

## **Comments from Survey #2 not edited for grammar or content**

Favor town meeting, although voted to reduce it to 9 per precinct.

elect library board and school committee and maybe some more boards as well - planning?

all things considered, I still prefer town meeting. nothing has been presented or discussed that addresses in any way what is wrong with town meeting and how a council form of legislature would in any way address or improve on any problems now existing.

Still disappointed that you did not consider all forms of government. I'm not pro-town nor am I pro-city. I voted for the commission to look at all the options - not just city. Very disappointing.

Make positions full time not evening volunteers

I feel an 11 member city council would work for Framingham with two (2) at-large and nine (9) ward councillors with each representing two of the existing precincts matched due to similarities. A Mayor should only vote in the event of a tie on the City Council. The rationale is that you'd need six votes to pass a regular motion, so at least 4 ward councilors would have to agree with the two at-large councilors. Super majorities of 7 or 8 votes should be considered for ordinances (by-laws). Thank you for this poll and thank you to the Charter Commissioners for your service.

Too short terms force too much focus on elections. 4 years is better

As far as powers go, I think the National Civic League has it right. A highly empowered council with a Mayor elected by the council and administered by a professional manager.

Council members should be paid a reasonable stipend.

Adopt newton format. Too easy. Let's split up into 13 villages like newton and have 13 councilors. Newton has mayor setti warren. Framingham should have mayor jason smith

I think the charter commission needs to be an independent board consisting of a professionally paid objective group who are not from Framingham. It seems many, not all of the members, of this commission could be looking for future employment with the town of Framingham. This entire commission is a huge farce. Seems to be self serving, at the very least. I can't trust anything they come up with.

I prefer a large council with 18 members by precinct and 5 at-large. But if we have 15 members i would prefer 2 from each district (6 districts) plus 3 at-large. A district would be made up of 3 adjacent precincts. If there are 2-year terms a by district a member should be elected each year. The at-large members should be elected for a 2-year term with all elected at the same time.

I can say from personal experience that the Town of Weymouth, where I work, functions much better, in my opinion, since changing from a town meeting to a city/mayor form of gov't (in 2000). They opted to keep the title "Town of Weymouth" in spite of the city form of government.

Framingham is so long overdue for a Mayor and Council..

You are likely to see less opposition to a council if it has some familiar aspects that show fair representation. A council made up of 18 district reps, based on the current 18 precincts, plus 3 at-large reps to achieve the necessary odd number, will not only assure fair representation but is more likely to be acceptable to the general public.

Could collapse current 18 precincts to six districts and then add 5 at-large members to a council to make a total of 11.

Keep going! It is time for Framingham to become a city!

I think term limits are essential to discourage the stagnation of ideas that seem to currently plague the town, and also to avoid creating a feeling among residents that there's an entrenched political class that has all the say-so when it comes to decision making. It's a shame that the commission is making no effort to consider ways to sustain a town meeting-type structure within the proposed new system. I think this is a failing of the commission, and that by excluding certain forms of government out of hand (apparently in an effort to shave eight months off of the commission's working time) you're reneging on the promise that you made to voters to make a full reckoning of all possible types of government. The shortened time frame and limited scope isn't the best way to determine which form of town government is most likely to help Framingham forge a new path forward. All of your conclusions are suspect because of it.

CITYTIME

This survey doesn't address town vs city it is more geared to city only. Town meeting should be looked at, the size of the current town meeting members needs to be reduced to be more effective but it can still work. Unfortunately the current Charter Commission appears to be pretty biased in their research with regards to City.

As I commented in the first survey, when you are using terms (e.g. "municipal clerk," please be sure to include a description of what you mean by the term to ensure that the responses are all grounded by the same understanding. In topic 5, the terms "municipal clerk" and "town clerk" are used; are these the same or different? Failing to do so, in my opinion, renders the question and its responses invalid at worst and unclear at best. In addition, if a city council (regardless of how selected) is to be recommended, what are the financial impacts of that decision? If, for example, each councilor will be paid \$50,000 with office expenses of another \$10,000 with additional funds to service the council and/or for a council district service fund, that would factor into my (and I presume other respondents) thoughts about council size. Framingham currently has some committee members who have served for over a decade in the same role (e.g. planning committee); which is not considered to be good governance practice. It appears that the wording of the "consecutive" term limits question means that the commission intends to recommend consecutive terms which would allow for a former councilor to return after a break. If that decision has been made, it would be helpful to say that. Lastly, everything i have seen from the commission suggests that it fully intends to recommend a city council (since no other alternative forms of government or modifications to town meeting are being explored), so why not come out and say that. It's not what I expected when I voted for the charter commission, but let's call a spade a spade, please. Thanks for your work on this, we all want it to be the best for Framingham!

Framingham needs to join the 21st century and get a mayor

Townmeeting is a disaster

The Pros/Cons of each approach would be helpful, as well as your specific rationale for your votes.

Most significant issue I see is of the low number of new, talented, diverse residents who run for Framingham offices. Some people continue to run. Please consider removing every barrier you can: term limits a must!; low number of required signatures; how to reduce cost of campaigns?; if councils paid, why would you not pay school committee? And vice versa - if school committee paid, why not the council? How to solicit and welcome new talent from town to run? Will those who have run and held many posts in the past pledge not to run again? Two terms (up to 8-10 years total) is plenty for anyone to contribute to the town. Please step back and allow new ideas to come forward. Our new commission charge should be about how we attract not 'well known' candidates, but 'well qualified.' The 'head' may not even come from Framingham. Why limit our talent search to someone who lives in town? Who is studying and has a degree in municipal growth and development? Who is schooled in interaction with the State legislature/leadership? Who understands multi-community issues within the state and regional business entities? Please help us recruit and retain new and pivotal talent to lead Framingham forward.

