

# FORMS OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

## Abbreviations

AA	Administrative Assistant
AC	Administrative Coordinator
AO	Administrative Officer
AS	Administrative Secretary
CAFO	Chief Administrative and Financial Officer
CAO	Chief Administrative Officer
EA	Executive Administrator
ED	Executive Director
ES	Executive Secretary
ExA	Executive Assistant
GM	General Manager
MA	Municipal Administrator
MuA	Municipal Assistant
TA	Town Administrator
TC	Town Coordinator
TM	Town Manager
OTM	Open town meeting
RTM	Representative town meeting

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 Massachusetts General Laws chapter 43 (Plan A, B, C, D, E, or F). Cities that are not identified by a letter in the final 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 adopt a representative town meeting form of government.

Information in this chart is compiled from an MMA survey of each city and town in the state. The surveys were completed by the municipal clerk in each community. In towns that do not have a chief municipal official, the chair of the Board of Selectmen fulfills that role.

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

Community	Chief Municipal Official*	Policy Board	Legislative Body	Community	Chief Municipal Official*	Policy Board	Legislative Body
<b>Buckland</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM	<b>Florida</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>Burlington</b>	TA	Selectmen (5)	RTM	<b>Foxborough</b>	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>CAMBRIDGE</b> (1941) (E)	Mayor-Manager		Council (9)	<b>Framingham</b>	TM	Selectmen (5)	RTM
<b>Canton</b>	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM	<b>FRANKLIN</b> (1978)	TA		Town Council (9)
<b>Carlisle</b>	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM	<b>Freetown</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>Carver</b>	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM	<b>GARDNER</b> (B)	Mayor		Council (11)
<b>Charlemont</b>		Selectmen (3)	OTM	<b>Georgetown</b>	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>Charlton</b>	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM	<b>Gill</b>		Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>Chatham</b>	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM	<b>GLOUCESTER</b> (1975)	Mayor		Council (9)
<b>Chelmsford</b> (1989)	TM	Selectmen (5)	RTM	<b>Goshen</b>		Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>CHELSEA</b>	Manager		Council (11)	<b>Gosnold</b>		Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>Cheshire</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM	<b>Grafton</b> (1987)	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>Chester</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM	<b>Granby</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>Chesterfield</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM	<b>Granville</b>	AA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>CHICOPEE</b>	Mayor		Council (13)	<b>Great Barrington</b>	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>Chilmark</b>	ES	Selectmen (3)	OTM	<b>GREENFIELD</b> (2003)	Mayor		Council (13)
<b>Clarksburg</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM	<b>Groton</b>	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>Clinton</b>	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM	<b>Groveland</b>		Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>Cohasset</b>	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM	<b>Hadley</b>	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>Colrain</b>	TC	Selectmen (3)	OTM	<b>Halifax</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>Concord</b> (1957)	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM	<b>Hamilton</b>	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>Conway</b>		Selectmen (3)	OTM	<b>Hampden</b>		Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>Cumington</b>	ES	Selectmen (3)	OTM	<b>Hancock</b>		Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>Dalton</b>	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM	<b>Hanover</b>	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>Danvers</b>	TM	Selectmen (5)	RTM	<b>Hanson</b>	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>Dartmouth</b>	EA	Selectmen (5)	RTM	<b>Hardwick</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>Dedham</b> (1974)	TA	Selectmen (5)	RTM	<b>Harvard</b>	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>Deerfield</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM	<b>Harwich</b>	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>Dennis</b>	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM	<b>Hatfield</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>Dighton</b>		Selectmen (3)	OTM	<b>HAVERHILL</b> (A)	Mayor		Council (9)
<b>Douglas</b>	EA	Selectmen (5)	OTM	<b>Hawley</b>		Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>Dover</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM	<b>Heath</b>	TC	Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>Dracut</b> (1985)	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM	<b>Hingham</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>Dudley</b>	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM	<b>Hinsdale</b>		Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>Dunstable</b>		Selectmen (3)	OTM	<b>Holbrook</b>	TA	Selectmen (5)	RTM
<b>Duxbury</b>	TM	Selectmen (3)	OTM	<b>Holden</b>	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>East Bridgewater</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM	<b>Holland</b>	ES	Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>East Brookfield</b>		Selectmen (3)	OTM	<b>Holliston</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>Eastham</b>	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM	<b>HOLYOKE</b> (A)	Mayor		Council (15)
<b>EASTHAMPTON</b> (1996)	Mayor		Council (9)	<b>Hopedale</b>	TC	Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>East Longmeadow</b>	ES	Selectmen (3)	OTM	<b>Hopkinton</b>	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>Easton</b> (1972)	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM	<b>Hubbardston</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>Edgartown</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM	<b>Hudson</b> (1971)	ExA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>Egremont</b>		Selectmen (3)	OTM	<b>Hull</b>	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>Erving</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM	<b>Huntington</b>		Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>Essex</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM	<b>Ipswich</b>	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>EVERETT</b>	Mayor	Council-Aldermen (18 & 7)		<b>Kingston</b>	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>Fairhaven</b>	ES	Selectmen (3)	RTM	<b>Lakeville</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>FALL RIVER</b> (A)	Mayor		Council (9)	<b>Lancaster</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>Falmouth</b>	TM	Selectmen (5)	RTM	<b>Lanesborough</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>FITCHBURG</b> (B)	Mayor		Council (11)	<b>LAWRENCE</b> (1983)	Mayor		Council (9)

