

# 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: 177  
 Town managers: 79  
 Town coordinators: 5  
 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 select boards: 146  
 Five-member select boards: 145  
 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		
ExA	Executive Assistant	OTM	Open town meeting
GM	General Manager	RTM	Representative town meeting
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 Select Board 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
<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>		Select Board (3)	OTM
<b>AMESBURY</b> (1996) (F)	Mayor		Council (9)
<b>AMHERST</b>	TM		Council (13)
<b>Andover</b>	TM	Select Board (5)	OTM
<b>Aquinnah</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>Arlington</b>	TM	Select Board (5)	RTM
<b>Ashburnham</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>Ashby</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>Ashfield</b>	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
<b>Ashland</b>	TM	Select Board (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>	TM	Select Board (3)	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	Select Board (5)	OTM
<b>Belchertown</b>	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>Bellingham</b>	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>Belmont</b> (1926)	TA	Select Board (3)	RTM
<b>Berkley</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>Berlin</b>	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
<b>Bernardston</b>	TC	Select Board (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	Select Board (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	Select Board (5)	OTM
<b>Boxford</b>	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>Boylston</b>	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
<b>BRAINTREE</b>	Mayor		Council (9)
<b>Brewster</b>	TA	Select Board (5)	OTM
<b>BRIDGEWATER</b>	TM		Council (9)
<b>Brimfield</b>		Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>BROCKTON</b>	Mayor		Council (11)
<b>Brookfield</b>		Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>Brookline</b>	TA	Select Board (5)	RTM
<b>Buckland</b>	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM

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Community	Chief Municipal Official	Policy Board	Legislative Body
<b>Burlington</b>	TA	Selectmen (5)	RTM
<b>CAMBRIDGE</b> (1941) (E)	Mayor-Manager		Council (9)
<b>Canton</b>	TA	Select Board (5)	OTM
<b>Carlisle</b>	TA	Select Board (5)	OTM
<b>Carver</b>	TA	Select Board (5)	OTM
<b>Charlemont</b>		Select Board (3)	OTM
<b>Charlton</b>	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>Chatham</b>	TM	Select Board (5)	OTM
<b>Chelmsford</b> (1989)	TM	Select Board (5)	RTM
<b>CHELSEA</b>	Manager		Council (11)
<b>Cheshire</b>	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>Chester</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>Chesterfield</b>	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
<b>CHICOPEE</b>	Mayor		Council (13)
<b>Chilmark</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>Clarksburg</b>	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
<b>Clinton</b>	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>Cohasset</b>	TM	Select Board (5)	OTM
<b>Colrain</b>	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
<b>Concord</b> (1957)	TM	Select Board (5)	OTM
<b>Conway</b>	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
<b>Cummington</b>		Select Board (3)	OTM
<b>Dalton</b>	TM	Select Board (5)	OTM
<b>Danvers</b>	TM	Select Board (5)	RTM
<b>Dartmouth</b>	TA	Select Board (5)	RTM
<b>Dedham</b> (1974)	TM	Select Board (5)	RTM
<b>Deerfield</b>	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
<b>Dennis</b>	TA	Select Board (5)	OTM
<b>Dighton</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>Douglas</b>	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>Dover</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>Dracut</b> (1985)	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>Dudley</b>	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>Dunstable</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>Duxbury</b>	TM	Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>East Bridgewater</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>East Brookfield</b>		Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>Eastham</b>	TA	Select Board (5)	OTM
<b>EASTHAMPTON</b> (1996)	Mayor		Council (9)
<b>EAST LONGMEADOW</b>	TM		Council (7)
<b>Easton</b> (1972)	TA	Select Board (5)	OTM
<b>Edgartown</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>Egremont</b>		Select Board (3)	OTM
<b>Erving</b>	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
<b>Essex</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>EVERETT</b>	Mayor		Council (11)
<b>Fairhaven</b>	TA	Select Board (3)	RTM
<b>FALL RIVER</b> (A)	Mayor		Council (9)
<b>Falmouth</b>	TM	Select Board (5)	RTM
<b>FITCHBURG</b> (B)	Mayor		Council (11)
<b>Florida</b>	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM

Community	Chief Municipal Official	Policy Board	Legislative Body
<b>Foxborough</b>	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>FRAMINGHAM</b>	Mayor		Council (11)
<b>FRANKLIN</b> (1978)	TA		Council (9)
<b>Freetown</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>GARDNER</b> (B)	Mayor		Council (11)
<b>Georgetown</b>	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>Gill</b>	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
<b>GLOUCESTER</b> (1975)	Mayor		Council (9)
<b>Goshen</b>	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
<b>Gosnold</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>Grafton</b> (1987)	TA	Select Board (5)	OTM
<b>Granby</b>	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
<b>Granville</b>	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
<b>Great Barrington</b>	TM	Select Board (5)	OTM
<b>GREENFIELD</b> (2003)	Mayor		Council (13)
<b>Groton</b>	TM	Select Board (5)	OTM
<b>Groveland</b>	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>Hadley</b>	TA	Select Board (5)	OTM
<b>Halifax</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>Hamilton</b>	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>Hampden</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>Hancock</b>		Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>Hanover</b>	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>Hanson</b>	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>Hardwick</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>Harvard</b>	TA	Select Board (5)	OTM
<b>Harwich</b>	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>Hatfield</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>HAVERHILL</b> (A)	Mayor		Council (9)
<b>Hawley</b>		Select Board (3)	OTM
<b>Heath</b>	TC	Select Board (3)	OTM
<b>Hingham</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>Hinsdale</b>	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
<b>Holbrook</b>	TA	Selectmen (5)	RTM
<b>Holden</b>	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>Holland</b>	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
<b>Holliston</b>	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
<b>HOLYOKE</b> (A)	Mayor		Council (13)
<b>Hopedale</b>	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
<b>Hopkinton</b>	TM	Select Board (5)	OTM
<b>Hubbardston</b>	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>Hudson</b> (1971)	ExA	Select Board (5)	OTM
<b>Hull</b>	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>Huntington</b>		Select Board (3)	OTM
<b>Ipswich</b>	TM	Select Board (5)	OTM
<b>Kingston</b>	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>Lakeville</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>Lancaster</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>Lanesborough</b>	TM	Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>LAWRENCE</b> (1983)	Mayor		Council (9)
<b>Lee</b>	CAO	Selectmen (3)	RTM

