



TO: Newton Charter Commission

FROM: Tanya Stepasiuk, Edward J. Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management

DATE: April 4, 2016

RE: School Council Ward Representation Examples

You asked for data on municipalities that have ward representation elected at large. As we anticipated, we could only identify 2 cities in Massachusetts (other than Newton) that have this particular structure. Below is a chart that identifies 11 cities that have ward or district members, however the majority of these do not elect their ward members city-wide/at large (this list is not necessarily exhaustive).

Both Everett and Springfield have ward or district representation with their members being elected at large. More details are below.

Municipality	Total Size	At Large Members	Ward Members	Ward Members Elected At Large	Term Length	Term Limits
Attleboro	9	3	6	No	2	No
Beverly	7	0	6	No	2	No
Brockton	7	0	7	No	2	No
Chicopee	12	2	9	No	4(AL)/2(W)	No
Everett	9	3	6	Yes	2	No
Holyoke	9	2	7	No	2	No
Leominster	8	3	5	No	2	No
Malden	9	0	8	No	2	No
Northampton	10	2	7	No	2	No
Somerville	9	0	7	No	2	No
Springfield	7	2	4	Yes	4	No

Attleboro. Ward members are elected from the ward only, at large members elected city-wide.

Beverly. Mayor is the seventh member. Ward members are elected from the ward only.

Brockton. Ward members are elected from the ward only.

Chicopee. Mayor is a member. Ward members are elected from the ward only, at large members elected city-wide.

Everett. Ward members are domiciled in the ward but elected at large. Everett has 6 wards with one ward member being domiciled in each ward. All people running for school committee (both at large and ward members) must collect 250 signatures to be put on the ballot.

Holyoke. Ward members are elected from the ward only, at large members elected city-wide.

Leominster. Ward members are elected from the ward only, at large members elected city-wide.

Malden. Mayor is a member. Ward members are elected from the ward only, at large members elected city-wide.

Northampton. Mayor is a member. Ward members are elected from the ward only, at large members elected city-wide.

Somerville. Mayor and president of board of aldermen are members. Ward members are elected from the ward only.

Springfield. Mayor is a member. Ward members are domiciled in the ward but elected at large.

At large members have a 100 signature requirement for nomination (city wide). District members must be residents of the district from which they seek to be elected and have a 100 signature requirement for nomination (district wide).

Rather than ward representation, Springfield has district representation with each district made up of two wards; Wards 1 and 3, Wards 4 and 5, Wards 6 and 7, and Wards 2 and 8.

This arrangement was reached to respond to majority-minority wards in the city and pending suit before the Federal District Court in Springfield regarding the contention that the city's at large council and school committee did not provide sufficient opportunity for minority voters to elect council or school committee members representative of the city's population (council composition also changed in this same act from 9 at large to 8 from wards and 5 at large).