

MAJOR DIFFERENCES

Diff	Open Town Meeting (Current Form of Government)	Town Council (Proposed Form of Government)
Executive Body	Town Manager Board of Selectman *5 Selectmen (all at-large)	Town Manager Town Council *9 Councilors (5 at large, 4 by district)
Legislative Body	Registered voters attending Town Meeting *Voters have a voice at ATM (May) & STM (Oct) but no vote at Fin Comm Public Hearing or BOS Public Hearing *Voters debate issues on floor *Voters can offer amendments at Town Meeting	Town Council *Any Citizen has a voice, no vote at Town Council public hearings
Citizen Proposals (ex. Zoning & By Law Changes, Selling of town property, easements)	Proponent submits Proposal in Warrant Article format: *Petition from at least 10 voters for ATM *Petition from at least 100 voters for STM *Petition from at least 200 voters to call for STM Voted on by registered voters attending Meeting	Citizen Initiative Procedure: *Petition from at least 5% (1018¹) of all registered voters; Proposal can be passed by Town Council or School Committee If not, the proposal goes to ballot election Requires a 15%(3053¹) turnout at the polls Prohibitions include town & school budget once passed
Citizen Challenges (ex. May 4, 1992 Special Town Meeting, Article 1 amending Town Charter to eliminate Trash Fee)	Petitioner submits Challenge in Warrant Article format: *Petition from at least 10 voters for ATM *Petition from at least 100 voters for STM *Petition from at least 200 voters to call for STM Voted on by registered voters attending Meeting	Citizen Referendum Procedure: *Petition from at least 150 voters within 20 days of measure passing; Petition asks Town Council or School Committee to reconsider measure at which time it can be rescinded. If not, the challenge follows the Citizen Initiative Procedure; Petition from at least 5% (1018¹) of all registered voters; Proposal can be passed by Town Council or School Committee If not, the proposal goes to ballot election Requires a 15% (3053¹) turnout at the polls Prohibitions include town & school budget once passed
Recall of Elected Officials	Affidavit from at least 140 voters, with at least 20 per precinct Petition within 20 days from at least 50% of the number of persons who voted at last annual town Election Officials may resign from office - if not, official can be removed via Special Recall Election Official whose recall is sought is allowed to be nominated and elected at their recall election	At Large Officials: Affidavit from at least 150 voters Petition from at least 10%(4071¹) of the voters within 20 days Official might resign from office If not, official can be removed via Special Recall Election Requires at least 15% turnout at the polls Official whose recall is sought is prohibited from nomination By-District Officials: Affidavit from at least 50 voters from the district Petition from at least 10% (approx 1000) district voters within 20 days Official may resign from office If not, official can be removed via Special Recall Election Requires at least 15% district turnout at the polls Official whose recall is sought is prohibited from nomination
Finance Committee	Advisors to Town Meeting attendees Currently operates with 7-9 members	Advisors to Town Council Between 5 and 9 members (set by Charter in 2-13.1)
Salaries of Elected Officials	Set by Annual Town Meeting Paying for 5 Selectman	Set by Town Council Paying for 9 councilors

¹There were 20,354 Total Registered Voters as of the April 2, 2011 Annual Town Election