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

Community	Chief Municipal Official	Policy Board	Legislative Body
<b>New Braintree</b>	ES	Select Board (3)	OTM
<b>Newbury</b>	TA	Select Board (5)	OTM
<b>NEWBURYPORT</b> (1919) (B)	Mayor		Council (11)
<b>New Marlborough</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>New Salem</b>	TC	Select Board (3)	OTM
<b>NEWTON</b> (1972) (A)	Mayor		Council (24)
<b>Norfolk</b>	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
<b>NORTH ADAMS</b> (A)	Mayor		Council (9)
<b>NORTHAMPTON</b> (B)	Mayor		Council (9)
<b>North Andover</b> (1986)	TM	Select Board (5)	OTM
<b>NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH</b>	TM		Council (9)
<b>Northborough</b> (1970)	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>Northbridge</b>	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>North Brookfield</b>		Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>Northfield</b>	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
<b>North Reading</b> (1970)	TA	Select Board (5)	OTM
<b>Norton</b> (1989)	TM	Select Board (5)	OTM
<b>Norwell</b> (1973)	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>Norwood</b>	GM	Selectmen (5)	RTM
<b>Oak Bluffs</b>	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>Oakham</b>		Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>Orange</b>	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>Orleans</b> (1987)	TA	Select Board (5)	OTM
<b>Otis</b>	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
<b>Oxford</b> (1972)	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>PALMER</b> (2004)	TM		Council (7)
<b>Paxton</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>PEABODY</b> (D)	Mayor		Council (11)
<b>Pelham</b>		Select Board (3)	OTM
<b>Pembroke</b>	TM	Select Board (5)	OTM
<b>Pepperell</b>	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
<b>Peru</b>	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
<b>Petersham</b>	AC	Select Board (3)	OTM
<b>Phillipston</b>	CAO	Select Board (3)	OTM
<b>PITTSFIELD</b> (B)	Mayor		Council (11)
<b>Plainfield</b>	AC	Select Board (3)	OTM
<b>Plainville</b>	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
<b>Plymouth</b> (1973)	TM	Select Board (5)	RTM
<b>Plympton</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>Princeton</b>	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
<b>Provincetown</b> (1990)	TM	Select Board (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	Select Board (5)	RTM
<b>Rehoboth</b>	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>REVERE</b> (B)	Mayor		Council (11)
<b>Richmond</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>Rochester</b>	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
<b>Rockland</b> (1970)	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
<b>Rockport</b>	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	TM	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Sandwich	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Saugus (1947)	TM	Selectmen (5)	RTM
Savoy		Select Board (3)	OTM
Scituate (1972)	TA	Select Board (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	Select Board (3)	OTM
Stockbridge (1937)	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Stoneham	TA	Select Board (5)	OTM
Stoughton (1972)	TM	Select Board (5)	RTM
Stow	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Sturbridge (1973)	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Sudbury (1994)	TM	Select Board (5)	OTM
Sunderland	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
Sutton (1988)	TM	Select Board (5)	OTM
Swampscott (1969)	TA	Select Board (5)	RTM
Swansea	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
TAUNTON	Mayor		Council (9)
Templeton	TA	Select Board (5)	OTM
Tewksbury	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Tisbury	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
Tolland		Selectmen (3)	OTM
Topsfield	TA	Select Board (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	TA	Council (7)*	OTM
Wales	ES	Select Board (3)	OTM
Walpole (1973)	TA	Select Board (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	Select Board (5)	RTM
Wellfleet (1986)	TA	Select Board (5)	OTM
Wendell	TC	Select Board (3)	OTM
Wenham	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
Westborough (1974)	TM	Select Board (5)	OTM
West Boylston	TA	Select Board (5)	OTM
West Bridgewater	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
West Brookfield	ES	Selectmen (3)	OTM
WESTFIELD (B)	Mayor		Council (13)
Westford	TM	Select Board (5)	OTM
Westhampton		Select Board (3)	OTM
Westminster	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
West Newbury	TM	Select Board (3)	OTM
Weston	TM	Select Board (3)	OTM
Westport	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
WEST SPRINGFIELD (2000) (A)	Mayor		Council (9)
West Stockbridge	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
West Tisbury	TA	Select Board (3)	OTM
Westwood (1970)	TA	Select Board (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