

**SYNOPSIS OF  
PROVISIONS OF  
CONNECTICUT  
CITY CHARTERS**

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Synopsis of Provisions of Connecticut City Charters by Various

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**VARIOUS**

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SYN.

## INFORMATION REGARDING THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF WILLIMANTIC.

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1. Full corporate name? City of Willimantic.
2. Population in 1900? 8,937.
3. Present estimated population? 9,500.
4. Give the volumes and pages of the Private Acts in which the charter and its amendments, as now in force, are to be found. XI, 1111; XII, 208-580; XIII, 1025; XIV, 230-666.
5. Are the limits of the city the same as those of the town in which it is situated? No. The city covers not more than one-fifth of the territory of the town.
6. Have the town and city governments been consolidated? No.
7. Have the school districts within the city limits been consolidated with the city, so as to bring the schools under the city government? No. Consolidated under the town government.
8. If not, how many separate districts or parts of districts are there within the city limits? Two, but consolidated under town management.
9. Does the charter provide for a city meeting of the electors, otherwise than for voting for city officers? Yes, for laying tax and making appropriations. (Sec. 25-6.)
10. Are town meetings held in and for the town in which the city is situated? Yes.
11. Are school district meetings so held? No.

12. By what body are city taxes laid? City in city meeting. (Sec. 26.)
13. Does the city maintain a public library? Yes.
14. Does the city maintain a public bath house? No.
15. Does the city maintain one or more public parks? No.  
Owns a tract of land for park but practically unused.
16. Does the city own and operate its water works? Yes.
17. Does the city own and operate its gas plant? No.
18. Does the city own and operate an electric light plant? No.
19. What, if any, other "public utilities" are owned and operated by the city? None.
20. Does the legislative body consist of one board, or two? One.
21. When and how often are city elections held? Biennially 1st Mon. Dec. (See p. 667 S. A. 1905, Sec. 2.)
22. What city officers are elected by the people? Mayor, 3 aldermen at large, clerk, treasurer, sheriff, 2 auditors, 3 assessors. Four ward aldermen by 4 wards. (Sec. 2.)
23. What city officers are appointed by the Mayor? Superintendent of streets, superintendent of water works, chief and 3 asst. engineers of fire dept., collector of taxes and assessments, corporation counsel.
24. Are his appointments subject to confirmation by the legislative body? Yes.
25. Has the mayor a veto power over the doings of the legislative body? Yes. See Sec. 18 of charter.
26. Are matters of police and fire service, public works, etc., in the hands of separate departments, recognized by the charter, or of committees of the legislative body? Committees of Common Council.



27. If of departments, are they single-headed?
28. If not, of how many members do they consist?
29. Is there a City Court? Yes. (Police Court.)
30. How are its judges appointed? General Assembly.
31. Does it have both civil and criminal jurisdiction? No.  
Criminal only.
32. Is your charter in general satisfactory to the citizens?  
See statement below.
33. What changes, if any, are generally desired? The charter was amended in 1905 to provide for a one-board instead of a two-board system. The change has not been in effect long enough to determine if it is satisfactory or what, if any, other changes are advisable. Think it will be satisfactory in a general way.
34. In your opinion, would public sentiment in your city sanction the adoption of a uniform charter for all cities, even though it differed widely from your own? Probably, if the uniform charter were well adapted to a city of such small size.
35. Please give an abstract of the principal features of your charter, paying especial attention to its financial system, the powers and duties of the mayor, the powers of the legislative body, and the limitations of indebtedness, if any. The financial management is vested in the common council without charter limitations, appropriations for the several purposes being made by city meeting on recommendations of the council. No limitation by charter on indebtedness. The mayor has few powers except of veto and appointment as above noted, and the ordinary police and other similar powers of mayor. The powers of the common council cover quite thoroughly all the functions of a city of our size and the charter provisions in this respect are broad.

## INFORMATION REGARDING THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF NEW BRITAIN.

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1. Full corporate name? New Britain.
2. Population in 1900? 29,000.
3. Present estimated population? 35,000.
4. Give the volumes and pages of the Private Acts in which the charter and its amendments, as now in force, are to be found.
5. Are the limits of the city the same as those of the town in which it is situated? Yes.
6. Have the town and city governments been consolidated? Yes.
7. Have the school districts within the city limits been consolidated with the city, so as to bring the schools under the city government? Board of Education of city.
8. If not, how many separate districts or parts of districts are there within the city limits?
9. Does the charter provide for a city meeting of the electors, otherwise than for voting for city officers? Yes.
10. Are town meetings held in and for the town in which the city is situated? No.
11. Are school district meetings so held? No.
12. By what body are city taxes laid? City meeting.
13. Does the city maintain a public library? Appropriates \$4,000.00 annually.
14. Does the city maintain a public bath house? No.

15. Does the city maintain one or more public parks?  
Owns one, maintained by private bequest.
16. Does the city own and operate its water works? Yes.
17. Does the city own and operate its gas plant? No.
18. Does the city own and operate an electric light plant?  
No.
19. What, if any, other "public utilities" are owned and operated by the city? Cemetery.
20. Does the legislative body consist of one board, or two?  
Two.
21. When and how often are city elections held? Biennial, city officers. Annual, aldermen and council.
22. What city officers are elected by the people? Mayor, city clerk, treasurer, collector, auditor, and school committee.
23. What city officers are appointed by the Mayor? Board of compensation and assessment, public works, public safety, charity commission, park commission, cemetery committee, health commission.
24. Are his appointments subject to confirmation by the legislative body? Yes.
25. Has the mayor a veto power over the doings of the legislative body? Yes.
26. Are matters of police and fire service, public works, etc., in the hands of separate departments, recognized by the charter, or of committees of the legislative body? Are recognized by charter as separate departments.
27. If of departments, are they single-headed? No.
28. If not, of how many members do they consist? From 3 to 6.
29. Is there a City Court? Yes.
30. How are its judges appointed? Legislature.