

# Massachusetts Campaign for Open Government

*[www.maopengov.org](http://www.maopengov.org)*

*Open Government in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century:  
A Review of the Internet Presence of Massachusetts  
Municipalities*

*Fall 2006*



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**Massachusetts Campaign for Open Government** is a project of **Common Cause Massachusetts**, a nonpartisan, nonprofit, government watchdog, dedicated to citizen participation in an open, honest, and accountable government. An independent, member-supported organization, Common Cause has more than 200,000 members nationwide and 10,000 in Massachusetts.

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## **Executive Summary**

In March 2006, and then again in September 2006, the Massachusetts Campaign for Open Government studied the internet presence of all 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts to determine how many posted the following six key public governance records online: the governing body's agenda, the governing body's minutes, current fiscal year budget information, the municipality's bylaws, code or ordinances, and if applicable, the town meeting warrant and the town meeting results. These six key records were targeted because they best reflect the actions taken, or not taken, by the municipality's major governing bodies.

Our study found that 308 communities have some presence on the internet, but very few post all six key governance records online. In March 2006, only 24 municipalities, or 7% of all Massachusetts cities and towns, had all six of the targeted public records posted on their website. By September 2006, following an announcement of this project three months prior, this number increased to 40 municipalities, or 11% of all Massachusetts cities and towns. These 40 municipalities range in size from Becket, with a population of 1,786, to Boston, with a population of 559,034. The study also found that, despite having gone through the effort and expense of developing a website, as of September 2006, 53 communities do not bother to post any of their key governance records online. If these 53 municipalities are added to the 43 that do not have a website at all, then remarkably 27% of all Massachusetts cities and towns do not post any of their key governance records online.

The internet has become an important source of information for increasing numbers of people. If all Massachusetts communities post, at a minimum, their key governance records online, they will make access to information about the local government easier for more people. Over the next year, the Massachusetts Campaign for Open Government will work to significantly increase the number of municipalities that now post their key governance records online. We will do this through a grassroots campaign at the local level led by the members of Common Cause Massachusetts and other concerned citizens.

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## INTRODUCTION

In a democracy, the power to govern is derived from the people and the government is accountable to the them.<sup>1</sup> The people, however, can only hold their government accountable if they have access to information about their government's activities. Access to information should therefore be as easy as possible so that people will not be discouraged from seeking it.

In Massachusetts, access to information about government activities is protected by the Massachusetts Public Records Law<sup>2</sup> and the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law.<sup>3</sup> The Open Meeting Law requires that meetings of local governing bodies be open to the public except under very limited circumstances.<sup>4</sup> The Massachusetts Public Records Law guarantees anyone the right to view or copy any public record.<sup>5</sup>

Unfortunately, the access to information guaranteed by the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law and the Massachusetts Public Records Law is broad in theory, but limited in practice. Under the Open Meeting Law, an individual has a right to attend a local governmental body's meeting, but this requires a large commitment of time and the ability to attend or watch meetings at a specified time. Alternatively, under the Public Record Law, an individual can request copies of documents regarding the activities of local governmental bodies, but the individual has to be aware that such a right exists and has to understand how to exercise the right, particularly if the request is initially denied. In addition, an individual requesting a public record may have to wait up to ten days for a response and may have to pay a fee, which in certain circumstances can be prohibitive.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> As Article V of the Massachusetts Constitution states, "All power residing originally in the people, and being derived from them, the several magistrates and officers of government, vested with authority, whether legislative, executive, or judicial, are their substitutes and agents, and are at all times accountable to them."

<sup>2</sup> M.G.L. c. 4, § 7, clause 26; M.G.L. c. 66. See also 950 CMR §§ 32.01-32.09.

<sup>3</sup> M.G.L. c. 39, §§ 23A-23C, 24 (Open Meeting Law provisions applying to municipal and district governments).

<sup>4</sup> In this report, we are only concerned with governing bodies at the local level. Governing bodies at the local level are defined in the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law as "every board, commission, committee or subcommittee of any district, city region or town, however elected, appointed or otherwise constituted, and the governing board of a local housing, redevelopment or similar authority; provided, however, that this definition shall not include a town meeting." M.G.L. c. 39, §23A.

<sup>5</sup> A public record is defined by the Public Records Law as "all books, papers, maps, photographs, recorded tapes, financial statements, statistical tabulations, or other documentary materials or data, regardless of physical form or characteristics, made or received by any officer or employee of any agency, executive office, department, board, commission, bureau, division or authority of the commonwealth, or of any political subdivision thereof, or of any authority established by the general court to serve a public purpose, unless such materials or data fall within" certain specified exemptions. M.G.L. c. 4, § 7, cl. 26. The Public Records law does not apply to records of the Massachusetts legislature. M.G.L. c. 66, § 18.

<sup>6</sup> Under the Public Records Law, a custodian of any requested records has up to ten days to respond to a request and may charge a reasonable fee for searching and copying the requested records. M.G.L. c. 66, § 10(a). Depending upon

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The Massachusetts Campaign for Open Government seeks to go beyond these laws to expand public access to key governing records by encouraging all municipalities to post them on the internet. When a municipality posts public records online, anyone may obtain important information about the local government at any time of the day or night, whenever it is convenient. A request for a document posted online can be made anonymously, cannot be denied, is responded to instantaneously, and will not cost the requester anything. Knowledge about the Massachusetts Public Records Law is not required in order for the request to be successful. Access to information about the government will be as easy as clicking on a link, and if access to information about the activities of government is made easier, accountability will be improved.<sup>7</sup>

**BENEFITS OF POSTING RECORDS ONLINE**

- ✓ Improved access to information about local government.
- ✓ More political accountability.
- ✓ Possible increase in civic participation.
- ✓ Less time spent responding to requests for documents.
- ✓ Improved communications and less misunderstanding about governance issues.
- ✓ Increased ability to compare with other municipalities.
- ✓ Market the municipality to outside interests.

**FINDINGS**

In March 2006, and again in September 2006, the Massachusetts Campaign for Open Government studied the internet presence of every city and town in Massachusetts to determine which municipalities were already posting public records online.<sup>8</sup> For each website studied, we determined whether the municipality had posted the governing body's agenda, the governing body's

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the circumstances, the fee for copies of municipal records (excluding police and fire departments records) may range from as low as twenty cents per page to as high as fifty cents per page, exclusive of the cost of searching for the records. 950 CMR §32.06.

<sup>7</sup> The internet is becoming a significant source of information for growing numbers of people and it can be an effective mechanism for providing information about local government activities. In April 2006, the Pew Internet & American Life Project (<http://www.pewinternet.org>), which regularly conducts surveys on how people use the internet, found that 73% of all American adults now go online. Mary Madden, Data Memo Re: Internet penetration and impact (April 2006) <[http://www.pewinternet.org/pdfs/PIP\\_Internet\\_Impact.pdf](http://www.pewinternet.org/pdfs/PIP_Internet_Impact.pdf)>.

