

# Appendix B

## MetroWest Governance Structure

# Municipal Organization

	Ashland (16,593)	Framingham (68,318)	Holliston (13,547)	Marlborough (38,499)	Natick (33,006)	South- borough (9,767)	Wayland (12,994)	Wellesley (27,982)	Weston (11,261)
Charter	Yes (1988)	No	No	Yes (1890)	Yes (1988 - 5 year review)	No	No	No	No
Executive Management	Town Manager	Town Manager	Town Admin.	Mayor (2 year term)	Town Admin.	Town Admin.	Town Admin.	Executive Director	Town Manager
Town Meeting	Open	Representative (18 precincts – 12 members – 3 year terms)	Open	City Council (2 year terms)	Representative (10 precincts – 18 members – 3 year terms)	Open	Open	Representative (1932) (8 precincts – 30 members – 3 year terms)	Open
Quorum / Reps.	25 voters	109 / 216 members	100 voters	6 / 11 members	91 / 180 members	100 voters	100 voters	121 / 240 members	80 voters
Average # Election votes 2010 – 2015	1,388	3,666	1,699	4,970	3,466	1165	2,599	2,681	1,324
Average Registered Voters 2010 – 2015	10,399	35,813	9,960	20,707	22,246	6925	9,050	15,990	8,179 (2012- 2015)
Average Election Participation Rate 2010 – 2015	13.35%	10.24%	17.10%	24.13%	15.58%	16.82%	28.72%	16.77%	16.40%
Population 18+ (Eligible voters)	13,024	54,963	10,222	31,109	26,089	7,128	9,924	21,114	8,325