**Forms of Municipal Government**

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

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

Community	Chief Municipal Official*	Policy Board	Legislative Body	Community	Chief Municipal Official*	Policy Board	Legislative Body
Rockland (1970)	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM	Tyringham		Selectmen (3)	OTM
Rockport	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM	Upton	TM	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Rowe	TC	Selectmen (3)	OTM	Uxbridge	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Rowley	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM	Wakefield	TA	Selectmen (7)	OTM
Royalston		Selectmen (3)	OTM	Wales	ES	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Russell	AA	Selectmen (3)	OTM	Walpole (1973)	TA	Selectmen (5)	RTM
Rutland	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM	WALTHAM (B)	Mayor		Council (15)
SALEM (B)	Mayor		Council (11)	Ware	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Salisbury (1988)	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM	Wareham (1977)	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Sandisfield		Selectmen (3)	OTM	Warren	AA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Sandwich	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM	Warwick	TC	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Saugus (1947)	TM	Selectmen (5)	RTM	Washington		Selectmen (3)	OTM
Savoy		Selectmen (3)	OTM	WATERTOWN (1980)	TM		Town Council (9)
Scituate (1972)	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM	Wayland	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Seekonk (1976)	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM	Webster (1987)	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Sharon	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM	Wellesley	ED	Selectmen (5)	RTM
Sheffield	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM	Wellfleet (1986)	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Shelburne	ES	Selectmen (3)	OTM	Wendell	TC	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Sherborn	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM	Wenham	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Shirley	CAO	Selectmen (3)	OTM	Westborough (1974)	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Shrewsbury	TM	Selectmen (5)	RTM	West Boylston	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Shutesbury	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM	West Bridgewater	TM	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Somerset	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM	West Brookfield	ES	Selectmen (3)	OTM
SOMERVILLE (A)	Mayor		Aldermen (11)	WESTFIELD (B)	Mayor		Council (13)
Southampton	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM	Westford	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Southborough	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM	Westhampton	AA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
SOUTHBRIDGE (1974)	TM		Town Council (9)	Westminster	TC	Selectmen (3)	OTM
South Hadley	TA	Selectmen (5)	RTM	West Newbury		Selectmen (3)	OTM
Southwick	CAO	Selectmen (3)	OTM	Weston	TM	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Spencer	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM	Westport	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
SPRINGFIELD (A)	Mayor		Council (13)	WEST SPRINGFIELD (2000) (A)	Mayor		Council (9)
Sterling	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM	West Stockbridge	AA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Stockbridge (1737)	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM	West Tisbury	ES	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Stoneham	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM	Westwood (1970)	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Stoughton (1972)	TM	Selectmen (5)	RTM	WEYMOUTH (1999)	Mayor		Council (11)
Stow	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM	Whately	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Sturbridge (1973)	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM	Whitman	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Sudbury (1994)	TM	Selectmen (3)	OTM	Wilbraham	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Sunderland	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM	Williamsburg	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Sutton (1988)	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM	Williamstown	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Swampscott (1969)	TA	Selectmen (5)	RTM	Wilmington (1950)	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Swansea	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM	Winchendon (1981)	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
TAUNTON	Mayor		Council (9)	Winchester (1975)	TM	Selectmen (5)	RTM
Templeton	TC	Selectmen (5)	OTM	Windsor		Selectmen (3)	OTM
Tewksbury	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM	WINTHROP (2005)	TM		Council (9)
Tisbury	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM	WOBURN	Mayor		Aldermen (9)
Tolland	AA	Selectmen (3)	OTM	WORCESTER	Mayor-Manager		Council (11)
Topsfield	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM	Worthington		Selectmen (3)	OTM
Townsend	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM	Wrentham	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Truro	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM	Yarmouth	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Tyngsborough	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM				