

Natick Town Governance Survey: 2023 Public Survey

The **Natick Town Governance Study Committee** is interested in your experience and opinion regarding our local government structure. Thanks for taking a few minutes to share your views!

About the committee

The Town Governance Study Committee was appointed by the Select Board earlier this year. Please visit the committee's web site to learn more: <https://sites.google.com/natickma.org/tgsc>

About this survey

This survey should take about 10 minutes to complete, depending on the amount of detail you choose to provide. **Please participate by May 5, 2023.**

This survey is intended for all residents, taxpayers and others with an interest in Natick's local government.

The results of this survey will be incorporated into a committee report to the Select Board. This report will be publicly available, and will help inform next steps and recommendations. All responses are confidential, unless you choose to provide identifying information.

👉 *If you need assistance with this survey, please send an email to naticktowngovernance@gmail.com. If you or someone you know needs a paper copy, please send us an email, or visit the Select Board office on the second floor of Town Hall during business hours. Completed paper surveys should be returned to the Select Board office by May 5, 2023.*

Thank you for participating by May 5, 2023.

Q1. Do you currently live and/or work in Natick? (please choose one)

- I currently live in Natick
- I don't currently live in Natick, but I work here
- I formerly lived or worked in Natick
- I have never lived or worked in Natick

Please tell us about your participation in Natick Town government.

👉 *Why we are asking this question: In 2022, the Town Governance Study Committee sought input from Town Meeting members and others who are involved in Natick local government. This survey is intended for the general public, so we ask the following question to help ensure that we are reaching the intended population.*

Q2. Which best describes your participation in local government? (Please choose all that apply)

- I currently serve in Natick Town Meeting and/or on a Town committee
- I previously served in Natick Town Meeting and/or on a Town committee
- I have never served in Natick Town Meeting or on a Town committee
- I currently or formerly worked for the Town of Natick or the Public Schools

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Q3. Do you vote each year in local Natick elections, usually held in March?

- Yes
 No
-

Q4. What is your current voting precinct? If you are unsure, contact the Town Clerk at 508-647-6430. If you are not a voter in Natick, you may indicate that option.

Enter a number from 1-10: _____

- I am not a Natick voter
-

Now we have some questions about your views on the structure of Town government in Natick.

 By **structure**, we mean the organization of local government, including the roles and responsibilities of Town agencies.

Q5. Which of these statements best describes your familiarity with the structure of Natick's local government? (please choose one answer)

- I am very familiar with how Natick's local government is structured, such that I can explain it to others
 I am somewhat familiar with the structure of our local government
 I am not familiar with the structure of our local government
 Other: _____
-

Q6. What aspects of the structure of Natick Town Government are working well?

 You may comment on any aspect of our governance structure, including the Legislative branch (Town Meeting) and/or the Executive branch (Select Board/Town Administration).

Q7. What aspects of the structure of Natick Town Government are not working well?

 You may comment on any aspect of our governance structure, including the Legislative branch (Town Meeting) and/or the Executive branch (Select Board/Town Administration).

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Q8. Which of the following statements best describes your overall view of the structure of Natick Town government, which includes an elected Town Meeting, an elected Select Board, a Town Administrator appointed by the Select Board, and other elected and appointed offices, boards and committees?

👉 *For this question, we are interested in your views on the **structure of our local government**, regardless of whether or not you approve of the **performance** or the decisions of the people or agencies.*

- I am very satisfied with the structure of Natick Town government and do not see significant need for change
 - I am generally satisfied with the structure of Natick Town government and we need only minor or no changes to the duties/responsibilities/authorities of Town officials or agencies
 - I am generally dissatisfied with the structure of Natick Town government and we need significant changes to the duties/responsibilities/authorities of Town officials or agencies
 - Don't know/not sure
-

Q9. If Natick were to consider a change to its form of government, which do you prefer?
(Please select no more than two options.)

👉 *There are materials available at the Study Committee's web site if you would like more information: <https://sites.google.com/natickma.org/tgsc>*

👉 *As a reminder, this is for a survey, and is not an actual vote on changing the structure of Town government.*

- Open Town Meeting (where any voter may participate), and an elected Select Board with a hired Town Administrator or Town Manager
 - Representative (elected) Town Meeting, and an elected Select Board with a hired Town Administrator or Town Manager (form of government we have now)
 - Elected Council (instead of Town Meeting) with a hired Manager
 - Elected Council (instead of Town Meeting) with an elected Mayor
 - Don't know/not sure
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Q10. What are the key benefits you would hope to achieve through a change to the structure of Town Government in Natick?

Your comments and questions about the Natick Town Governance Study Committee

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We're interested in what you have to say, and what you'd like to know about Natick's Town Government or this committee.

Q11. What else would you like the Town Governance Study Committee to know?

👉 You may also send an email to naticktowngovernance@gmail.com.

Q12. What would you like to know about Natick's Town Government?

Q13. If you would you like to be contacted by the Town Governance Study Committee, please provide your **name**, and a **valid email address and/or telephone number**.

Completed paper surveys should be returned to the Select Board office by May 5, 2023. Mail your survey to :

Town Governance Public Survey, c/o Select Board, 13 East Central Street, Natick MA 01760

Thank you for participating by May 5, 2023.