

**Newton Charter Commission: Article 8 Research
Filling of Vacancies**

		Term of Mayor	Vacancy: Mayor Special election if in (months):	After that:
Waltham	62,227	4	36	Council elects acting mayor* +
Haverhill	59,902	4	42	Council Pres. serves as acting mayor
Lawrence	77,657	4	42	Council elects one of its members*
Somerville	78,804	4	43	Council elects mayor
Newton	87,971	4	39	Council elects one of its members*
Lynn	91,589	2	15	Council Pres. serves as acting mayor
Fall River	88,697	2	18	Council Pres. serves as acting mayor
Quincy	93,494	2		

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		Term of Mayor	Vacancy: Mayor Special election if in (months):	After that:
New Bedford	95,078	2	12	Council elects mayor*
Brockton	94,089	2	18	Council Pres. serves as acting mayor
Cambridge	107,289			
Weymouth (town)	55,419	4		
Peabody	52,044	2	15	Council Pres. serves as acting mayor
Boston	645,966	4		
Model City Charter				

*If CC fails to elect, Council Pres becomes interim mayor; Council vacancy created
+ If president declines, longest-tenured councilor becomes mayor

**Newton Charte
Filling of Vacan**

Vacancy: City Council

	Total City Council Size	At-Large	District	At-Large Vacancy	Ward Councilor Vacancy	Other notes:
Waltham	15	6	9	Council vote	Special election	Vacancies not filled in last 9 months
Haverhill	9	9	-	Council vote	--	
Lawrence	9	3	6	Runner up, 30% min., or Council elects "suitable person"	Runner up, 30% min., or Council elects "suitable person"	Vacancies not filled in last 6 months, unless fewer than 7 remain on council
Somerville	11	4	7	Runner up	Special election	Vacancies not filled in last 6 months
Newton	24	16	8	Special election	Special election	Vacancies not filled in last 9 months*
Lynn	11	4	7	Runner up	Runner up with 30% of vote, or else special election	Vacancies not filled in last 6 months
Fall River	9	9	-			
Quincy	9	3	6			

**Newton Charte
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Vacancy: City Council

	Total City Council Size	At-Large	District	At-Large Vacancy	Ward Councilor Vacancy	Other notes:
New Bedford	11	5	6	Council vote	Special election	
Brockton	11	4	7	Special election	Special election	Council vote in last 6 months
Cambridge	9	9	-	Council vote	--	If no council vote, by descending order of authority
Weymouth (town)	11	5	6	Runner up with 30%	?	
Peabody	11	5	6	Special election	Special election	Vacancies not filled in last 6 months
Boston	13	4	9	Runner up	Special election	
Model City Charter				Council vote during first 21 months	Council vote during first 21 months	

*Person elected at subsequent city-wide election is sworn in immediately

**Newton Charte
Filling of Vacan**

Vacancy: School Committee

	Size of School Committee:	Compositi on:	Term:	Chair:	Vice Chair:	Vacancies Filled:
Waltham	6 + mayor	At-Large	yr, staggered	Mayor	Elected by SC annually	Joint meeting of CC and SC to elect a "suitable" person to fulfill entire remaining term
Haverhill	6 + mayor	"by law"		Mayor	Elected by SC annually	
Lawrence	6 + Mayor	by Ward	2 yr	Mayor	Elected biannually	Same as CC for first 18 mo; not filled if after 18 mo.
Somerville	7 + mayor and BOA pres	by Ward	2 yr	Elected from SC		Yr #1: special election; Yr #2: SC elects person from ward
Newton	8 + mayor	At-Large by ward	2 yr	Elected from SC		Special election; vacancies not filled in last 9 months*
Lynn	6 + mayor	At-Large	2 yr	Mayor	Elected biannually	Same as CC
Fall River				Mayor		
Quincy						

**Newton Charte
Filling of Vacan**

Vacancy: School Committee

	Size of School Committee:	Compositi on:	Term:	Chair:	Vice Chair:	Vacancies Filled:
New Bedford	At-Large		Mayor			
Brockton	by Ward	2 yr	Mayor			Joint meeting of CC and SC to elect a "suitable" person to fulfill entire remaining term; mayor presides
Cambridge	At-Large	2 yr	Mayor			
Weymouth (town)						
Peabody	At-Large	2 yr	Mayor			Joint meeting of CC and SC to elect a "suitable" person to fulfill entire remaining term
Boston						
Model City Charter						

*Person elected at subsequent city-wide election is sworn in immediately

Newton Charter Commission: Article 8 Research Elections

All of the cities in the benchmark group have **preliminary elections** for more than 2X the number of candidates for a seat, **non-partisan elections**, and **November elections**.

