

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE VALUES STATEMENT

We seek to revise the Somerville Charter to make our government more just, empowering, responsive and innovative for its residents.

- **To be just**, our city government should be structured in a way that fosters equity, fairness, inclusivity, and accessibility. It should encourage government officials to care for our most vulnerable residents, serve diverse needs, and seek social and environmental justice.
- **To be empowering**, our city government should provide avenues of engagement for as many of our residents as possible, including those who do not typically participate in governance. It should use inclusive language and give agency to all our residents.
- **To be responsive**, our city government should be approachable by our residents and accountable to our residents. It should be structured in a way that is logical and transparent while allowing the city to effectively and efficiently respond to problems that occur.
- **To be innovative**, we should seek creative solutions in our charter, and we should structure our city government so that it can adapt as required to respond equitably and efficiently to needs that may arise in the future.