

FORMS OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

Statewide Totals

Municipalities with a city form of government: 59
 Municipalities with a town form of government: 292
 Mayors: 47 (of which 3 are part of a mayor-manager form of government)
 Manager-council form of government: 12
 Town administrators: 173
 Town managers: 76
 Town coordinators: 6
 Executive secretaries: 4
 Other (administrative coordinator, chief administrative officer, executive assistant, executive director, general manager, municipal assistant): 10
 Open town meetings: 259
 Representative town meetings: 33
 Three-member boards of selectmen: 147
 Five-member boards of selectmen: 144
 Seven-member town council: 1*

NOTES: Some communities with a city form of government still refer to themselves as a town. The above list of municipal positions reflects only the number of each title statewide; the duties of a particular position will vary from community to community.

The name of each town's policy-making body (board of selectmen or select board) has either been provided by the town or taken from the description on the town's website. A number of communities are taking formal steps to change the name to "select board," while others have informally begun using the new name while making the transition.

* Wakefield renamed its board of selectmen as a town council in 2018, but the responsibilities were not changed.

Abbreviations

AC	Administrative Coordinator	TA	Town Administrator
CAO	Chief Administrative Officer	TC	Town Coordinator
ED	Executive Director	TM	Town Manager
ES	Executive Secretary	OTM	Open town meeting
ExA	Executive Assistant	RTM	Representative town meeting
GM	General Manager		
MuA	Municipal Assistant		

Communities with a city form of government are listed in all capital letters.

Letters in parentheses for certain cities indicate the use of one of the optional plans of city government ("model city charters") as authorized by Chapter 43 (Plan A, B, C, D, E or F). Cities that are not identified by a letter column are governed by provisions or special charters granted by the Legislature.

Some municipalities have adopted a home rule charter under the provisions of the Home Rule amendment and Chapter 43B. The first year in which the home rule charter was adopted is in parentheses.

Massachusetts law provides that no town with a population of less than 12,000 may adopt a city form of government, and no town with a population of less than 6,000 may have a representative town meeting.

In towns that do not have a chief municipal official, the chair of the Board of Selectmen fulfills that role.

Information in this chart was compiled from an annual MMA survey of each city and town in the state.

Community	Chief Municipal Official	Policy Board	Legislative Body
Abington (1974)	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Acton (1969)	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Acushnet (1971)	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Adams (1983)	TA	Selectmen (5)	RTM
AGAWAM (1972) (A)	Mayor		Council (11)
Alford		Select Board (3)	OTM
AMESBURY (1996) (F)	Mayor		Council (9)
AMHERST	TM		Council (13)
Andover	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Aquinnah	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Arlington	TM	Select Board (5)	RTM
Ashburnham	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Ashby	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Ashfield	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
Ashland	TM	Select Board (5)	OTM
Athol	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
ATTLEBORO (1973)	Mayor		Council (11)
Auburn (1969)	TM	Selectmen (5)	RTM
Avon	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Ayer	TM	Selectmen (3)	OTM
BARNSTABLE (1989)	TM		Council (13)
Barre	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Becket	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Bedford (1974)	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Belchertown	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Bellingham	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Belmont (1926)	TA	Selectmen (3)	RTM
Berkley	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Berlin	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Bernardston	TC	Select Board (3)	OTM
BEVERLY (A)	Mayor		Council (9)
Billerica (1979)	TM	Selectmen (5)	RTM
Blackstone (1974)	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Blandford	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
Bolton	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
BOSTON (A)	Mayor		Council (13)
Bourne	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Boxborough	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Boxford	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Boylston	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
BRAINTREE	Mayor		Council (9)
Brewster	TA	Select Board (5)	OTM
BRIDGEWATER	TM		Council (9)
Brimfield		Selectmen (5)	OTM
BROCKTON	Mayor		Council (11)
Brookfield		Selectmen (3)	OTM
Brookline	TA	Select Board (5)	RTM
Buckland	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM

