain his/her office in the Town Hall.

ARTICLE III - SECTION 8: MAYOR'S COURT

There shall be a Mayor's Court in the municipality, with jurisdiction over all violations of municipal ordinances. The Mayor's Court shall follow the provisions and protocol directed under the Lawrason Act.

The Mayor may try misdemeanor breaches of the Ordinances and impose fines or imprisonment or both, for the infraction thereof. The Mayor may appoint, and upon confirmation of the Council, an Attorney who shall serve as Court Magistrate designated by the Mayor to serve in his stead as the official over the Mayor's Court.

ARTICLE III - SECTION 9: APPOINTMENT OF CLERK AND GENERAL DUTIES

The Mayor shall appoint a Town Clerk with approval of the Council. The qualifications of the Town Clerk shall be a CPA or have a minimum of five (5) years' experience in an administrative, legal secretary/paralegal, accounting, or other equivalent executive capacity. The Clerk shall give notice of all meetings, keep records or proceedings, record and authenticate actions of the Council, and perform all other actions required by State Law and this Charter. The Clerk shall be supervised by the Mayor and shall comply with orders and regulations issued by the Mayor. The Mayor shall have exclusive right to supervise, suspend or dismiss the Clerk for incompetence, neglect of duty, immorality, drunkenness, drug abuse, failure to obey orders given by proper authority, or for any other just and reasonable cause. The suspension may be with or without pay.

The Clerk shall be the ex-officio notary for the Town and shall have the ability to affix the Town seal to municipal documents as directed by the Mayor. The Clerk shall serve as the Tax Collector for the Town of Washington.

ARTICLE III - SECTION 10: PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR

The Mayor shall appoint a Public Works Supervisor with approval of the Council. The qualifications of the Public Works Supervisor shall be a minimum of five (5) years' experience in public works, civil engineering, or related fields, with supervisory or management experience. The Public Works Supervisor shall manage all regulatory compliance and reporting requirements of the Utility Services according to State Law and applicable regulations. The Public Works Supervisor shall be supervised by the Mayor and shall comply with orders and regulations issued by the Mayor. The Mayor shall have exclusive right to supervise, suspend or dismiss the Public Works Supervisor for incompetence, neglect of duty, immorality, drunkenness, drug abuse, failure to obey orders given by proper authority, or for any other just and reasonable cause. The suspension may be with or without pay.

ARTICLE III - SECTION 11: THE POLICE CHIEF

The Police Chief of the Town shall be appointed and subject to termination by the Mayor with approval of the Council. While the Mayor is the supervisory authority in administrative matters, an appointed chief of police retains the powers and duties as the chief law enforcement officer according to La. R.S. 33:423 (A). Accordingly, because La. R.S. 44:3 exempts records of

criminal investigations and prosecutions from public records requests, and because a Mayor's authority over an appointed chief pertains to administrative matters and not the department's law enforcement functions, an appointed chief's investigative records are not subject to a Mayor's review. (AGO 16-0188) The Police Chief shall be supervised by the Mayor and shall comply with orders and regulations issued by the Mayor. The Mayor shall have exclusive right to supervise, suspend or dismiss the Police Chief for incompetence, neglect of duty, immorality, drunkenness, drug abuse, failure to obey orders given by proper authority, or for any other just and reasonable cause. The suspension may be with or without pay.

To be qualified for appointment, as Chief of Police, an individual candidate shall be a Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) certified law enforcement officer or have at least five (5) years' law enforcement experience and obtain the POST certification within 1 year.[1]

Any Chief of Police ceasing to possess POST certification or being convicted with a felony shall be disqualified, thus creating a vacancy in the office of Chief of Police.

The Chief of Police shall hold no other public office for which he/she shall receive remuneration except that of notary of the public or membership in the Armed Forces of the United States of America, the death, resignation, permanent disability, removal by any lawful means or failure to take office of the Chief of Police shall create a vacancy in the office.

The Police Chief shall have general responsibility for law enforcement in the Municipality and shall be charged with the enforcement of all Ordinances of the municipality and all applicable State Law. The Chief of Police shall supervise police personnel and prescribe rules and regulations for management of the Police Department.

The Police Chief's compensation shall be established by contract negotiated by the Mayor within the budget approved by the Town Council.

ARTICLE III - SECTION 12: HIRING, SUSPENSION, REMOVAL OF POLICE PERSONNEL

The Mayor shall approve all hiring, suspension and removal of Police Personnel in compliance with applicable state law.

ARTICLE III - SECTION 13: APPOINTMENT OF TOWN ATTORNEY

The Town Attorney shall be a Louisiana licensed attorney with at least five (5) years' experience in the practice of law, appointed by the Mayor with consent of the Council.

[1] La.R.S. 40:2405.

ARTICLE IV – FINANCE

ARTICLE IV - SECTION 1: FISCAL YEAR

The Town's fiscal year shall begin July first and shall end June thirtieth, unless changed by Ordinance.

ARTICLE IV - SECTION 2: BUDGET PREPARATION, SUBMISSION OF BUDGET

The Town shall follow the Louisiana Budget Act RS 39:1301-1315. The Mayor, with the assistance of the Clerk, any other designee, or consultant, shall be responsible for the operating budget showing all estimated revenues for each fund, a statement showing the fiscal condition of each fund, an estimate of the total revenues and expenditures from said fund, and the budget requests from the units together with the expenditure level of the past year. The budget will be submitted according to the Louisiana Budget Act to the Council and made available for citizens.

ARTICLE IV - SECTION 3: ADOPTING OF BUDGET

After a public hearing has been advertised and held, the budget shall be adopted not later than the last Council meeting prior to the beginning of the fiscal year. If the Council fails to adopt a budget for the ensuing fiscal year, the Town government is permitted to operate on the previous budget for the first six months of the ensuing fiscal year.

ARTICLE IV – SECTION 4: EFFECT OF ADOPTING BUDGET, CHARGES AND TRANSFERS, REPORTS BY MAYOR

Passage of the budget Ordinance shall constitute revenue levies and appropriations within the terms of the budget classifications. Additional appropriations may be made by the Council at any time, provided that the Mayor shall certify that there is available an unencumbered and un-appropriated surplus from which such appropriation can legally be made. The Clerk shall report to the Council and to the Mayor monthly on the budget administration. This report shall be submitted prior to the first regular Council meeting of the month succeeding the month being reported on.

ARTICLE IV - SECTION 5: LAPSE OF APPROPRIATIONS

All appropriations, except capital appropriations, shall lapse at the end of the year, the monies remaining in their respective funds.

ARTICLE IV - SECTION 6: BONDED INDEBTEDNESS AUTHORIZED, FEASIBILTY REPORT REQUIRED

The Town of Washington is empowered to incur bonded indebtedness in accordance with the Constitution and laws of the State. No Ordinance shall be adopted calling for a referendum to incur a bonded indebtedness until first level environmental, engineering and economic feasibility reports have been made to the Council at least sixty (60) days prior to the proposed date of the election.

ARTICLE IV - SECTION 7: REVENUE BONDS

All proposals for the issuance of revenue bonds must be approved by the majority of the voters of the Town voting in a referendum called for that purpose for the bond measure to be approved.

ARTICLE IV- SECTION 8: PROCUREMENT

Procurement of all property, supplies, materials, and services shall be in accordance with applicable State Law and Council Policy and administrative requirements and shall be in accordance with established standards and specifications.

ARTICLE IV - SECTION 9: FRANCHISED AND INDETERMINATE PERMITS

All franchise or indeterminate permits shall be awarded only after properly advertised public hearings. Franchised or indeterminate permits shall be awarded only for monetary consideration. Public utility franchises shall be awarded only in accordance with applicable state law.

ARTICLE IV- SECTION 10: BONDS OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

The Mayor, the Clerk, the water and gas clerk and all other employees or officials of the Town who directly manage or have access to the Town's fund shall be bonded in the amount determined by the Mayor, in accordance with any applicable state law or regulation. Employee bonding shall be at the Town's expense.

ARTICLE V - CONTINUATION OF ELECTED OFFICIALS; ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS; PRIOR CHARTER PROVISIONS

ARTICLE V - SECTION 1: PRIOR ORDINANCES

All existing Ordinances, resolutions, and administrative rules and regulations not in conflict with this Charter shall remain in full force and effect until they are amended, repealed or expire by their own terms. The Mayor, Police Chief and members of the present Council shall continue to serve in their present offices for the remainder of their elective terms.

ARTICLE V – SECTION 2: ELECTED OFFICIALS

All officials elected prior to the passage of this charter, shall continue to serve under the previous form of government until this charter becomes effective, and thereafter be sworn to office under the provisions of this charter.

ARTICLE V - SECTION 3: EFFECTIVE DATE OF CHARTER

This Charter shall become effective upon promulgation of the referendum at which this Charter is approved by a majority of those electors of the Town of Washington voting in such referendum, and as certified by the Louisiana Secretary of State.

ARTICLE V - SECTION 4: EXISTING RIGHTS CONTINUED IN EFFECT

Legal actions, proceeding, contracts, obligations due the Town and all allied, kindred, and associated matters shall continue unaffected and remain pending regardless of the adoption of this Charter.

ARTICLE V – SECTION 5: SEVERABILITY

If any of this Home Rule Charter is declared invalid for any reason, that invalid provision shall not affect the validity of this entire Home Rule Charter, or any other provision thereof, and the remainder of this Charter and its applicability shall not be affected thereby. In the event the courts of the State of Louisiana, or of the United States of America, formally reject any provision of this Charter, the same Charter Commission which was appointed by the Town Council to adopt this Charter shall meet as soon as possible thereafter for the sole purpose of addressing the objections raised by the courts and shall submit to the Town Council with sixty (60) days upon receipt of such disapproval, make amendments to this Charter to overcome the objections raised. The Town Council shall submit the amendments to the electorate for the adoption in a referendum election to be held at the earliest election dated permitted by State Law. Any such amendments shall become effective immediately upon promulgation of the results of the referendum approving it.