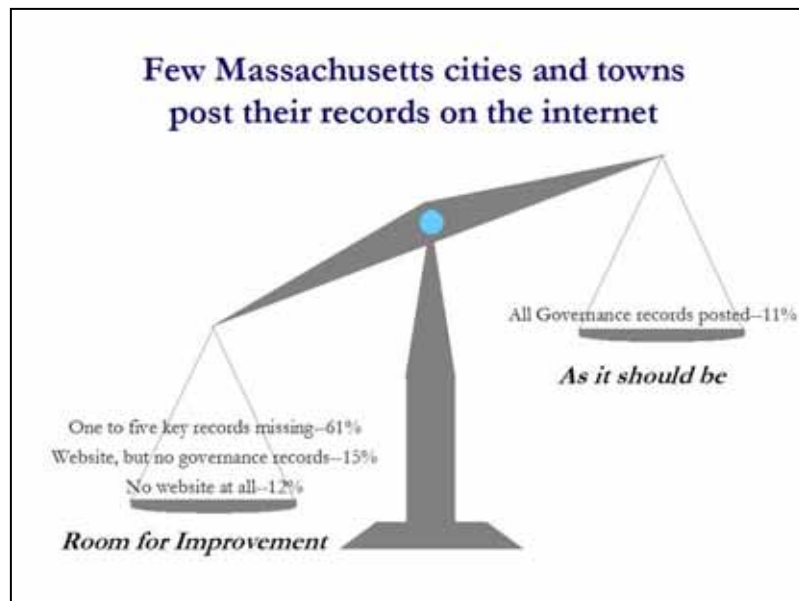
<sup>8</sup> Although most of the websites we reviewed are official websites maintained by the municipalities, a very small number of the websites appear to be unofficial sites maintained by private individuals, often with the apparent assistance of local public officials. We have not distinguished between the two. As long as the primary purpose of the site is to provide information about the activities of the local government, we treated the site as the municipality's website.

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minutes, current fiscal year budget, and any bylaws, code or ordinances.<sup>9</sup> In addition, for each website of a community with the town meeting form of government, we determined if the town meeting warrant and any town meeting results were posted for the current year. A full description of the records and the criteria we used in reviewing the websites is set out in Appendix A.

We chose to target these specific public records because they are the primary governance documents produced by municipalities. They reflect the action taken, or not taken, by the major governing bodies in each community. By focusing on these six essential public records, we do not mean to imply that they are the only records a municipality should post online. Rather, they are a starting point. If a municipality really wants to help its citizens be fully informed about the actions of their local government, then it should consider posting other public records online as well, such as agendas and minutes of other local committees and boards, as well as the community's annual report.<sup>10</sup> Interactive calendars, weblogs, comment forms and other tools also help create a vibrant civic life.

Our study in March 2006 found that only 24 municipalities, or about 7% of all communities in Massachusetts, had all the targeted key public records posted online. By September 2006, after an announcement of this project, this number had increased to 40 municipalities, or 11% of all Massachusetts cities and towns. Remarkably, we also found that of the 308 municipalities that have websites, 53 still do not have any of the key governance records posted online, despite having gone through the effort and expense of creating and



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<sup>9</sup> Although municipal governing bodies are required by the Open Meeting Law to post the time and location of meetings and to prepare minutes of meetings, they are not required by law to prepare agendas. M.G.L. c. 39, § 23B. We assume, however, that all governing bodies create agendas for their meetings. Once an agenda is created, it is a public record.

<sup>10</sup> Some municipalities, such as Amherst and Bolton, already post these and similar public records online. There are other public records that municipalities create that also should be posted online. For example, the Board of Selectmen is required by statute to prepare an annual town report of its actions and other public officials' actions during the calendar or fiscal year before the next annual town meeting. M.G.L. c. 40, § 49.

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maintaining a website. If the 53 municipalities that do not post any of the targeted records online are combined with the 43 municipalities that have no internet presence at all, then 27% of all Massachusetts municipalities still do not post any of the key governance records online.

Population does not appear to be the determining factor in whether a municipality has a website or, if it has a website, whether it posts public governance records on the site. The 40 communities that have posted all of their key governance records online range in population size from Becket, with a population of 1,786, to Boston, with a population size of 559,034.<sup>11</sup> The 53 municipalities that have a presence on the internet but do not post any of the key governance records online include Brockton, with a population size of 94,632, and Lynn, with a population size of 88,792. The 43 towns that do not have websites are mostly smaller towns, but they also include North Adams, with a population of 14,010, and Athol, with a population of 11,697.

For most municipalities, costs also should not be a determining factor as to whether a municipality posts key governance records online. If a municipality already has a website and already posts some public records online, the cost of posting the additional missing governance records online is negligible. The bylaws, annual budget, town warrant, and town meeting results in most cases only have to be posted or updated once or twice a year. The governing body's agenda and minutes have to be posted more frequently, but since they probably are computer documents already, the extra effort required to post them online is minor.

Even for those municipalities that do not yet have a website, the relatively small cost of creating and maintaining a website should not be the reason for not doing so.<sup>12</sup> A municipality actually could benefit from posting all key governance records online. (See box on p. 5) For example, municipal employees will not have to take the time to respond to requests for records that are posted online. In addition, making access to information about the government easier could increase participation by citizens which, at the local level, can be invaluable.

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<sup>11</sup> July 1, 2005, population estimates from the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, Division of Local Services, Municipal Databank ([www.dls.state.ma.us/mdm.htm](http://www.dls.state.ma.us/mdm.htm)).

<sup>12</sup> We are not aware of any comprehensive research into how much it costs for a municipality to create and maintain a website. We, however, did survey the communities that post all the key governance records online earlier this month. For those communities that responded to our survey, the costs directly attributable to creating and maintaining the website range from nothing—because the websites were created and maintained by volunteers with free open source software-- to about \$6000.00 annually.