## Charter Status



Charter



No Charter

**Ashland** – Incorporated 1846; Chartered 1988

**Framingham** – Incorporated 1700; Representative form adopted 1949

**Holliston** – Incorporated 1724

**Marlborough** – Incorporated 1660; Chartered 1890

**Natick** – Incorporated 1781; Chartered and Representative form adopted 1988

**Southborough** – Incorporated 1727

**Wayland** – Incorporated 1780

**Wellesley** – Incorporated 1881; Representative form adopted 1932

**Weston** – Incorporated 1713

0 0.75 1.5 3 Miles

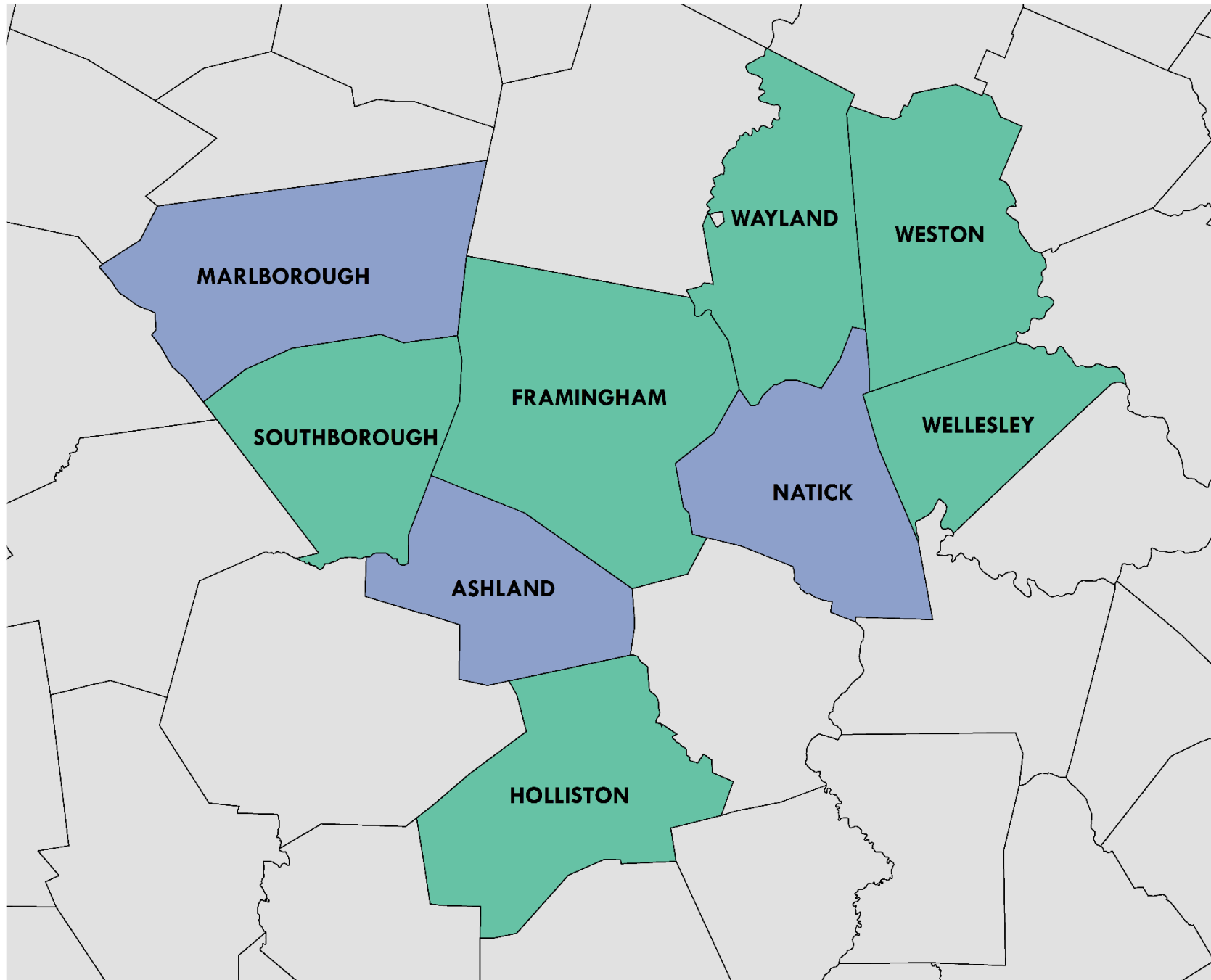


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Data Sources:  
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June, 2016



## Executive Management



Executive Director



Mayor



Town Administrator



Town Manager

Each municipality identifies and defines the role of chief executive in its charter or bylaws. The title and powers of the chief executive differ based upon the form of government chosen by a municipality.

In cities with a "strong mayor" format, the mayor is elected by the general population of registered voters; in cities with a "strong city manager" format, the manager acts as the chief executive and is hired by the City Council.

In town government, the Board of Selectmen serves as the chief executive and generally operates in conjunction with a chief administrative officer, whose possible titles include Town Manager, Town Administrator, and Executive Director/Secretary. These titles signify varied responsibilities, which are codified in a town's charter or bylaws. Town Managers are generally authorized by the Board of Selectmen to act more independently in hiring and overseeing staff, often conducting interviews and making personnel recommendations to the Board of Selectmen. Alternatively, the Board of Selectmen generally plays a more active role in the decision making processes of Town Administrators and Executive Directors/Secretaries.

