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
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		Selectmen (3)	OTM
AMESBURY (1996) (F)	Mayor		Council (9)
Amherst	TM	Selectmen (5)	RTM
Andover	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Aquinnah	TC	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Arlington	TM	Selectmen (5)	RTM
Ashburnham	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Ashby	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Ashfield	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Ashland	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Athol	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
ATTLEBORO (1973)	Mayor		Council (11)
Auburn (1969)	TM	Selectmen (5)	RTM
Avon	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Ayer	TA	Selectmen (5)	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		Selectmen (3)	OTM
Berlin		Selectmen (3)	OTM
Bernardston	AA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
BEVERLY (A)	Mayor		Council (9)
Billerica (1979)	TM	Selectmen (5)	RTM
Blackstone (1974)	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Blandford	TA	Selectmen (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	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Bridgewater	MA		Council (9)
Brimfield		Selectmen (3)	OTM
BROCKTON	Mayor		Council (11)
Brookfield	AA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Brookline	TA	Selectmen (5)	RTM

Community	Chief Municipal Official*	Policy Board	Legislative Body
Buckland	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Burlington	TA	Selectmen (5)	RTM
CAMBRIDGE (1941) (E)	Mayor-Manager		Council (9)
Canton	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Carlisle	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Carver	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Charlemont		Selectmen (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 (3)	OTM
Chester	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Chesterfield	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
CHICOPEE	Mayor		Council (13)
Chilmark	ES	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Clarksburg	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Clinton	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Cohasset	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Colrain	TC	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Concord (1957)	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Conway		Selectmen (3)	OTM
Cummington	ES	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Dalton	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Danvers	TM	Selectmen (5)	RTM
Dartmouth	EA	Selectmen (5)	RTM
Dedham (1974)	TA	Selectmen (5)	RTM
Deerfield	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Dennis	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Dighton		Selectmen (3)	OTM
Douglas	EA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Dover	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Dracut (1985)	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Dudley	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Dunstable		Selectmen (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	ES	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Easton (1972)	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Edgartown	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Egremont		Selectmen (3)	OTM
Erving	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Essex	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
EVERETT	Mayor	Council-Aldermen (18 & 7)	
Fairhaven	ES	Selectmen (3)	RTM
FALL RIVER (A)	Mayor		Council (9)
Falmouth	TM	Selectmen (5)	RTM
FITCHBURG (B)	Mayor		Council (11)

Community	Chief Municipal Official*	Policy Board	Legislative Body
Florida	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Foxborough	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Framingham	TM	Selectmen (5)	RTM
FRANKLIN (1978)	TA		Town Council (9)
Freetown	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
GARDNER (B)	Mayor		Council (11)
Georgetown	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Gill		Selectmen (3)	OTM
GLOUCESTER (1975)	Mayor		Council (9)
Goshen		Selectmen (3)	OTM
Gosnold		Selectmen (3)	OTM
Grafton (1987)	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Granby	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Granville	AA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Great Barrington	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
GREENFIELD (2003)	Mayor		Council (13)
Groton	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Groveland		Selectmen (3)	OTM
Hadley	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Halifax	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Hamilton	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Hampden		Selectmen (3)	OTM
Hancock		Selectmen (3)	OTM
Hanover	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Hanson	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Hardwick	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Harvard	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Harwich	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Hatfield	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
HAVERHILL (A)	Mayor		Council (9)
Hawley		Selectmen (3)	OTM
Heath	TC	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Hingham	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Hinsdale		Selectmen (3)	OTM
Holbrook	TA	Selectmen (5)	RTM
Holden	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Holland	ES	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Holliston	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
HOLYOKE (A)	Mayor		Council (15)
Hopedale	TC	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Hopkinton	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Hubbardston	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Hudson (1971)	ExA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Hull	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Huntington		Selectmen (3)	OTM
Ipswich	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Kingston	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Lakeville	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Lancaster	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Lanesborough	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
LAWRENCE (1983)	Mayor		Council (9)

Community	Chief Municipal Official*	Policy Board	Legislative Body
Lee	TA	Selectmen (3)	RTM
Leicester	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Lenox	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
LEOMINSTER (1969) (A)	Mayor		Council (9)
Leverett	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Lexington	TM	Selectmen (5)	RTM
Leyden	MuA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Lincoln	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Littleton	TA	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Longmeadow (2004)	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
LOWELL (E)	Mayor-Manager		Council (9)
Ludlow	TA	Selectmen (5)	RTM
Lunenberg	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	Selectmen (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
Mattapoisett	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	TC	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Merrimac		Selectmen (3)	OTM
METHUEN (1972)	Mayor		Council (9)
Middleborough	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Middlefield		Selectmen (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	ES	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Milton (1927)	TA	Selectmen (3)	RTM
Monroe		Selectmen (3)	OTM
Monson	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Montague	TA	Selectmen (3)	RTM
Monterey		Selectmen (3)	OTM
Montgomery		Selectmen (3)	OTM
Mount Washington		Selectmen (3)	OTM
Nahant (1980)	TA	Selectmen (3)	OTM
Nantucket	TM	Selectmen (5)	OTM
Natick (1980)	TA	Selectmen (5)	RTM
Needham	TM	Selectmen (5)	RTM
New Ashford		Selectmen (3)	OTM

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

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