	ALL GOVERNANCE RECORDS POSTED	MISSING ONE KEY RECORD	NO GOVERNANCE RECORDS POSTED	NO WEBSITE
1	<a href="#">Amherst</a>	<a href="#">Andover</a>	<a href="#">Alford</a>	Aquinnah
2	<a href="#">Barnstable</a>	<a href="#">Arlington</a>	<a href="#">Avon</a>	Ashfield
3	<a href="#">Becket</a>	<a href="#">Ashland</a>	<a href="#">Berlin</a>	Athol
4	<a href="#">Bedford</a>	<a href="#">Belmont</a>	<a href="#">Bernardston</a>	Berkley
5	<a href="#">Bolton</a>	<a href="#">Blackstone</a>	<a href="#">Blandford</a>	Brimfield
6	<a href="#">Boston</a>	<a href="#">Chelsea</a>	<a href="#">Boylston</a>	Buckland
7	<a href="#">Boxborough</a>	<a href="#">Concord</a>	<a href="#">Brockton</a>	Cheshire
8	<a href="#">Brookline</a>	<a href="#">Dennis</a>	<a href="#">Brookfield</a>	Chesterfield
9	<a href="#">Cambridge</a>	<a href="#">Falmouth</a>	<a href="#">Carlisle</a>	Clarksburg
10	<a href="#">Dudley</a>	<a href="#">Groton</a>	<a href="#">Chicopee</a>	Colrain
11	<a href="#">Dunstable</a>	<a href="#">Groveland</a>	<a href="#">Easthampton</a>	Conway
12	<a href="#">Duxbury</a>	<a href="#">Harwich</a>	<a href="#">Edgartown</a>	Erving
13	<a href="#">Franklin</a>	<a href="#">Haverhill</a>	<a href="#">Fairhaven</a>	Gosnold
14	<a href="#">Gloucester</a>	<a href="#">Holyoke</a>	<a href="#">Florida</a>	Granby
15	<a href="#">Harvard</a>	<a href="#">Hudson</a>	<a href="#">Foxborough</a>	Great Barrington
16	<a href="#">Hingham</a>	Ipswich	<a href="#">Gardner</a>	Hancock
17	<a href="#">Hopkinton</a>	Leominster	<a href="#">Gill</a>	Hawley
18	<a href="#">Kingston</a>	Lowell	<a href="#">Granville</a>	Holbrook
19	<a href="#">Lenox</a>	Malden	<a href="#">Greenfield</a>	Holland
20	<a href="#">Lexington</a>	Manchester-by-the-Sea	<a href="#">Halifax</a>	Middlefield
21	Maynard	Mashpee	<a href="#">Leicester</a>	Monroe
22	<a href="#">Melrose</a>	Milton	<a href="#">Leyden</a>	Montgomery
23	<a href="#">Methuen</a>	Monterey	<a href="#">Lynn</a>	Mount Washington
24	<a href="#">Newton</a>	Nantucket	<a href="#">Lynnfield</a>	New Ashford
25	<a href="#">North Reading</a>	Natick	<a href="#">Medford</a>	New Salem
26	<a href="#">Peabody</a>	Newburyport	<a href="#">Middleton</a>	North Adams
27	<a href="#">Plympton</a>	Norfolk	<a href="#">Milford</a>	Oakham
28	<a href="#">Provincetown</a>	North Andover	<a href="#">Millis</a>	Otis
29	<a href="#">Shrewsbury</a>	Northampton	<a href="#">Millville</a>	Peru
30	<a href="#">Somerville</a>	Paxton	<a href="#">North Brookfield</a>	Petersham
31	<a href="#">Southampton</a>	Pelham	<a href="#">Oak Bluffs</a>	Phillipston
32	<a href="#">Stow</a>	Plymouth	<a href="#">Palmer</a>	Plainfield
33	<a href="#">Sudbury</a>	Quincy	<a href="#">Pepperell</a>	Russell
34	<a href="#">Swampscott</a>	Rockport	<a href="#">Rockland</a>	Rutland
35	<a href="#">Uxbridge</a>	Sandwich	<a href="#">Rowe</a>	Sandisfield
36	<a href="#">West Springfield</a>	Scituate	<a href="#">Rowley</a>	Shelburne
37	<a href="#">Weston</a>	Sturbridge	<a href="#">Royalston</a>	Tyringham
38	<a href="#">Winthrop</a>	Watertown	<a href="#">Salisbury</a>	Wales
39	<a href="#">Woburn</a>	Wayland	<a href="#">Savoy</a>	Warren
40	<a href="#">Worcester</a>	Westborough	<a href="#">Somerset</a>	Warwick
41		Westfield	<a href="#">South Hadley</a>	Washington
42		Westford	<a href="#">Swansea</a>	Westhampton
43		Westwood	<a href="#">Taunton</a>	Windsor
44		Weymouth	<a href="#">Wakefield</a>	
45		Winchester	<a href="#">Ware</a>	
46		Wrentham	<a href="#">Webster</a>	
47			<a href="#">Wendell</a>	
48			<a href="#">West Brookfield</a>	
49			<a href="#">West Stockbridge</a>	
50			<a href="#">Westminster</a>	
51			<a href="#">Whately</a>	
52			<a href="#">Whitman</a>	
53			<a href="#">Wilbraham</a>	

**Table 1**

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## **THE CAMPAIGN**

Over the next year, the Massachusetts Campaign for Open Government will work to dramatically increase the number of municipalities that post the six key public records online. This effort will be a true grassroots campaign accomplished by mobilizing the members of Common Cause Massachusetts and other concerned citizens. For those cities and towns that already have a website, we will encourage interested citizens to contact their municipal officials to ask them to post all the key governance records online. For those communities that have no website, we will encourage interested citizens to convince their municipal officials to create and maintain a website, not only because it is an effective method by which the municipality can make public information available to its residents, but also because having a website can benefit the municipality in so many other ways.

Tools for grassroots activism are located on our website, **[www.maopengov.org](http://www.maopengov.org)**, as are up-to-date information on which towns post which documents. As more towns and cities are persuaded to post all the key governance records online, we will announce it on the website and update the information. The website also has forms for citizens to report apparent noncompliance with the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law and the Massachusetts Public Records Law by local officials. Unfortunately, the state does not maintain records on noncompliance issues unless legal action is pursued. We will compile the data from all logged complaints for a future report.

### **Conclusion**

Massachusetts cities and towns can greatly increase access to information about their local governments by posting key documents on the internet. This simple and inexpensive action will help bring government into the 21<sup>st</sup> century by utilizing technology that is increasingly important to Massachusetts citizens. More communities should join the 40 that are currently involving more citizens, providing easy access to information, and making government more accessible by posting all their important governance records online. If they do, we have no doubt that our democracy will be stronger and civic life will be more vibrant.

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APPENDIX A:

RECORDS EVALUATION CRITERIA

The criteria we used in evaluating each website focused on whether the essence of the particular public record had been posted, rather than strictly whether the actual targeted records have been posted. In other words, we gave credit to municipalities that had records posted which contained the underlying information in each targeted record even if the original record was not posted. For example, municipalities that posted the results of a town meeting, but not the original town warrant, were credited with posting the town warrant if the results repeated each article from the town warrant rather than just the vote on that article. Ideally, a municipality could and should post each public record in its original form.