0 0.75 1.5 3 Miles

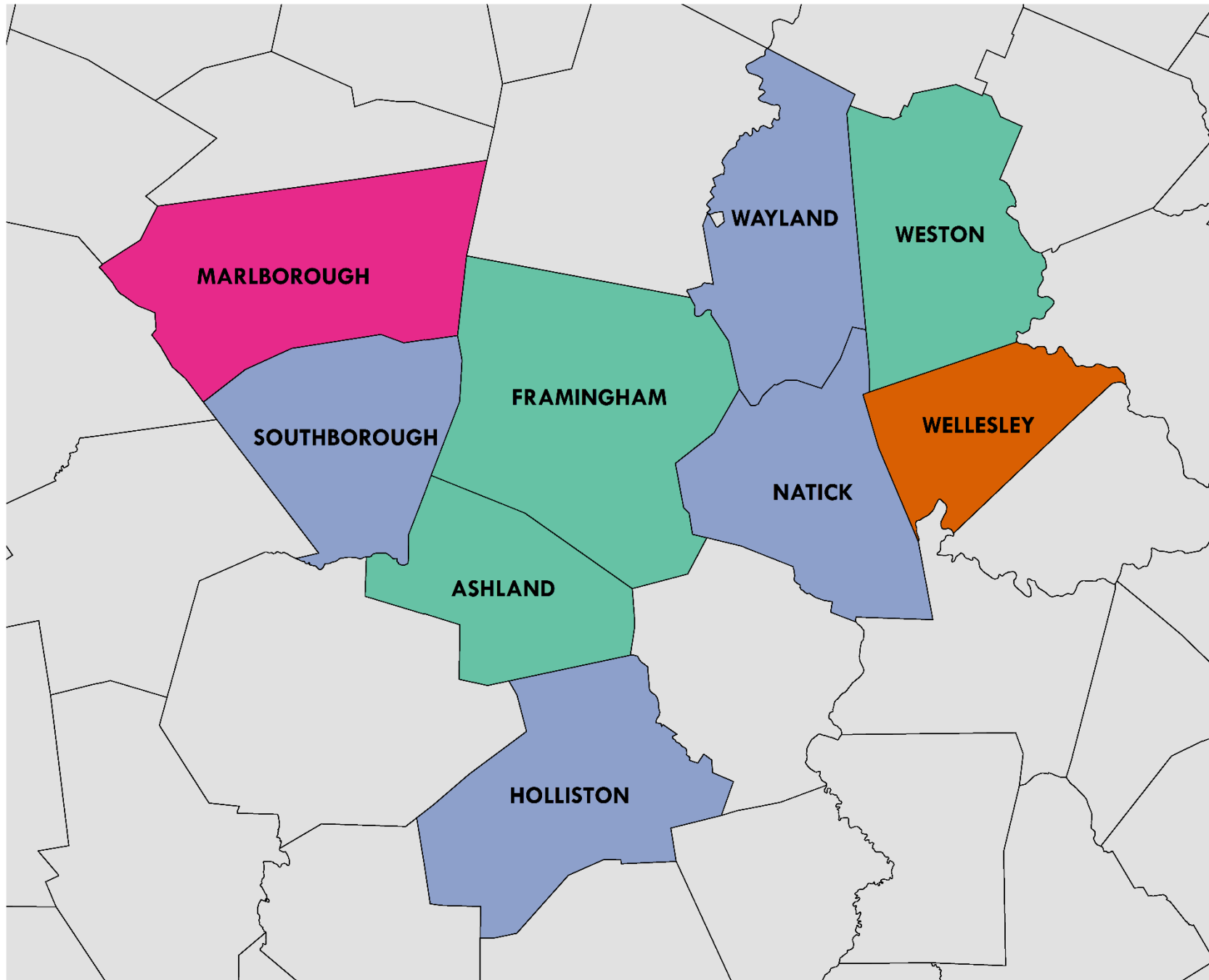


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## Town Meeting Form

### Open v. Representative

-  N/A - City Council
-  Open
-  Representative

Town meetings are the legislative bodies for their communities, with the power to pass/amend bylaws, as well as appropriate and spend municipal funds. Therefore, citizen participation in Town Meeting is vital to the proper functioning of town government. Individual towns set different expectations for the degree and kind of voter engagement in the Town Meeting process.

In order to ensure that the decisions made at Town Meeting are representative of the population's will, all towns have designated a quorum, the minimum number of voters required to start Town Meeting and conduct business. However, as a community's population grows, running Open Town Meeting can become operationally and logistically challenging. Therefore, some towns have adopted Representative Town Meeting, whereby Town Meeting members are elected from municipal precincts.

TOWN    TOWN  
XX      XX / YY

XX = Number of Town Meeting members that constitutes a quorum

YY = For towns with Representative Town Meeting, the total number of elected Town Meeting members

0    0.75    1.5    3 Miles

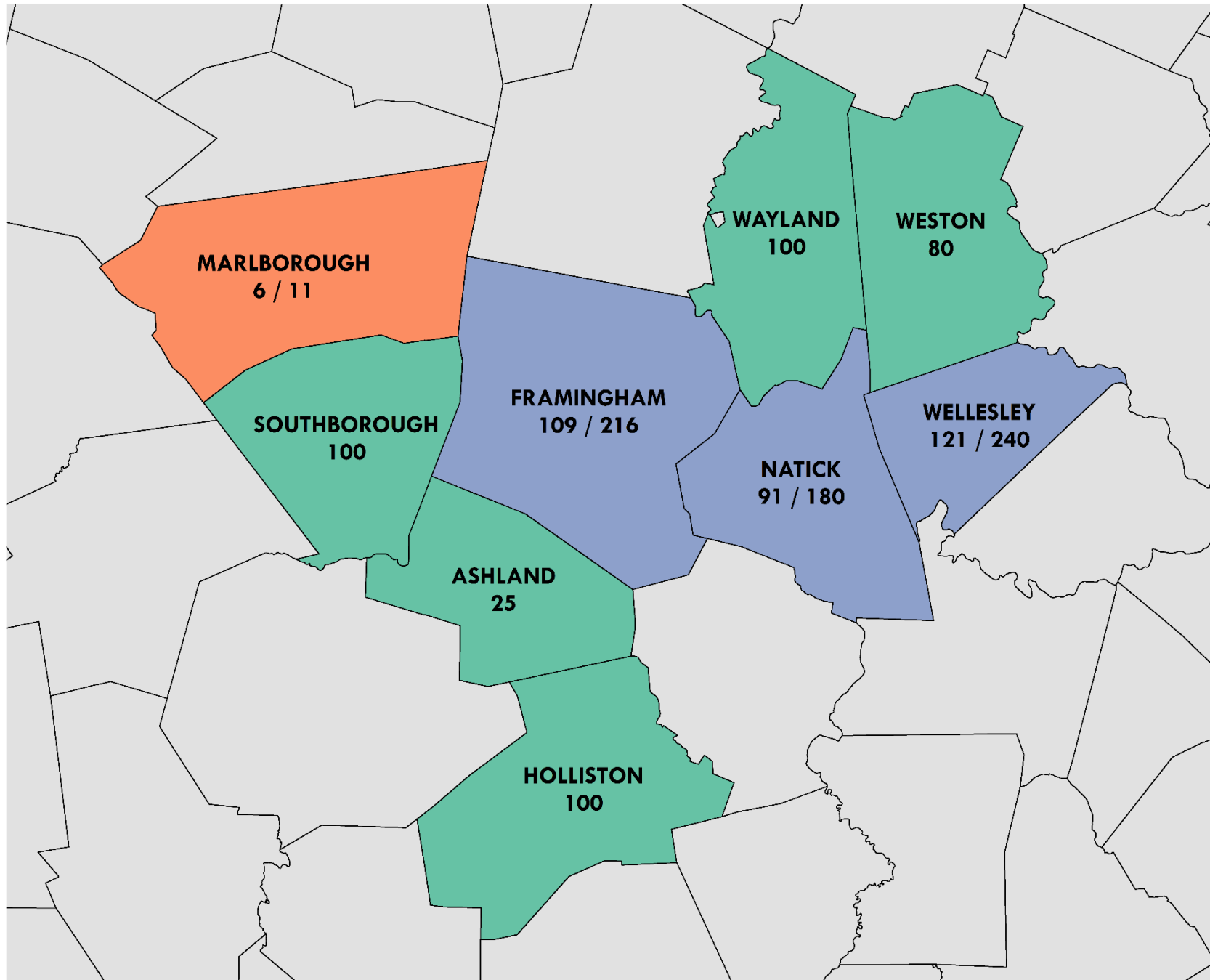


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## Property Tax Rate Structure



In most cities and towns, a single tax rate is applied to all taxable parcels in a community's boundaries. However, municipalities can choose to create a split tax rate structure, which allows them to assign different rates to commercial, industrial, and residential property.

Advocates for a single rate structure contend that such a system is more equitably structured and more attractive to businesses looking for space in which to open or relocate.

Proponents of a split rate tax structure argue that it provides a mechanism for municipalities to shift the tax burden away from potentially vulnerable homeowners to profit generating businesses, which are arguably better positioned to absorb increases to their tax bill.

The tax rates in this map are the average rate for FY2010-2015, per \$1,000 in assessed property values.

