

DATES OF INCORPORATION and/or ESTABLISHING CITY FORM OF GOVERNMENT

CITY	Incorporation	Date of Adoption – City Government Form	Plan Adoption (if applicable)
1. Agawam +	1855	1971 Council-Manager (HRC)	Mayor-Council (effective 1989)
2. Amesbury	1668	1996 Mayor-Council (HRC - effective 9/96)	
3. Attleboro	1694	1914 Mayor-Council (HRC/1970)	
4. Beverly	1668	1894 Mayor-Council (HRC/1995)	
5. Boston *	1630	1822 Mayor-Council (SPC – last revised 1986)	
6. Braintree	1640	2006 Mayor – Council (SPC) <i>(effective 1/1/08)</i>	
7. Brockton	1821	1881 Mayor-Council PLAN B (1967) <i>(formerly Plan D)</i>	
8. Chicopee	1848	1890 Mayor-Council	
9. Easthampton	1809	1996 Mayor - Council (HRC - effective 9/96)	
10. Everett	1870	1892 Mayor-Aldermen-Council **	
11. Fall River	1803	1854 Mayor-Council	PLAN A (1934)
12. Fitchburg	1764	1872 Mayor-Council	PLAN B (1916)
13. Gardner	1785	1921 Mayor-Council	
14. Gloucester	1639	1873 Mayor-Council (HRC/1975) <i>(Plan E, 1951 - 1976)</i>	
15. Greenfield	1753	2002 Mayor - Council (HRC/2002) <i>effective July 2003</i>	
16. Haverhill	1641	1869 Mayor-Council PLAN A (1967) <i>(Plan D, 1959 - 1967)</i>	
17. Holyoke	1850	1873 Mayor-Council (SPC)	
18. Lawrence	1847	1853 Mayor-Council (SPC/1983)	
19. Leominster	1740	1915 Mayor-Council (HRC/1983)	
20. Lynn	1635	1850 Mayor-Council (HRC/1979)	
21. Malden	1649	1881 Mayor-Council (SPC)	
22. Marlborough	1660	1890 Mayor-Council	PLAN B (1922)
23. Medford	1630	1892 Mayor-Council (SPC/1986) <i>(Plan E, 1947 - 1987)</i>	
24. Melrose	1850	1899 Mayor-Council (SPC - 2005) <i>(replaced 1899 charter)</i>	
25. Methuen+	1725	1972 Council- Manager (HRC)	Mayor-Council (effective 1993)
26. New Bedford	1787	1847 Mayor-Council	PLAN B (1938)
27. Newburyport	1764	1851 Mayor-Council	PLAN B (1919)
28. Newton	1691	1873 Mayor-Council (HRC/1971)	
29. North Adams	1878	1895 Mayor-Council	PLAN A
30. Northampton	1656	1883 Mayor-Council (SPC)	
31. Peabody	1855	1916 Mayor-Council (SPC)	
32. Pittsfield	1761	1889 Mayor-Council (SPC)	
33. Quincy	1792	1888 Mayor-Council	PLAN A (1958)
34. Revere	1846	1914 Mayor-Council PLAN B (1964) <i>(Plan E, 1947 - 1965)</i>	
35. Salem	1630	1836 Mayor-Council	PLAN B (1915)
36. Somerville	1842	1871 Mayor-Council (SPC)	
37. Springfield	1641	1852 Mayor-Council	PLAN A (1962)
38. Taunton	1639	1864 Mayor-Council (SPC)	
39. Waltham	1738	1884 Mayor-Council (SPC/1986) <i>(formerly Plan B)</i>	
40. W. Springfield	1774	2000 Mayor - Council (HRC)	
41. Westfield	1669	1920 Mayor-Council (SPC)	
42. Weymouth	1635	1999 Mayor-Council (HRC)	
43. Woburn	1642	1888 Mayor-Council (SPC)	

+ - had council-manager government by home rule charter; changed manager to mayor via special act process.

* - Boston today includes the following municipalities annexed to the city in the late 1880s to 1911 - Charlestown (1630; city - 1847), Dorchester (1630), Brighton (1807), Roxbury (1630; city -1846), West Roxbury (1851), and Hyde Park (1868).

** - only city government in United States w/ Board of Aldermen (7) and Common Council (18)

HRC - Home Rule Charter

SPC - Special Act Charter

A, B, E - Plans of organization authorized by M.G.L., c. 43

COUNCIL- MANAGER GOVERNMENTS (a “city” form -- see MGL, c. 43)

CITY	Incorporation	Date of Adoption City Government	How Established/current govt
1. Barnstable*	1639	1989	HRC
2. Cambridge	1631	1846	Council - Manager PLAN E (1940)
3. Chelsea	1739	1857	SPA - 1994
4. Franklin*	1778	1978	HRC 1978, (revised 1995) Note 1
5. Lowell	1826	1836	PLAN E (1942) (no pr)
6. Palmer *	1775	2004	HRC 2004
7. Southbridge*	1816	1973	HRC 1973 (revised 2003) Note 1
8. Watertown*	1630	1981	HRC 1981 (amended 2001)
9. Winthrop*	1852	2005	HRC 2005
10. Worcester	1684	1848	HRC 1985 (PLAN E 1947 -1985)

Note 1: In revising their charters, both of these towns changed the legislative body from a combination of at-large and district members to a legislative body composed solely of at-large members. Both elect 9 councillors..

* municipalities prefer to be known as towns

HRC - Home Rule Charter

SPC - Special Act Charter

A, B, E - Plans of organization authorized by M.G.L., c. 43

MAYOR-COUNCIL GOVERNMENT: 4 year term of office for mayor:

Summary:

By home rule charter adoption: 2 (Newton, Weymouth)

By special act charter adoption 5 (Boston, Braintree, Lawrence, Melrose, Waltham)

By MGL, c. 43 provisions 3 (Malden, Revere, Salem)

City	How Established
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Boston	via special act adoption
Braintree	via special act adoption
Lawrence	via special act adoption
Malden	via use of optional provision of c. 43/voter approval
Melrose	via special act adoption
Newton	via home rule charter adoption
Revere	via use of optional provision of c. 43/voter approval
Salem	via use of optional provision of c. 43/voter approval
Waltham	via special act adoption
Weymouth	via home rule charter adoption

Note: Greenfield’s home rule charter provides that the mayor and council serve three year terms; this community holds its elections in June.