ARTICLE VI: MISCELLANEOUS

ARTICLE VI - SECTION 1: COMPENSATION OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

All members of boards and commissions shall serve without pay or compensation; except that by Ordinance, the Council may authorize reimbursement of members for actual expenses incurred on official business of the Town.

ARTICLE VI - SECTION 2: CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officers, officials, Council members, commission members or employees of the Town shall have an interest directly or indirectly in any contract, lease, franchise, concession or service to the Town or shall profit therefrom. Be it further provided that anyone listed above may provide goods or services to the Town in the ordinary and customary course of business provided these goods or services do not require Council approval or written contract. Be it further provided that the Council, by majority vote, may terminate any type of business relationship between the Town and any person indicated herein.

No privilege, rebate, reduced rate or any other type of monetary gain may be directly or indirectly solicited or received by any officer, official or employee of the Town from any person doing business with the Town. Any violation of the provisions of this section shall be punished in the discretion of the Mayor's Court as a misdemeanor up to the maximum fined and imprisonment permitted by law. Any member of the Council or commission who has a personal interest either directly or indirectly in any matter before the Council, or commission or committees thereof shall make public and vow the same and recuse himself from voting. The Town Council shall adopt the Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics by Ordinance, in which

event said Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics shall supersede the provisions of this section, insofar as this section is in conflict therewith.

ARTICLE VI - SECTION 3: RECONSTITUTION OF GOVERNMENT AFTER WAR OR DISASTER

In the event of war or public disaster that incapacitates the Mayor and a majority of the Council, the remaining members of the government may act on an emergency basis and appoint such other officials as are necessary to reconstitute a government of the Town. It shall be the intent of this section that these emergency powers shall subsist only so long as an emergency exists and that regularly constituted elections shall be held as soon as it is judicially determined that conditions permit their being held.

ARTICLE VI – SECTION 4: HISTORICAL PRESERVATION

Subject to uniform procedures established by law, the Town may (1) adopt regulations for land use, zoning, and historic preservation, which authority is declared to be a public purpose; (2) create commissions and districts to implement those regulations; (3) review decisions of any such commission; and (4) adopt standards for use, construction, demolition, and modification of areas and structures.

ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENTS; REPLACEMENT OR REPEAL OF CHARTER, BALLOT FORM OF CHARTER

ARTICLE VII - SECTION 1: REFERENDUM REQUIRED TO REPLACE, REPEAL OR AMEND CHARTER, BALLOT FORM OF CHARTER

(A) This Charter may be replaced or repealed in the same manner provided by State Law for the adoption of Home Rule Charter, particularly Louisiana Revised Statutes, Section 33:1395.

(B) Proposed amendments to this Home Rule Charter may be made as follows:

1. By Ordinance of the Town of Council passed by four fifths (4/5) majority vote of the Town Council. The veto provision of this Charter shall not apply. All such amendments shall be submitted to the electorate of the Town of Washington for adoption at the earliest election date permitted by State Law subsequent to the date of publications of same.
2. By recommendation of amendments by a Charter Commission. The Charter Commission shall consist of not less than seven (7) nor more than eleven (11) members who shall be appointed by the Mayor with the Town Council's majority consent. The Charter Commission shall take office immediately upon appointment and shall submit to the Town Council proposed amendments to the Charter within ninety (90) days of taking office.

(C) The term of Charter Commission members shall automatically expire if no Proposal is submitted to the Town Council within ninety (90) days.

(D) The full text of any proposed amendments shall be published at least once in the official journal of the Town of Washington, as soon as possible after such amendments are proposed by Ordinance by the Town Council. Such publication shall be within thirty (30) days. The ballot form for the referendum on this proposed Charter shall be:

"Shall the Home Rule Charter for the Town of Washington, prepared by the duly appointed charter commission, said plan being prepared according to Article VI, Section 5 (B) of the Constitution of Louisiana, and Louisiana revised statutes section 33:1395 and applicable law be adopted?"

YES NO

ARTICLE VIII – CERTIFICATES

We hereby certify that this Home Rule Charter, as amended and restated, was duly approved by the Town Council on February 16, 2026.

Beau Wilson, Council Member

Rogers Malveaux, Council Member

Tanya Doucet, Council Member

Mary Lavergne, Council Member

Erick Fontenot, Council Member-at-Large

We further certify that the Home Rule Charter was approved on June 27, 2026, by a majority vote of the electors of the Town of Washington.

Beau Wilson, Council Member

Rogers Malveaux, Council Member

Tanya Doucet, Council Member

Mary Lavergne, Council Member

Erick Fontenot, Council Member-at-Large