**Single Rate Municipalities**  
\$XX.XX - Property Tax Rate

**Split Rate Municipalities**  
R: \$XX.XX - Residential Tax Rate  
C/I: \$XX.XX - Commercial/Industrial Tax Rate

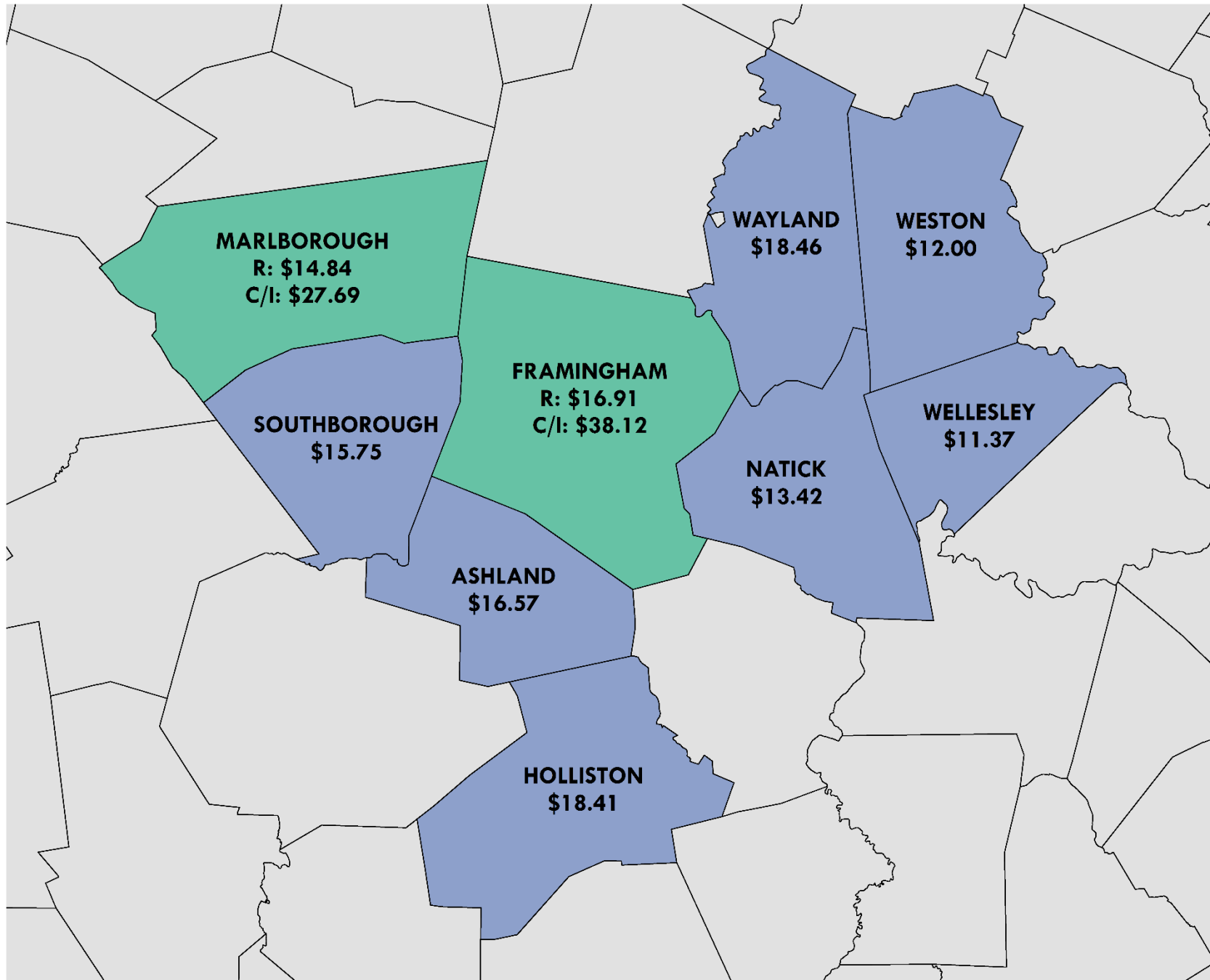


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## Residential Property Tax Rate per \$1,000 in Assessed Value (Single & Split Rate Communities)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	<i>Avg.</i>
Ashland	\$15.10	\$15.91	\$16.57	\$17.14	\$17.39	\$17.30	<i>\$16.57</i>
Framingham	\$14.52	\$16.03	\$16.94	\$17.84	\$18.29	\$17.82	<i>\$16.91</i>
Holliston	\$16.31	\$17.94	\$18.32	\$18.62	\$19.88	\$19.38	<i>\$18.41</i>
Marlborough	\$13.41	\$13.94	\$14.80	\$15.00	\$16.11	\$15.76	<i>\$14.84</i>
Natick	\$11.67	\$12.60	\$13.91	\$14.34	\$14.18	\$13.82	<i>\$13.42</i>
Southborough	\$14.06	\$15.58	\$16.14	\$16.54	\$16.18	\$16.02	<i>\$15.75</i>
Wayland	\$17.78	\$19.35	\$19.01	\$17.89	\$18.33	\$18.39	<i>\$18.46</i>
Wellesley	\$10.48	\$11.43	\$11.48	\$11.70	\$11.54	\$11.56	<i>\$11.37</i>
Weston	\$11.10	\$11.39	\$12.11	\$12.40	\$12.73	\$12.28	<i>\$12.00</i>

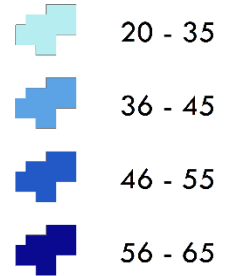
**Commercial/Industrial Property Tax Rate per \$1,000 in Assessed Value (Single & Split Rate Communities)**

	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b><i>Avg.</i></b>
Ashland	\$15.10	\$15.91	\$16.57	\$17.14	\$17.39	\$17.30	<i>\$16.57</i>