Marilyn Contreas provided the following information concerning the day elections are held:

Currently, several cities – one mayor-council and several council-manager – hold municipal elections in June (those elected take office in July) – at least one has three-year staggered terms and elections are held yearly – June is chosen so that it will not interfere in those years where a presidential primary is held, and provides sufficient time for voter registration post the presidential primary in such years (towns, however, given their centuries of spring “annual meeting” voting, do work around this – although neither the legislature nor the Secretary of State has historically shown any interest in accommodating a city to make such a change) June also does not violate the window for the Sept. primary for state offices.

		Ballot Order	Number of Wards	Residents Per Ward
Waltham	62,227		9	6,914
Haverhill	59,902		7	8,557
Lawrence	77,657	Alphabetical	6	12,943
Somerville	78,804		7	11,258
Newton	87,971	Drawing	8	10,996
Lynn	91,589		7	13,084
Fall River	88,697		9	9,855
Quincy	93,494		6	15,582
New Bedford	95,078		6	15,846
Brockton	94,089		7	13,441
Cambridge	107,289		11	9,754
Weymouth (town)	55,419		6	9,237
Peabody	52,044		6	8,674
Boston	645,966		22	29,362

**Newton Charter Commission: Article 8 Research
Signature Requirements for Nominations**

		<u>Mayor</u>		<u>At-Large City Council</u>		<u>Ward Rep</u>	<u>School Committee</u>	
		<u>Total</u>	<u>Min/Each Ward</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Min/Each Ward</u>	<u>City Council</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Min/Each Ward</u>
Waltham	62,227	50		50		50	50	
Haverhill	59,902	50		50		-	50	
Lawrence	77,657	250		100			50	
Somerville	78,804							
Newton	87,971	400	-	150	-	50	150	-
Lynn	91,589			350	150 max any ward		350	150 max any ward
Fall River	88,697	50		50		-	50	
Quincy	93,494							
New Bedford	95,078							
Brockton	94,089							
Cambridge	107,289							
Weymouth (town)	55,419	150	25	150	25	150	25	
Peabody	52,044							
Boston	645,966							

Newton Charter Commission: Article 8 Research
Statewide Primary Election Data: City of Newton Turnout

<u>Year</u>	<u>Race</u>	<u>Party</u>	<u># of Ballots Pulled in Newton</u>	<u>%</u>
2012	Congress	Democrat	7699	83%
		Republican	1605	17%
2010	Governor	Democrat	11448	85%
		Republican	1950	15%
2008	Senate	Democrat	7421	95%
		Republican	384	5%
2004	Sheriff	Democrat	2389	89%
		Republican	303	11%

Newton Charter Commission: Article 8 Research Newton Special Elections and Preliminary History

Newton Special Elections History

Date	Position	Election	# of Candidates	Term Remaining (months)	Turnout
2014	Ward aldermen	Primary election day	4	23	
2013	Alderman at large	<i>Home rule petition</i>	<i>No election held</i>	11	n/a
2004	Alderman at Large	Special election	3	20	4,463
2002	Ward Alderman	Override election	4	24	3,487
1994	Mayor	Special election/Prelim	4	45	

Newton Preliminary Elections History

	Position	# of Candidates	Turnout	Mayoral Prelim
2015	Alderman at large	5	5%	No
2007	Aldermen at large	5	3%	No
2013	Ward Alderman	3	798	Yes
2001	Ward Alderman	3	737	No
2001	Ward Alderman	3	1596	No
2009	School Committee	4	22%	Yes
2005	School Committee	3	9%	Yes
2001	School Committee	5	8%	No