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Community	Chief Municipal Official	Policy Board	Legislative Body
Burlington	TA	Selectmen (5)	RTM
CAMBRIDGE (1941) (E)	Mayor-Manager		Council (9)
Canton	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Carlisle	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Carver	TA	Select Board (5)	OTM
Charlemont		Select Board (3)	OTM
Charlton	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Chatham	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Chelmsford (1989)	TM	Selectmen (5)	RTM
CHELSEA	Manager		Council (11)
Cheshire	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Chester	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Chesterfield	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
CHICOPEE	Mayor		Council (13)
Chilmark	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Clarksburg	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
Clinton	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Cohasset	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Colrain	TC	Select Board (3)	OTM
Concord (1957)	TM	Select Board (5)	OTM
Conway	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
Cummington		Selectmen (3)	OTM
Dalton	TM	Select Board (5)	OTM
Danvers	TM	Selectmen (5)	RTM
Dartmouth	TA	Select Board (5)	RTM
Dedham (1974)	TM	Selectmen (5)	RTM
Deerfield	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
Dennis	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Dighton	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Douglas	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Dover	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Dracut (1985)	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Dudley	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Dunstable	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
Duxbury	TM	Selectmen (3)	OTM
East Bridgewater	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
East Brookfield		Selectmen (3)	OTM
Eastham	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
EASTHAMPTON (1996)	Mayor		Council (9)
EAST LONGMEADOW	TM		Council (7)
Easton (1972)	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Edgartown	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Egremont		Select Board (3)	OTM
Erving	AC	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Essex	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
EVERETT	Mayor		Council (11)
Fairhaven	TA	Selectmen (3)	RTM
FALL RIVER (A)	Mayor		Council (9)
Falmouth	TM	Selectmen (5)	RTM
FITCHBURG (B)	Mayor		Council (11)
Florida	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Foxborough	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
FRAMINGHAM	Mayor		Council (11)
FRANKLIN (1978)	TA		Council (9)
Freetown	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
GARDNER (B)	Mayor		Council (11)
Georgetown	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Gill	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
GLOUCESTER (1975)	Mayor		Council (9)
Goshen		Select Board (3)	OTM
Gosnold		Selectmen (3)	OTM
Grafton (1987)	TA	Select Board (5)	OTM
Granby	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
Granville	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
Great Barrington	TM	Select Board (5)	OTM
GREENFIELD (2003)	Mayor		Council (13)
Groton	TM	Select Board (5)	OTM
Groveland		Selectmen (5)	OTM
Hadley	TA	Select Board (5)	OTM
Halifax	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Hamilton	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Hampden	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Hancock		Selectmen (3)	OTM
Hanover	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Hanson	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Hardwick	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Harvard	TA	Select Board (5)	OTM
Harwich	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Hatfield	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Haverhill (A)	Mayor		Council (9)
Hawley		Select Board (3)	OTM
Heath	TC	Select Board (3)	OTM
Hingham	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Hinsdale	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
Holbrook	TA	Selectmen (5)	RTM
Holden	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Holland	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
Holliston	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
HOLYOKE (A)	Mayor		Council (15)
Hopedale	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Hopkinton	TM	Select Board (5)	OTM
Hubbardston	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Hudson (1971)	ExA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Hull	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Huntington		Selectmen (3)	OTM
Ipswich	TM	Select Board (5)	OTM
Kingston	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Lakeville	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Lancaster	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Lanesborough	TM	Selectmen (3)	OTM
LAWRENCE (1983)	Mayor		Council (9)
Lee	CAO	Selectmen (3)	RTM

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Leicester	TA	Select Board (5)	OTM
Lenox	CAO	Selectmen (5)	OTM
LEOMINSTER (1969) (A)	Mayor		Council (9)
Leverett	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
Lexington	TM	Selectmen (5)	RTM
Leyden	MuA	Select Board (3)	OTM
Lincoln	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Littleton	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Longmeadow (2004)	TM	Select Board (5)	OTM
LOWELL (E)	Mayor-Manager		Council (9)
Ludlow	TA	Selectmen (5)	RTM
Lunenburg	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
LYNN (A)	Mayor		Council (11)
Lynnfield (1971)	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
MALDEN (A)	Mayor		Council (11)
Manchester-by-the-Sea	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Mansfield (1920)	TM	Select Board (5)	OTM
Marblehead	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Marion	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
MARLBOROUGH (B)	Mayor		Council (11)
Marshfield (1976)	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Mashpee	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Mattapoissett	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Maynard	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Medfield (1972)	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
MEDFORD (A)	Mayor		Council (7)
Medway	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
MELROSE (B)	Mayor		Aldermen (11)
Mendon	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Merrimac		Selectmen (3)	OTM
METHUEN (1972)	Mayor		Council (9)
Middleborough	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Middlefield	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
Middleton (1974)	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Milford	TA	Selectmen (3)	RTM
Millbury	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Millis (1977)	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Millville	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Milton (1927)	TA	Select Board (5)	RTM
Monroe		Select Board (3)	OTM
Monson	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Montague	TA	Selectmen (3)	RTM
Monterey		Select Board (3)	OTM
Montgomery		Selectmen (3)	OTM
Mount Washington		Select Board (3)	OTM
Nahant (1980)	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Nantucket	TM	Select Board (5)	OTM
Natick (1980)	TA	Selectmen (5)	RTM
Needham	TM	Select Board (5)	RTM
New Ashford		Select Board (3)	OTM
NEW BEDFORD (B)	Mayor		Council (11)