The following is the criteria used in determining whether a municipality had posted the targeted record:

1. Governing Body's Agenda

The governing body's agenda describes the matters the governing body intends to consider at its next meeting, important information the public needs to know in case someone has an interest in a particular issue. Information about just the time and location of a meeting, which is in the notice required by the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law, is not sufficient.<sup>13</sup>

A municipality received a "yes" for having the governing body's agenda if the website had an agenda posted that was for a meeting within a month of the date of the review. Ideally the website should have an agenda at least for the next meeting, but often the agenda is not available until a few days before the meeting. Depending upon when that website was reviewed, the agenda for the next meeting might not have been posted yet. Therefore, some municipalities received a yes for having posted the governing body's agenda even though the most recent agenda was for a meeting that had already been held.

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<sup>13</sup> A governing body is required to prepare a notice for each meeting which contains the date, time and location of the meeting; it is not required to prepare an agenda. We assume, however, that most governing bodies prepare agendas for their meetings. Once the agenda is created, it is a public record. M.G.L. c. 39, §23B; M.G.L. c. 4, § 7, cl. 26.

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## 2. The Governing Body's Minutes

Under the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law, a governing body is required to prepare minutes for each meeting held.<sup>14</sup> The governing body's minutes describe who was present at a meeting and what took place. They can be an important source of information about the governing body's actions.

During the most recent review in September, 2006, a municipality received a "yes" for having the governing body's minutes if the most recently posted minutes were for meetings occurring anytime from May, 2006, up to the month of the review. Ideally, the most recent minutes posted should be for meetings held no more than two previous meetings back. The delay in posting minutes, however, may be because there is a delay in that particular municipality in preparing the minutes and having them approved by the governing body, and not because there is merely a delay in posting the approved minutes online. Allowing for about a four month time period took this possibility into consideration.<sup>15</sup>

## 3. Fiscal Year Budget Information

During the most recent review in September 2006, a municipality received a "yes" for having budget information on its website if it posted either proposed or approved budget information for fiscal year 2007. The information posted had to be at least a detailed operating budget; a summary of the budget was not sufficient. A municipality received credit for having budget information if the information was in a separate record or if it was included in a finance committee report to the town meeting, a mayor's report to the city council, the town meeting warrant, or the town meeting results.

## 4. Municipality's Bylaws, Code or Ordinances

A municipality received a yes under this category if it posted a complete set of its bylaws, code, or ordinances on its website. We did not make any determination as to how up to date the posted bylaws, code, or ordinances were. A municipality received no credit if it only posted its zoning bylaws or one particular section of its general bylaws.

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<sup>14</sup> M.G.L. c. 39, §23A.

<sup>15</sup> The Open Meeting Law which requires the minutes to be prepared, does not state a specific time by which such minutes must be prepared. M.G.L. c. 39, §23B. The Attorney General's Open Meeting Guidelines, states that, "by implication the Law requires that such minutes be made available to the public within a reasonable period of time after the conclusion of any given meeting," and that "two to four weeks may be considered reasonable under most circumstances." Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General, Open Meeting Law Guidelines, at 23 (<http://www.ago.state.ma.us/filelibrary/oml.pdf>).

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### 5. The Town Meeting Warrant

During the most recent review in September 2006, a community received credit for posting a town meeting warrant if it had any warrant posted from 2006, whether it was for a special town meeting or for the annual town meeting. If the warrant articles were included in the town meeting results as a single document, then the town also received credit.

### 6. The Town Meeting Results

The town meeting results is the record of what took place at the town meeting. The results MCOG found posted on municipal websites took a variety of forms, including a copy of the warrant with notations under each article as to whether the article passed, with or without a vote tally; a spreadsheet with a row for each article, a short description of the article, and a vote tally; or actual minutes with a description of who spoke and who made motions. A municipality received a yes under this category if there were results of a 2006 town meeting posted in any of these formats as long as the particular record indicated what the town meeting decided.

# Appendix B

# MASSACHUSETTS LOCAL GOVERNMENT WEBSITES

As of Sept. 2006

Town or City	Websites	July 1, 2005 Population Estimate	Form of Government	Governing Body's Agenda	Governing Body's Minutes	Budget Info.	General By- laws	Town Meeting Warrant	Town Meeting Results
Abington	abingtonmass.com	16,351	BOS5/OTM	no	no	no	yes	yes	no
Acton	acton-ma.gov	20,562	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	no
Acushnet	acushnet.ma.us	10,544	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	no	yes	no
Adams	town.adams.ma.us	8,455	BOS5/RTM	no	no	no	yes	no	no
Agawam	agawam.ma.us	28,599	M/C11	no	no	no	yes	n/a	n/a
Alford	www.townofalford.org	400	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	no	no	no
Amesbury	ci.amesbury.ma.us	16,643	M/C9	yes	yes	no	no	n/a	n/a
Amherst	amherstma.gov	34,047	BOS5/RTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Andover	andoverma.gov	33,042	BOS5/OTM	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
Aquinnah	NW	356	BOS3/OTM	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw
Arlington	town.arlington.ma.us	41,224	BOS5/RTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Ashburnham	www.ashburnham-ma.gov	5,981	BOS3/OTM	no	yes	no	yes	yes	yes
Ashby	ci.ashby.ma.us	2,930	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	yes	no	no
Ashfield	NW	1,825	BOS3/OTM	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw
Ashland	ashlandmass.com	15,551	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Athol	NW	11,697	BOS5/RTM	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw
Attleboro	cityofattleboro.us	43,382	M/C11	yes	yes	no	no	n/a	n/a
Auburn	town.auburn.ma.us	16,400	BOS5/RTM	no	yes	no	yes	no	no
Avon	avonmass.net	4,340	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	no	no	no
Ayer	ayer.ma.us	7,228	BOS5/OTM	no	no	yes	no	yes	no
Barnstable	town.barnstable.ma.us	47,826	TC13	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	n/a
Barre	town.barre.ma.us	5,380	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	yes	yes	no
Becket	townofbecket.org	1,786	BOS3/OTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Bedford	town.bedford.ma.us	12,462	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Belchertown	belchertown.org	13,958	BOS5/OTM	no	no	no	yes	no	no
Bellingham	bellinghamma.org	15,784	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	no	yes	no	no
Belmont	town.belmont.ma.us	23,371	BOS3/RTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Berkley	NW	6,375	BOS3/OTM	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw
Berlin	townofberlin.com	2,689	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	no	no	no