Framingham	\$33.65	\$37.11	\$38.05	\$39.94	\$40.92	\$38.99	<i>\$38.12</i>
Holliston	\$16.31	\$17.94	\$18.32	\$18.62	\$19.88	\$19.38	<i>\$18.41</i>
Marlborough	\$35.42	\$27.55	\$39.04	\$28.46	\$28.22	\$27.43	<i>\$27.69</i>
Natick	\$11.67	\$12.60	\$13.91	\$14.34	\$14.18	\$13.82	<i>\$13.42</i>
Southborough	\$14.06	\$15.58	\$16.14	\$16.54	\$16.18	\$16.02	<i>\$15.75</i>
Wayland	\$17.78	\$19.35	\$19.01	\$17.89	\$18.33	\$18.39	<i>\$18.46</i>
Wellesley	\$10.48	\$11.43	\$11.48	\$11.70	\$11.54	\$11.56	<i>\$11.37</i>
Weston	\$11.10	\$11.39	\$12.11	\$12.40	\$12.73	\$12.28	<i>\$12.00</i>



## Boards and Committees

Elected and Appointed  
(Total #)



One measure of civic engagement reviewed by MAPC is the number of elected and appointed boards within each municipality. These boards serve crucial government functions but often rely on citizen volunteerism. Some communities have expressed concern about their capacity to fill these positions in the future.

Below, we have highlighted board positions unique to each municipality:

**Ashland** – Quarry Oversight  
**Framingham** – Cemetery Trustees  
**Holliston** – Water Commissioners; Elected Finance Committee  
**Marlborough** – Mayor; City Council  
**Natick** – Constables; Parks & Recreation  
**Southborough** – Trust Fund Commission  
**Wayland** – Wellhead Protection  
**Wellesley** – Public Works  
**Weston** – Measurers of Lumber

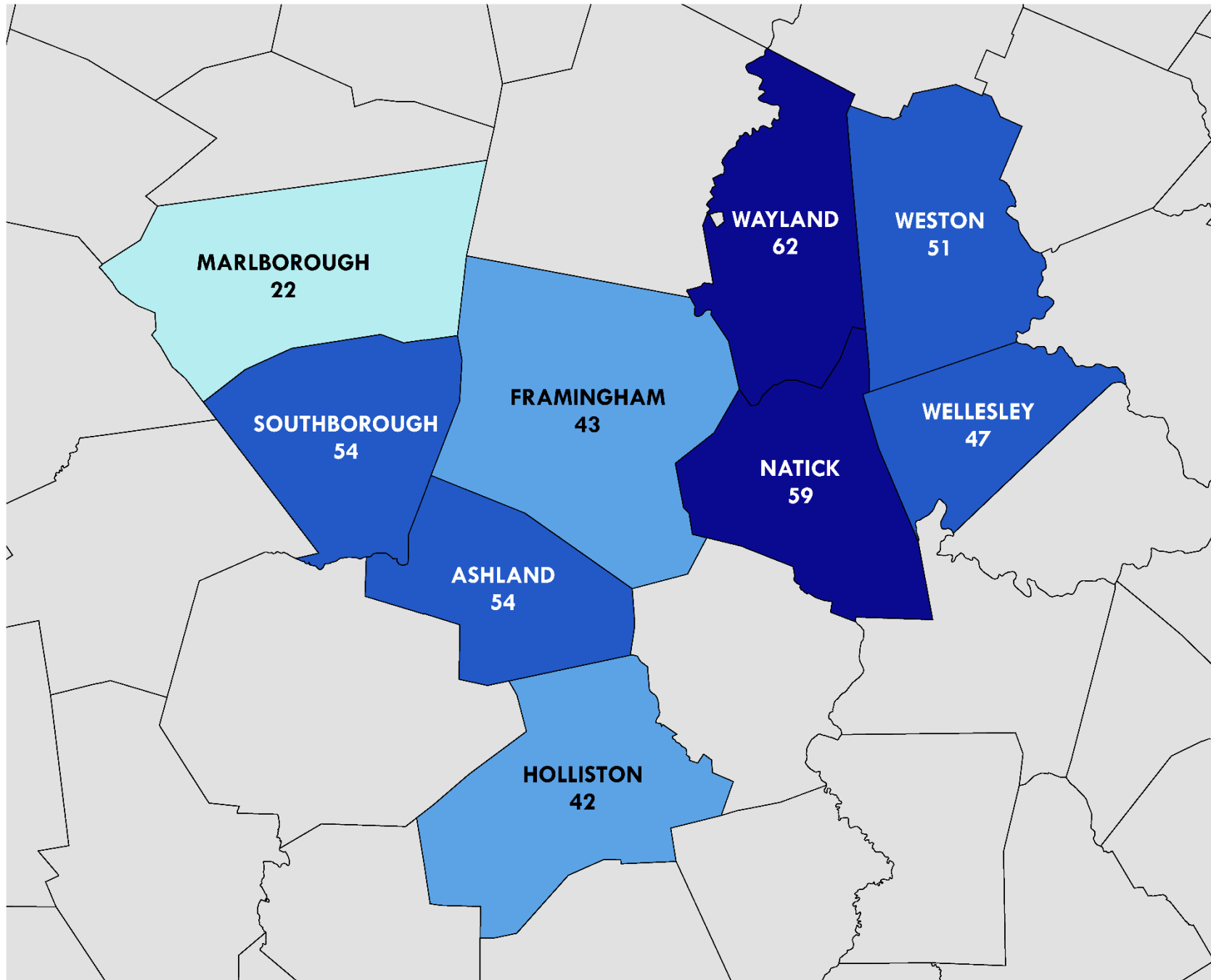


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Boards & Committees	Green = Elected		Blue = Executive Appointed			Teal = City Council		Red = No Position	
	Ashland	Framingham	Holliston	Marlborough	Natick	Southborough	Wayland	Wellesley	Weston
375 Anniversary Committee							X		
900 Worcester St. Committee								X	
Affordable Housing / Trust	X		X	X	X	X	X		X
Agricultural Advisory		X	X						X
Arena / Rink Committee		X			X				
Audit Committee					X		X	Mod.	
Beautification / Public Spaces							X		X
Bicycle & Pedestrian		X						X	
Board of Assessors / Assessor	X	By CFO	X	Department	X	X	X	X	X
Board of Health	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Board of Selectmen / Mayor	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Board of Water Commissioners			X						
Cable / Telecommunications Advisory	X	X	X		X		X	X	X
Cadillac Paint Workshop	X								
Capital Imp. / Planning Real Assets	X	Mod.					X		
Case Campus Master Plan									X
Cemetery Advisory		X							
Cemetery Trustees		X							
Central Mass. Resource Recovery						X			
Community Center Task Force			X						
Community Development / Advisory		X			X				
Community Farm Advisory			X		X				
Community Preservation	X		X			X		Mod.	Mod.
Comprehensive / Master Plan Advisory	X				X				
Conservation / Wetlands (MGL 40 s 8C)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Conservation Associates / Stewards			X			X			
Conservation Restrictions WG	X								
<b><u>Constables (MGL c. 41 s. 91A)</u></b>		X			X	X			
Council on Aging (MGL c. 40 s. 8B)	X	X	X	Department	X	X	X	X	X
Cultural / Arts Council (MGL c. 10 s. 58)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Chushing Memorial Chapel		X							
Debt Capacity and Uses Committee						X			
Design Review	X				X		X	X	
Disabilities		X	X	X	X	X			
Downtown Revitalization	X								
Dog Control Appeals (MGL 140 s 157)							X		
Dudley Area Advisory							X		
Economic Development Committee			X		X	X	X		
Economic / Industrial Dev. Corp. (MGL c. 121C)		X		X		X			
Elderly / Senior & Disabled Tax Fund		X			X		X		
Elderly Housing									Mod.
Electronic / Alternative Voting					X		X		X
Emergency / Regional E. Planning	X				X	X	X		
Employee Screening						X			
Environmental Baseline									X
Facilities Management / Maintenance					X		Long Range planning		
Fair Housing		X						X	

