

MASSACHUSETTS COMMUNITIES OPERATING UNDER HOME RULE CHARTERS

(prepared and adopted under provisions of the Home Rule Amendment and M.G.L., c. 43B)
as of 5/2008

CITIES:

MAYOR - COUNCIL MANAGER+

Agawam (1)
Amesbury (2)
Attleboro
Beverly
Easthampton (2)
Gloucester
Greenfield (2) (3)
Leominster (2)
Lynn
Methuen (1) (2)
Newton
West Springfield
Weymouth

COUNCIL - MANAGER*

Barnstable
Franklin (2)
Palmer (2)
Southbridge (2)
Watertown
Winthrop
Worcester

TOWNS:

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING - SELECTMEN -

Auburn	Dedham	<i>Plymouth</i> (7)	Swampscott
Billerica (2)	Falmouth	Reading	Walpole
Chelmsford	Natick	Stoughton	Winchester
Dartmouth			

OPEN TOWN MEETING - SELECTMEN - MANAGER +

<i>Abington</i> (7)	Hudson	Northborough	Townsend
Acton	Longmeadow	Northbridge	Truro
Acushnet	Lunenburg	Norton	Uxbridge
Ashland	Lynnfield	Norwell	Wakefield
Athol (5)	Mansfield	Orleans	Ware
Bedford	Marshfield	Oxford	Wareham
Bellingham	Mashpee	<i>Palmer</i> (6)	Webster
Blackstone	Maynard	Provincetown (2)	Wellfleet
Bourne	Medfield	Rockland (4) I	Westborough
Chatham	Middleton	Salisbury	Westwood
Dracut	Millbury	Scituate	Winchendon
Eastham	Millis (4)	Seekonk (5)	
Easton	Nahant	Stow	
Grafton	North Andover	Sturbridge (2)	
Harwich	North Reading	Sutton	
Hopkinton			

* Council-manager form most often associated with CITY government; however, the communities listed here, with the exception of Worcester, identify themselves as towns.

+ "Manager" is used here as a generic title, connoting a professional administrative position of similar responsibility, e.g., town administrator, executive secretary, town executive, town coordinator, etc.

NOTES:

(1) AGAWAM originally adopted council-manager charter in 1971; in 1988, town secured passage of a special act replacing the manager with an elected mayor (2 year term). The first mayor took office in 1989. METHUEN amended its charter in November, 1992 by special act and in November, 1993 elected a mayor (2 year term) to replace the appointed manager. Mayor assumed office January, 1994.

(2) had previously adopted home rule charter.

(3) Greenfield elected a mayor and council in **2003**; prior charter provided for election of a five-member board of selectmen, a town council, and appointment of a manager.

(4) charter does not provide for a management position, although all towns referenced subsequently created such a position.

(5) Seekonk revised its representative town meeting charter in 1995, Webster adopted a second charter in 1992, and Athol adopted a home rule charter in 2000; these towns returned to open town meeting.

(6) replaced by council -manager charter, effective 1/2005

(7) replaced home rule charter with special act charter, 2004

COMMISSIONS IN PROCESS: Saugus, Barnstable elected 11/07; South Hadley elected 4/08;

Sharon elected 5/08; Palmer elected 11/08 (special legislation required for Palmer election)