



TOWN OF ESSEX

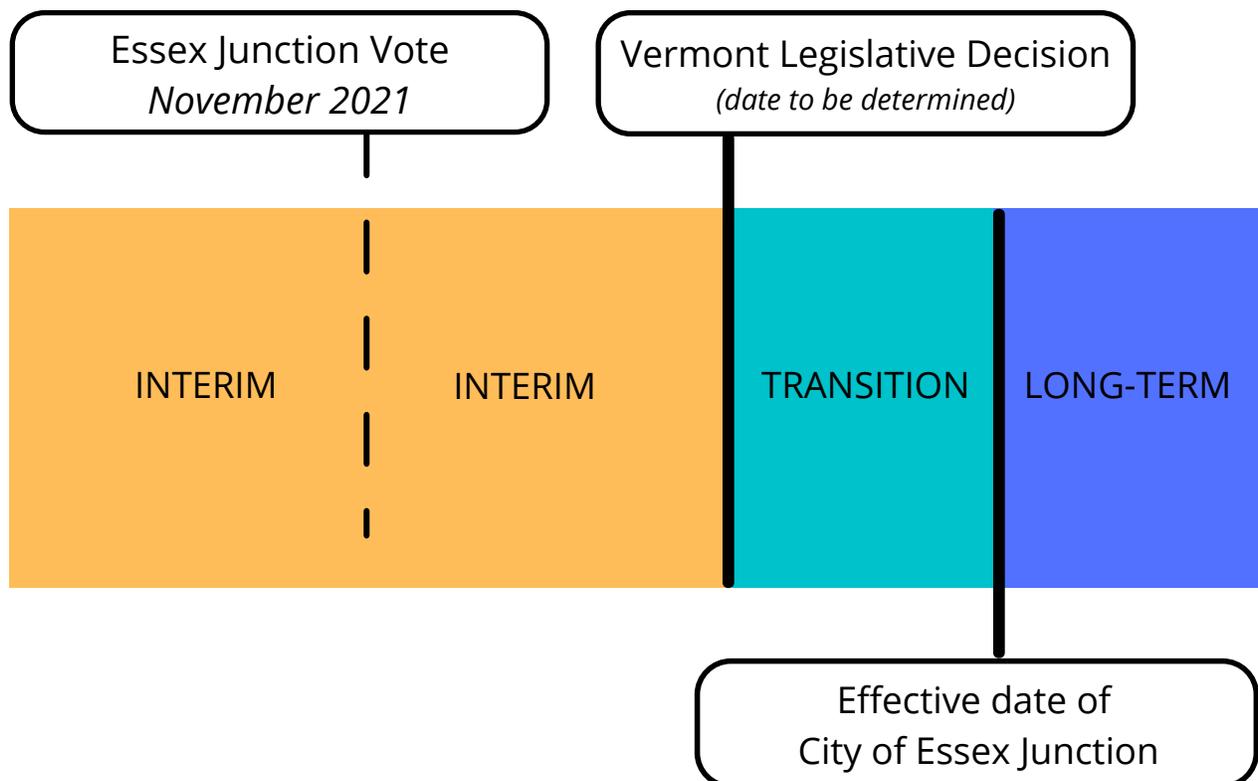
Public Forums

- AUGUST 4
- AUGUST 6
- AUGUST 21

Background

The Village of Essex Junction voters passed a non-binding advisory article during their April 2021 Annual Meeting for the Village Board of Trustees to draft a new charter to create an independent City of Essex Junction, since the vote to reconsider the Plan of Merger with the Town of Essex failed. The advisory vote did not "bind" or make any legal charter change. The Board of Trustees have spent the ensuing months working on a charter for an independent City of Essex Junction, which will be presented to Village voters on November 2, 2021. If approved by Village voters, the charter would need to go to the Vermont Legislature for review and approval before the Village of Essex Junction could separate from the Town of Essex and become an independent city.

Planning in Phases



Interim Phase

Allocating the cost of municipal services

✓ STAFF

For staff who serve the entire community and are paid by the Town and Village, reallocate the salaries and/or benefits to be paid equitably through the entire community

✓ PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES

Include the cost of the Village Fire Department in the Town of Essex budget, so that all taxpayers equally cover the cost of public safety (police, fire, and rescue)

✓ CAPITAL BUDGET

To more equitably distribute Town of Essex capital dollars throughout the entire community, revise the Town Capital Plan to include more Village projects; or transfer a dollar amount to the Village of Essex Junction that better represents the amount of the capital tax raised by Village taxpayers

✓ OTHER?

Options to pay for municipal services

- Reduce the cost by **reducing the level of service**
- **Increase property taxes**
- Implement a **local options tax** to generate additional revenue
- **Raise fees** (for instance, pool and recreation fees, development fees, etc.)
- Other?

Questions or Comments?

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