Boards & Committees	Green = Elected		Blue = Executive Appointed			Teal = City Council		Red = No Position	
	Ashland	Framingham	Holliston	Marlborough	Natick	Southborough	Wayland	Wellesley	Weston
Fields Management / Task Force	X							X	
Finance / Advisory (MGL 39 s 16)	X	Mod.	X	X	X	X	X	Mod.	Mod.
Financial Planning					X				
Fuller Brook Park Improvement								X	
Fundraising (Library)						X			
Golf Course Oversight / Advisory			X		X				
Government Study / Charter Review	X	Mod.						Mod.	
High School Building							X	X	
Historical Commission (MGL 40 s 8D)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Historical District Commission		X			X		X	X	X
Historical Preservation						X			
Housing Authority (MGL c. 121 B)	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	
Housing Partnership / Development Corp. / Affordable						X	X	X	X
Housing Production Steering									X
Human Relations / Services		X		X			X		
Industrial Development Financial Auth.						X			
Information Systems Advisory					X				
Insurance Advisory			X						
Josiah Smith Tavern Corp.									Mod.
Josiah Smith Tavern & Old Library WG									X
Land Stewardship	Con Comm.								
Legislative and Legal Affairs				X					
Liason	X								
Library Planning / Maintenance					X		X		
Library Trustees	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Licensing				X					
Katherine L. & Waldo H. Kennedy Trust Fund					X				
Main Street Design Working Group						X			
MAPC (RPA)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
MBTA Advisory								X	X
Medical / Emergency Reserve Corps	BOH				X				X
Town Celebrations Committees	X		X						Mod.
MetroWest Regional Collab.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
MetroWest RTA	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Middle School Building Committee								X	
Municipal / Permanent Buildings							X	Mod.	
Municipal Light Plant Board								X	
Music & Arts	Redev Auth.								
MWRA Advisory	X	X		X	X	X		X	X
Natural Resources								X	
Nighborhood Conservation District								X	
North 40 Committee								X	
OPEB Advisory / Liability / Trust	X		X				X		
Open Space Preservation						X			
Open Space / Recreation	X		X	X	X				X
Operational Review / Oversight				X			X		
Override Study Comm.	X								



Boards & Committees	Green = Elected		Blue = Executive Appointed			Teal = City Council		Red = No Position	
	Ashland	Framingham	Holliston	Marlborough	Natick	Southborough	Wayland	Wellesley	Weston
Town Meeting Facilities							X		
Town Meeting Procedures / Council Rules				X			X		
Traffic / Sidewalk				X					X
Trails Committee	X		X		X	X		X	
Transportation Advisory / Task Force					X	X			
Tree Advisory									X
Trust Fund Commission						X	X		X
Urban Affairs & Housing				X					
Veterans / Veterans District	X	X	X	X			X	X	X
Wastewater Management							X		
Water Policy Comm	X								
Wayland Cares Review							X		
Weights & Measures / Lumber									X
Wellhead Protection							X		
Wireless Communications				X					
Youth / Family Serv. Advisory	X		X	X		X	X	X	
Zoning Board of Appeals (MGL 40A s. 12)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>51</b>
Website states	61	39	33	13	55	52	56	39	50

13 Council Committees