Town or City	Websites	July 1, 2005 Population Estimate	Form of Government	Governing Body's Agenda	Governing Body's Minutes	Budget Info.	General By- laws	Town Meeting Warrant	Town Meeting Results
Bernardston	www.town.bernardston.ma.us	2,238	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	no	no	no
Beverly	beverlyma.gov	39,876	MC9	no	yes	yes	no	n/a	n/a
Billerica	town.billerica.ma.us	39,963	BOS5/RTM	no	no	yes	yes	yes	no
Blackstone	townofblackstone.com	9,057	BOS5/OTM	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Blandford	townofblandford.org	1,267	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	no	no	no
Bolton	townofbolton.com	4,435	BOS3/OTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Boston	cityofboston.gov	559,034	M/C13	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	n/a
Bourne	townofbourne.com	19,356	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	no	yes	no	no
Boxborough	town.boxborough.ma.us	5,062	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Boxford	www.town.boxford.ma.us	8,177	BOS5/OTM	yes	no	no	no	no	no
Boylston	boylston.org	4,259	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	no	no	no
Braintree	townofbraintreegov.org	33,681	BOS5/RTM	yes	yes	no	no	no	no
Brewster	town.brewster.ma.us	10,242	BOS5/OTM	yes	no	no	yes	no	no
Bridgewater	bridgewaterma.org	25,720	BOS5/OTM	yes	no	yes	no	yes	yes
Brimfield	NW	3,639	BOS3/OTM	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw
Brockton	brockton.ma.us	94,632	M/C11	no	no	no	no	n/a	n/a
Brookfield	brookfieldma.us	3,096	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	no	no	no
Brookline	townofbrooklinemass.com	55,590	BOS5/RTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Buckland	NW	1,995	BOS3/OTM	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw
Burlington	burlington.org	23,299	BOS5/RTM	yes	no	no	yes	yes	yes
Cambridge	cambridgema.gov	100,135	M/C9	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	n/a
Canton	town.canton.ma.us	21,571	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	no	yes	no	no
Carlisle	carlisle.org	4,829	BOS5/OTM	no	no	no	no	no	no
Carver	carverma.org	11,562	BOS5/OTM	no	no	yes	yes	yes	no
Charlemont	charlemont-ma.us	1,388	BOS3/OTM	yes	yes	yes	no	no	no
Charlton	townofcharlton.net	12,475	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	no
Chatham	town.chatham.ma.us	6,832	BOS5/OTM	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	no
Chelmsford	townofchelmsford.us	33,759	BOS5/RTM	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Chelsea	ci.chelsea.ma.us	32,518	C11	yes	no	yes	yes	n/a	n/a
Cheshire	NW	3,357	BOS3/OTM	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw
Chester	www.townofchester.net	1,321	BOS3/OTM	no	yes	yes	no	yes	yes
Chesterfield	NW	1,272	BOS3/OTM	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw
Chicopee	chicopee.ma.us	54,680	M/A13	no	no	no	no	n/a	n/a
Chilmark	ci.chilmark.ma.us	945	BOS3/OTM	no	yes	no	yes	yes	yes

Town or City	Websites	July 1, 2005 Population Estimate	Form of Government	Governing Body's Agenda	Governing Body's Minutes	Budget Info.	General By- laws	Town Meeting Warrant	Town Meeting Results
Clarksburg	NW	1,663	BOS3/OTM	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw
Clinton	clintonmass.com	13,995	BOS5/OTM	no	no	no	yes	no	no
Cohasset	www.cohassetmass.org	7,222	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	no	yes	no	no
Colrain	NW	1,859	BOS3/OTM	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw
Concord	concordnet.org	16,833	BOS5/OTM	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
Conway	NW	1,905	BOS3/OTM	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw
Cummington	cummington-ma.gov	988	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	yes	no	no
Dalton	dalton-ma.gov	6,700	BOS5/OTM	yes	no	yes	no	yes	yes
Danvers	danvers.govoffice.com	26,045	BOS5/RTM	yes	no	yes	yes	no	no
Dartmouth	town.dartmouth.ma.us	31,389	BOS5/RTM	yes	no	no	yes	no	no
Dedham	town.dedham.ma.us	23,736	BOS5/RTM	no	no	yes	yes	yes	no
Deerfield	town.deerfield.ma.us	4,786	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	yes	no	no
Dennis	town.dennis.ma.us	15,891	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Dighton	dighton-ma.gov	6,665	BOS3/OTM	no	no	yes	yes	yes	no
Douglas	douglasma.org	7,885	BOS5/OTM	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	no
Dover	doverma.org	5,641	BOS3/OTM	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	no
Dracut	dracut-ma.us	28,892	BOS5/OTM	no	no	no	no	yes	no
Dudley	dudleyma.gov	10,812	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Dunstable	dunstable-ma.gov	3,154	BOS3/OTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Duxbury	town.duxbury.ma.us	14,660	BOS3/OTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
East Bridgewater	eastbridgewaterma.org	13,859	BOS3/OTM	yes	yes	no	no	no	no
East Brookfield	eastbrookfieldma.us	2,111	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	no	yes	no
East Longmeadow	eastlongmeadow.org	14,886	BOS3/OTM	yes	yes	no	no	yes	yes
Eastham	eastham-ma.gov	5,551	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no
Easthampton	easthamptonweb.com	16,004	M/C9	no	no	no	no	n/a	n/a
Easton	easton.ma.us	23,028	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no
Edgartown	edgartown-ma.us	3,935	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	no	no	no
Egremont	egremont-ma.gov	1,356	BOS3/OTM	no	yes	yes	no	yes	no
Erving	NW	1,544	BOS3/OTM	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw
Essex	essexma.org	3,346	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	yes	no	no
Everett	ci.everett.ma.us	36,837	M/A7/C18	no	yes	no	yes	n/a	n/a
Fairhaven	fairhaven-ma.gov	16,222	BOS3/RTM	no	no	no	no	no	no
Fall River	fallriverma.org	91,802	M/C9	no	no	yes	yes	n/a	n/a
Falmouth	town.falmouth.ma.us	33,644	BOS5/RTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no

Town or City	Websites	July 1, 2005 Population Estimate	Form of Government	Governing Body's Agenda	Governing Body's Minutes	Budget Info.	General By- laws	Town Meeting Warrant	Town Meeting Results
Fitchburg	ci.fitchburg.ma.us	40,045	M/C11	yes	no	no	yes	n/a	n/a
Florida	townofflorida.org	667	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	no	no	no
Foxborough	foxboromaonline.com	16,313	BOS5/OTM	no	no	no	no	no	no
Framingham	framinghamma.org	65,060	BOS5/RTM	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
Franklin	franklin.ma.us	30,893	TC9	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	n/a
Freetown	freetown.ma.us	8,979	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	no	yes	no
Gardner	www.gardner-ma.gov	20,908	M/C11	no	no	no	no	n/a	n/a
Georgetown	georgetownma.gov	8,041	BOS3/OTM	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no
Gill	gillmass.org	1,393	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	no	no	no
Gloucester	ci.gloucester.ma.us	30,713	M/C9	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	n/a
Goshen	egoshen.com	957	BOS3/OTM	no	yes	no	no	no	no
Gosnold	NW	86	BOS3/OTM	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw
Grafton	town.grafton.ma.us	16,890	BOS5/OTM	yes	no	no	yes	no	no
Granby	NW	6,344	BOS3/OTM	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw
Granville	townofgranville.org	1,647	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	no	no	no
Great Barrington	NW	7,441	BOS5/OTM	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw
Greenfield	cityofgreenfield.org	17,834	M/C13	no	no	no	no	n/a	n/a
Groton	ci.groton.ma.us	10,437	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Groveland	grovelandma.com	6,608	BOS3/OTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Hadley	hadleyma.org	4,822	BOS5/OTM	no	no	no	no	yes	no
Halifax	town.halifax.ma.us	7,809	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	no	no	no
Hamilton	hamiltonma.gov	8,349	BOS5/OTM	yes	no	no	no	no	no
Hampden	hampden.org	5,318	BOS3/OTM	no	yes	no	yes	no	no
Hancock	NW	1,026	BOS3/OTM	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw
Hanover	www.hanover-ma.gov	14,101	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	yes	no	no
Hanson	hanson-ma.gov	9,926	BOS5/OTM	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Hardwick	www.townofhardwick.com	2,655	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	no	yes	no
Harvard	harvard.ma.us	6,074	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Harwich	town.harwich.ma.us	12,675	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Hatfield	townofhatfield.org	3,282	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	yes	no	no
Haverhill	ci.haverhill.ma.us	60,242	M/C9	yes	yes	yes	no	n/a	n/a
Hawley	NW	345	BOS3/OTM	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw
Heath	townofheath.org	805	BOS3/OTM	no	yes	no	no	no	no
Hingham	hingham-ma.com	21,507	BOS3/OTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

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Hinsdale	hinsdale-mass.org	1,811	BOS3/OTM	no	yes	no	no	no	no
Holbrook	NW	10,775	BOS5/RTM	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw
Holden	townofholden.net	16,592	BOS5/OTM	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Holland	NW	2,536	BOS3/OTM	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw
Holliston	townofholliston.us	13,847	BOS3/OTM	no	no	yes	yes	yes	no
Holyoke	holyoke.org	39,958	M/C15	yes	yes	no	yes	n/a	n/a
Hopedale	hopedale-MA.gov	6,243	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	yes	yes	no
Hopkinton	hopkinton.org	14,112	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Hubbardston	hubbardstonma.us	4,352	BOS3/OTM	no	no	yes	yes	no	no
Hudson	townofhudson.org	18,943	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Hull	town.hull.ma.us	11,280	BOS5/OTM	no	yes	yes	no	yes	no
Huntington	huntingtonma.org	2,182	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	no	yes	no
Ipswich	town.ipswich.ma.us	13,302	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Kingston	kingstonmass.org	12,457	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Lakeville	lakevillema.org	10,639	BOS3/OTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no
Lancaster	ci.lancaster.ma.us	6,845	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	no	yes	yes
Lanesborough	lanesborough-ma.gov	2,953	BOS3/OTM	no	yes	no	yes	yes	no
Lawrence	ci.lawrence.ma.us	71,314	M/C9	no	no	yes	no	n/a	n/a
Lee	lee.ma.us	5,885	BOS3/RTM	no	yes	yes	no	yes	no
Leicester	leicesterma.org	10,967	BOS5/OTM	no	no	no	no	no	no
Lenox	townoflenox.com	5,156	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Leominster	leominster-ma.gov	41,804	M/C9	yes	no	yes	yes	n/a	n/a
Leverett	leverett.ma.us	1,772	BOS5/OTM	yes	no	yes	no	yes	yes
Lexington	ci.lexington.ma.us	30,266	BOS5/RTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Leyden	www.townofleyden.com	816	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	no	no	no
Lincoln	lincolntown.org	7,931	BOS3/OTM	yes	yes	no	yes	no	no
Littleton	littletonma.org	8,589	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	no	yes	no	no
Longmeadow	longmeadow.org	15,569	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	no	yes	no	no
Lowell	lowellma.gov	103,111	CC9	yes	yes	yes	no	n/a	n/a
Ludlow	ludlow.ma.us	21,946	BOS5/RTM	yes	no	no	yes	no	no
Lunenburg	lunenburgonline.com	10,024	BOS5/OTM	yes	no	yes	no	yes	no
Lynn	ci.lynn.ma.us	88,792	M/C11	no	no	no	no	n/a	n/a
Lynnfield	town.lynnfield.ma.us	11,546	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	no	no	no
Malden	ci.malden.ma.us	55,871	M/C7	yes	no	yes	yes	n/a	n/a

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Manchester-by-the-Sea	manchester.ma.us	5,335	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Mansfield	mansfieldma.com	22,977	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no
Marblehead	marblehead.org	20,297	BOS5/OTM	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Marion	townofmarion.org	5,319	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	yes	no	no
Marlborough	marlborough-ma.gov	37,444	M/C11	yes	no	yes	no	n/a	n/a
Marshfield	townofmarshfield.org	24,890	BOS3/OTM	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	no
Mashpee	ci.mashpee.ma.us	14,280	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Mattapoisett	mattapoisett.net	6,479	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	yes	no	no
Maynard	maynard.ma.us	10,230	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Medfield	town.medfield.net	12,343	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	yes	no	no
Medford	medford.org	53,523	M/C7	no	no	no	no	n/a	n/a
Medway	townofmedway.org	12,812	BOS5/OTM	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Melrose	cityofmelrose.org	26,365	M/A11	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	n/a
Mendon	www.mendonma.net	5,754	BOS3/OTM	no	yes	no	yes	no	no
Merrimac	merrimac01860.info	6,360	BOS3/OTM	no	no	yes	no	yes	no
Methuen	ci.methuen.ma.us	44,609	M/C9	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	n/a
Middleborough	middleborough.com	21,198	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	no	no	yes	no
Middlefield	NW	549	BOS3/OTM	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw
Middleton	townofmiddleton.org	9,273	BOS5/OTM	no	no	no	no	no	no
Milford	milford.ma.us	27,519	BOS3/RTM	no	no	no	no	no	no
Millbury	millbury-ma.org	13,459	BOS5/OTM	no	no	yes	yes	yes	no
Millis	millis.org	7,964	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	no	no	no
Millville	millvillema.org	2,943	BOS5/OTM	no	no	no	no	no	no
Milton	townofmilton.org	26,034	BOS3/RTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Monroe	NW	100	BOS3/OTM	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw
Monson	monson-ma.gov	8,763	BOS3/OTM	no	yes	no	no	no	no
Montague	montague.net	8,408	BOS3/RTM	yes	yes	no	no	no	no
Monterey	monterey-ma.org	961	BOS3/OTM	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes
Montgomery	NW	745	BOS3/OTM	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw
Mount Washington	NW	135	BOS3/OTM	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw
Nahant	nahant.org	3,591	BOS3/OTM	no	no	yes	yes	yes	no
Nantucket	nantucket-ma.gov	10,168	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Natick	natickma.org	31,943	BOS5/RTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Needham	town.needham.ma.us	28,418	BOS5/RTM	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	no

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New Ashford	NW	247	BOS3/OTM	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw
New Bedford	ci.new-bedford.ma.us	93,102	M/C11	yes	yes	no	no	n/a	n/a
New Braintree	newbraintree.net	1,092	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	no	yes	no
New Marlborough	new-marlborough.ma.us	1,525	BOS3/OTM	no	yes	no	yes	yes	no
New Salem	NW	988	BOS3/OTM	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw
Newbury	townofnewbury.org	7,002	BOS3/OTM	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Newburyport	www.nbpt.us	17,414	M/C11	yes	yes	no	yes	n/a	n/a
Newton	ci.newton.ma.us	83,158	M/A24	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	n/a
Norfolk	virtualnorfolk.org	10,490	BOS3/OTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
North Adams	NW	14,010	M/C9	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw
North Andover	townofnorthandover.com	27,155	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
North Attleborough	north-attleboro.ma.us	28,133	BOS5/RTM	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
North Brookfield	northbrookfield.net	4,814	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	no	no	no
North Reading	northreadingma.gov	13,949	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Northampton	northamptonma.gov	28,715	M/C9	yes	yes	yes	no	n/a	n/a
Northborough	town.northborough.ma.us	14,675	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	no	yes	no	no
Northbridge	northbridgemass.org	14,216	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	no	yes	no	no
Northfield	northfield.ma.us	3,230	BOS3/OTM	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	no
Norton	nortonma.org	19,169	BOS5/OTM	no	no	yes	no	yes	no
Norwell	townofnorwell.net	10,396	BOS3/OTM	yes	no	yes	no	yes	no
Norwood	ci.norwood.ma.us	28,478	BOS5/RTM	yes	no	no	yes	no	no
Oak Bluffs	ci.oak-bluffs.ma.us	3,787	BOS5/OTM	no	no	no	no	no	no
Oakham	NW	1,897	BOS3/OTM	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw
Orange	townoforange.org	7,667	BOS3/OTM	no	no	yes	yes	no	no
Orleans	town.orleans.ma.us	6,458	BOS5/OTM	yes	no	no	yes	yes	yes
Otis	NW	1,393	BOS3/OTM	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw
Oxford	town.oxford.ma.us	13,718	BOS5/OTM	yes	no	no	no	yes	no
Palmer	townofpalmer.com	12,925	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	no	no	no
Paxton	townofpaxton.net	4,558	BOS3/OTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Peabody	peabody-ma.gov	51,239	M/C11	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	n/a
Pelham	townofpelham.org	1,416	BOS3/OTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Pembroke	townofpembrokemass.org	18,095	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	no
Pepperell	town.pepperell.ma.us	11,408	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	no	no	no
Peru	NW	837	BOS3/OTM	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw

Town or City	Websites	July 1, 2005 Population Estimate	Form of Government	Governing Body's Agenda	Governing Body's Minutes	Budget Info.	General By- laws	Town Meeting Warrant	Town Meeting Results
Petersham	NW	1,285	BOS3/OTM	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw
Phillipston	NW	1,755	BOS3/OTM	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw
Pittsfield	pittsfield-ma.org	43,860	M/C11	yes	no	no	yes	n/a	n/a
Plainfield	NW	600	BOS3/OTM	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw
Plainville	www.plainville.ma.us	8,022	BOS3/OTM	no	no	yes	no	yes	no
Plymouth	plymouth-ma.org	54,923	BOS5/RTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Plympton	town.plympton.ma.us	2,781	BOS3/OTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Princeton	town.princeton.ma.us	3,523	BOS3/OTM	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	no
Provincetown	provincetown-ma.gov	3,426	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Quincy	ci.quincy.ma.us	90,250	M/C9	yes	yes	no	yes	n/a	n/a
Randolph	townofrandolph.com	30,468	BOS5/RTM	yes	yes	no	no	yes	no
Raynham	town.raynham.ma.us	13,498	BOS3/OTM	yes	yes	no	no	yes	no
Reading	ci.reading.ma.us	23,164	BOS5/RTM	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	no
Rehoboth	town.rehoboth.ma.us	11,256	BOS3/OTM	yes	no	no	yes	yes	no
Revere	revere.org	45,807	M/C11	yes	no	no	yes	n/a	n/a
Richmond	www.richmondma.org	1,620	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	yes	no	no
Rochester	townofrochestermass.com	5,310	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	no	yes	no
Rockland	rockland-ma.gov	17,839	BOS5/OTM	no	no	no	no	no	no
Rockport	town.rockport.ma.us	7,763	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Rowe	rowe-ma.gov	350	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	no	no	no
Rowley	town.rowley.ma.us	5,845	BOS5/OTM	no	no	no	no	no	no
Royalston	royalston.com	1,368	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	no	no	no
Russell	NW	1,727	BOS3/OTM	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw
Rutland	NW	7,446	BOS3/OTM	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw
Salem	salem.com	41,756	M/C11	no	no	no	yes	n/a	n/a
Salisbury	salisburyma.gov	8,284	BOS5/OTM	no	no	no	no	no	no
Sandisfield	NW	831	BOS3/OTM	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw
Sandwich	sandwichmass.org	20,726	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Saugus	saugus-ma.gov	26,915	BOS5/RTM	no	no	no	yes	yes	no
Savoy	townofsavoy.org	725	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	no	no	no
Scituate	town.scituate.ma.us	18,120	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Seekonk	http://www.seekonk.info/	13,668	BOS3/RTM	no	no	no	yes	yes	no
Sharon	townofsharon.net	17,207	BOS3/OTM	yes	yes	no	yes	no	no
Sheffield	www.sheffieldma.gov/	3,366	BOS3/OTM	no	yes	no	yes	no	no