Community	Chief Municipal Official	Policy Board	Legislative Body
New Braintree	ES	Select Board (3)	OTM
Newbury	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
NEWBURYPORT (1919) (B)	Mayor		Council (11)
New Marlborough	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
New Salem	TC	Select Board (3)	OTM
NEWTON (1972) (A)	Mayor		Council (24)
Norfolk	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
NORTH ADAMS (A)	Mayor		Council (9)
NORTHAMPTON (B)	Mayor		Council (9)
North Andover (1986)	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH	TM		Council (9)
Northborough (1970)	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Northbridge	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
North Brookfield		Selectmen (3)	OTM
Northfield	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
North Reading (1970)	TA	Select Board (5)	OTM
Norton (1989)	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Norwell (1973)	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Norwood	GM	Selectmen (5)	RTM
Oak Bluffs	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Oakham		Selectmen (3)	OTM
Orange	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Orleans (1987)	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Otis	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Oxford (1972)	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
PALMER (2004)	TM		Council (7)
Paxton	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
PEABODY (D)	Mayor		Council (11)
Pelham		Selectmen (3)	OTM
Pembroke	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Pepperell	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Peru	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
Petersham	AC	Select Board (3)	OTM
Phillipston	CAO	Select Board (3)	OTM
PITTSFIELD (B)	Mayor		Council (11)
Plainfield	AC	Select Board (3)	OTM
Plainville	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Plymouth (1973)	TM	Select Board (5)	RTM
Plympton	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Princeton	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
Provincetown (1990)	TM	Select Board (5)	OTM
QUINCY (A)	Mayor		Council (9)
RANDOLPH	TM		Council (9)
Raynham	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Reading (1986)	TM	Select Board (5)	RTM
Rehoboth	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
REVERE (B)	Mayor		Council (11)
Richmond	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Rochester	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Rockland (1970)	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Rockport	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM

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Community	Chief Municipal Official	Policy Board	Legislative Body
Rowe	ES	Select Board (3)	OTM
Rowley	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Royalston		Select Board (3)	OTM
Russell		Select Board (3)	OTM
Rutland	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
SALEM (B)	Mayor		Council (11)
Salisbury (1988)	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Sandisfield	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Sandwich	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Saugus (1947)	TM	Selectmen (5)	RTM
Savoy		Selectmen (3)	OTM
Scituate (1972)	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Seekonk (1976)	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Sharon	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
Sheffield	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Shelburne	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
Sherborn	TA	Select Board (5)	OTM
Shirley	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Shrewsbury	TM	Selectmen (5)	RTM
Shutesbury	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
Somerset	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
SOMERVILLE (A)	Mayor		Council (11)
Southampton	TA	Select Board (5)	OTM
Southborough	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
SOUTHBRIDGE (1974)	TM		Council (9)
South Hadley	TA	Select Board (5)	RTM
Southwick	CAO	Select Board (3)	OTM
Spencer	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
SPRINGFIELD (A)	Mayor		Council (13)
Sterling	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Stockbridge (1937)	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Stoneham	TA	Select Board (5)	OTM
Stoughton (1972)	TM	Selectmen (5)	RTM
Stow	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Sturbridge (1973)	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Sudbury (1994)	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Sunderland	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Sutton (1988)	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Swampscott (1969)	TA	Selectmen (5)	RTM
Swansea	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
TAUNTON	Mayor		Council (9)
Templeton	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Tewksbury	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Tisbury	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Tolland		Selectmen (3)	OTM
Topsfield	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Townsend	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Truro	TM	Select Board (5)	OTM
Tyngsborough	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Tyringham	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Upton	TM	Selectmen (3)	OTM

Community	Chief Municipal Official	Policy Board	Legislative Body
Uxbridge	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Wakefield	TM	Council (7)*	OTM
Wales	ES	Select Board (3)	OTM
Walpole (1973)	TA	Selectmen (5)	RTM
WALTHAM (B)	Mayor		Council (15)
Ware	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Wareham (1977)	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Warren		Selectmen (3)	OTM
Warwick	TC	Select Board (3)	OTM
Washington		Select Board (3)	OTM
WATERTOWN (1980)	TM		Council (9)
Wayland	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Webster (1987)	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Wellesley	ED	Selectmen (5)	RTM
Wellfleet (1986)	TA	Select Board (5)	OTM
Wendell	TC	Select Board (3)	OTM
Wenham	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Westborough (1974)	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
West Boylston	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
West Bridgewater	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
West Brookfield	ES	Selectmen (3)	OTM
WESTFIELD (B)	Mayor		Council (13)
Westford	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Westhampton		Select Board (3)	OTM
Westminster	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
West Newbury	TM	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Weston	TM	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Westport	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
WEST SPRINGFIELD (2000) (A)	Mayor		Council (9)
West Stockbridge	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
West Tisbury	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Westwood (1970)	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
WEYMOUTH (1999)	Mayor		Council (11)
Whately	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
Whitman	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Wilbraham	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Williamsburg	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Williamstown	TM	Select Board (5)	OTM
Wilmington (1950)	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Winchendon (1981)	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Winchester (1975)	TM	Select Board (5)	RTM
Windsor		Select Board (3)	OTM
WINTHROP (2005)	TM		Council (9)
WOBURN	Mayor		Council (9)
WORCESTER	Mayor-Manager		Council (11)
Worthington		Select Board (3)	OTM
Wrentham	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Yarmouth	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM