

City Council's role is as important as ever

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While New London prepares for a historic election on Nov. 8, voters should approach the City Council elections with as much consideration and scrutiny as they will apply to the elected mayor race.

Charter revision, overwhelmingly approved by voters last year, created a powerful elected mayor position, but also included a number of checks and balances to be administered by the City Council. Included among these is City Council authority and responsibility to:

- Approve mayoral appointments for the director of law, the Water and Water Pollution Control Authority, and other officers and employees not specifically reserved for the mayor by the charter.
- Set the mayor's salary and define any absence or disability as referenced in the charter.
- Obtain and act upon legal opinions from the director of law.
- Investigate conduct of city departments or offices.
- Establish or discontinue city departments exclusive of the departments of law and finance.
- Pass ordinances, including the annual appropriation ordinances after the mayor's submittal, which if vetoed could still be approved with a vote of six city councilors.

In the era of elected mayor, the role of the City Council will be as important as ever. Vote this Election Day with this in mind.

Editor's note: The writer is a member of the New London City Council seeking re-election.