Town or City	Websites	July 1, 2005 Population Estimate	Form of Government	Governing Body's Agenda	Governing Body's Minutes	Budget Info.	General By- laws	Town Meeting Warrant	Town Meeting Results
Shelburne	NW	2,054	BOS3/OTM	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw
Sherborn	sherbornma.org	4,223	BOS3/OTM	yes	no	yes	no	yes	no
Shirley	shirley-ma.gov	7,612	BOS3/OTM	no	no	yes	no	yes	no
Shrewsbury	shrewsbury-ma.gov	33,174	BOS5/RTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Shutesbury	shutesbury.org	1,846	BOS3/OTM	no	yes	no	no	no	no
Somerset	somersetmass.com	18,570	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	no	no	no
Somerville	ci.somerville.ma.us	74,963	M/A11	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	n/a
South Hadley	southhadley.org	17,063	BOS5/RTM	no	no	no	no	no	no
Southampton	town.southampton.ma.us	5,841	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Southborough	southboroughtown.com	9,559	BOS3/OTM	yes	no	no	no	no	no
Southbridge	ci.southbridge.ma.us	17,234	TC13	no	yes	no	yes	n/a	n/a
Southwick	southwickma.org	9,548	BOS3/OTM	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	no
Spencer	spencerma.gov	12,092	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	no
Springfield	cityofspringfieldmass.com	151,732	M/C9	no	no	yes	yes	n/a	n/a
Sterling	town.sterling.ma.us	7,770	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes
Stockbridge	townofstockbridge.com	2,256	BOS3/OTM	no	yes	no	yes	yes	yes
Stoneham	ci.stoneham.ma.us	21,582	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	no
Stoughton	stoughton-ma.gov	26,692	BOS5/RTM	yes	no	no	no	no	no
Stow	stow-ma.gov	6,179	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Sturbridge	town.sturbridge.ma.us	8,860	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Sudbury	sudbury.ma.us	17,066	BOS3/OTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Sunderland	townofsunderland.us	3,803	BOS3/OTM	no	yes	yes	no	yes	no
Sutton	suttonma.org	8,989	BOS5/OTM	no	no	no	yes	no	no
Swampscott	town.swampscott.ma.us	14,288	BOS5/RTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Swansea	swanseamass.org	16,250	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	no	no	no
Taunton	ci.taunton.ma.us	56,251	M/C9	no	no	no	no	n/a	n/a
Templeton	templeton1.org	7,491	BOS5/OTM	no	no	no	yes	no	no
Tewksbury	tewksbury.net	29,043	BOS5/OTM	no	yes	yes	yes	no	no
Tisbury	tisburygov.org	3,812	BOS3/OTM	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
Tolland	tolland-ma.gov	447	BOS3/OTM	no	yes	no	yes	no	no
Topsfield	topsfield-ma.gov	6,183	BOS3/OTM	yes	yes	no	yes	no	no
Townsend	townsend.ma.us	9,285	BOS3/OTM	yes	no	no	yes	no	no
Truro	truro-ma.gov	2,164	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no
Tyngsborough	tyngsboroughmass.com	11,338	BOS5/OTM	no	yes	yes	no	yes	yes

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Tyringham	NW	352	BOS3/OTM	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw
Upton	upton.ma.us	6,397	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	yes	no	no
Uxbridge	uxbridge-ma.gov	12,409	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Wakefield	wakefield.ma.us	24,575	BOS7/OTM	no	no	no	no	no	no
Wales	NW	1,821	BOS3/OTM	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw
Walpole	walpole-ma.gov	23,112	BOS5/RTM	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	no
Waltham	city.waltham.ma.us	59,556	M/C15	yes	no	no	yes	n/a	n/a
Ware	townofware.com	10,005	BOS5/OTM	no	no	no	no	no	no
Wareham	wareham.ma.us	21,296	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	no
Warren	NW	5,045	BOS3/OTM	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw
Warwick	NW	763	BOS3/OTM	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw
Washington	NW	546	BOS3/OTM	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw
Watertown	ci.watertown.ma.us	32,303	TC9	yes	yes	yes	no	n/a	n/a
Wayland	wayland.ma.us	13,002	BOS5/OTM	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
Webster	webster-ma.gov	16,851	BOS5/RTM	no	no	no	no	no	no
Wellesley	ci.wellesley.ma.us	26,978	BOS5/RTM	yes	no	no	yes	yes	no
Wellfleet	wellfleetma.org	2,822	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no
Wendell	wendellmass.us	1,036	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	no	no	no
Wenham	wenhamma.gov	4,650	BOS3/OTM	no	yes	no	no	yes	no
West Boylston	westboylston.com	7,699	BOS5/OTM	no	no	no	yes	no	no
West Bridgewater	town.west-bridgewater.ma.us	6,821	BOS3/OTM	no	yes	no	no	no	no
West Brookfield	town.west-brookfield.ma.us	3,895	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	no	no	no
West Newbury	town.west-newbury.ma.us	4,306	BOS3/OTM	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	no
West Springfield	west-springfield.ma.us	27,989	M/C9	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	n/a
West Stockbridge	weststockbridgetown.com	1,452	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	no	no	no
West Tisbury	town.west-tisbury.ma.us	2,671	BOS3/OTM	no	yes	no	no	no	no
Westborough	town.westborough.ma.us	18,732	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Westfield	cityofwestfield.org	40,525	M/C13	yes	yes	no	yes	n/a	n/a
Westford	westford-ma.gov	21,461	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes
Westhampton	NW	1,568	BOS3/OTM	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw
Westminster	westminster-ma.org	7,370	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	no	no	no
Weston	weston.govoffice.com	11,581	BOS3/OTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Westport	westport-ma.gov	15,071	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no
Westwood	townhall.westwood.ma.us	13,900	BOS3/OTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no

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Weymouth	weymouth.ma.us	53,788	M/C11	yes	yes	no	yes	n/a	n/a
Whately	whately.org	1,584	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	no	no	no
Whitman	whitman-ma.gov	14,439	BOS5/OTM	no	no	no	no	no	no
Wilbraham	www.wilbraham-ma.gov/	14,003	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	no	no	no
Williamsburg	burgy.org	2,434	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	yes	no	no
Williamstown	williamstown.net	8,238	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	no
Wilmington	town.wilmington.ma.us	21,472	BOS5/OTM	yes	no	no	yes	no	no
Winchendon	townofwinchendon.com	10,104	BOS5/OTM	no	no	no	yes	no	no
Winchester	winchester.us	21,181	BOS5/RTM	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Windsor	NW	858	BOS3/OTM	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw	nw
Winthrop	town.winthrop.ma.us	17,069	TC9	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	n/a
Woburn	cityofwoburn.com	37,147	M/A9	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	n/a
Worcester	ci.worcester.ma.us	175,898	M/C11	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	n/a
Worthington	worthington-ma.gov	1,292	BOS3/OTM	no	no	no	yes	no	no
Wrentham	wrentham.ma.us	11,093	BOS5/OTM	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes
Yarmouth	yarmouth.ma.us	24,621	BOS5/OTM	yes	no	no	yes	yes	no

**KEY:**

BOS = board of selectmen; RTM = representative town meeting; OTM = open town meeting

M/C = mayor and city council form of government

M/A mayor and board of alderman form of government

TC or CC or C = council form of government

The numbers under form of government indicate how many members are on the board or council.

NW = no official or unofficial website was found for this community

July 1, 2005 Population Estimates source: Massachusetts Department of Revenue, Division of Local Services, Municipal Databank