Citizen input should be built in wherever possible.

You should not replace Town Meeting. You were elected to examine all options and it appears you are not doing so. Reduce the size of town meeting, perhaps - but eliminating citizen participation in favor of cronyism will be flawed and will not solve the issues.

By limiting the term, someone doesn't become a permanent fixture on the council.

To be clear about the number of councilmen. I think we should have once councilmen per precinct . Currently that would be 16. You should also show a detailed cost estimate to move to a city. The reality is that IMO we need a more efficient form of government. Meaning, hold folks more accountable and being able to make quality decisions quicker. That doesn't mean that the government will cost less to operate. In fact, quite the opposite. But it will be worth it.

We need a mayor to join the 21st century

What's wrong with Town Meeting? Yes, it's tedious, but the large number of members and slowness of the process give a measure of safety that a small council doesn't. We need MORE democratic participation in America, not less.

Please get rid of townmeeting

Currently precincts have at least 10 member representation each with only one precinct having 4 tmm's. How does the proposal for 1 councilor per two precincts and 4 at large give better representation than the current form of government?

We should encourage people to serve and foster turnover. New ideas and approaches are essential to good government. No one group or area should dominate town affairs. We need a good blend of experience and new faces to succeed as a town.

legislative branch should be as large (broadly based) as possible to be as inclusive as possible and thus hopefully provide diverse opinions.

I think it is very important to have term limits. One of the biggest problems we have with Town Meeting is the members who have been on Town Meeting forever, and don't change their viewpoints. If we want a City Council to be different than our current structure, we must include term limits for City Councillors.

I will NEVER vote for a city. The only people that want to change to a City are the people that can make money off the new system.

There should always be checks and balances and the purpose of this branch is partially to make sure the executive branch does not have unchecked power. Not to be obstructionist but to make sure executive decisions are fair and not corrupt. This means having a variety of voices (and occupational backgrounds) representing the people.

Off topic, please clean up Framingham. We like living here but know that the South Side of town provides a more unsafe atmosphere than the other places around town. Please, please take note that there is an undercurrent of discussion from Framingham residents that oppose the use and happenings (open drug use, vagrants, etc..) in our town. Please.

I'm against the city form of government.

Term limits should be forever. As written, the question implies that someone could take a term off and start again. Once you reach your term limit, consecutively or not, you should be finished.

I thought the Collis report had some ideas about RTM that should have been considered by the commission: Reduce membership (e.g., Reading, South Hadley)

â€¢ Provide conflict of interest criteria for town employees or their

family members serving as RTM members (e.g., Plymouth)

â€¢ Set quorum for meeting as 50% of the total membership +1

If positions are appointed, then the people on the Charter Commission should not be appointed on the first cycle of appointments. They should wait one term to accept an appointment. If there are elections, then they can run for office right away.

I would like to avoid the situation we currently have with the Federal Government - senators, especially those who do nothing on purpose, are unremovable by most of us because they come from a particular state (district would be the comparison). I want to be able to vote out the people who are not serving the town of Framingham and would be prevented from doing so by a district representation. The only way to have your voice heard is by your vote. I would like mine to count.

Capital budget and ways and means committees are somewhat effective in reducing grandiose suggestions from the executive branch/BoS, it would be advisable to retain those bodies in advisory capacity, whether elected directly, or in other means, but representing all precincts.

Don't want too much power in too few hands

lets get this done.

WANT MORE THAN 13!!!!

Topic five still uses inconsistent language for what I believe is the same position - municipal vs town clerk.

I answered many with an "unsure" because I don' t have all the information and I trust the Commission to be gathering that info and making the best decisions for the town. I do think council should be somewhere between 9 & 15--where it ends up depends on if/how we redistrict (I think we should). As for who appoints the Town Clerk, it should be the person/body who most understands the position. Thank you for all your hard, thoughtful and professional work on our behalf!

Having district council seats is imperative for the council to be truly representative. Few if any selectman now are from the south side of Framingham. That trend of underrepresentation would only continue if the council is all at-large. Having city council members with real salaries will encourage people to run and I don't believe you would see the same lack of interest that exists in town meeting now.

It might be nice to have each council member represent a district. It would be even nicer if that person could be from the district, but I also think a smaller number of councilors would be best and we have quite a few voting precincts. Maybe each council member could represent 2 districts.

I believe that a town meeting is the most direct form of democracy, and therefore should not be changed too drastically. In a town as diverse as Framingham, it is important that all people be welcome to voice their opinions

Smaller town meeting. Not in favor of city/council.

Let's have a hired town manager with specific qualifications.

Smaller is better and more effective - 13 is too large and will result in difficulty finding qualified candidates just as is the issue with town meeting now (among other issues with Town Meeting)

For number of members, I think it's important that there is level and equal representation. I have hear floated that there would be one councilor per two precincts plus some at large and provided that precincts were "paired" with similar demographics this would work. Any move to new government needs to specifically include the precincts that are not currently adequately represented.

Thank you to all of you for your efforts! I am excited to know that there are people who are dedicated as you all are in taking on this challenge and no matter the results, please know that there are many of us out there who are excited about this project.

All of the information that appears to be available indicates the charter commission is purely considering a form of government with a council structure. It has me wondering why we are not adding a consideration for a board of selectmen in place of Town Meeting and instead of a council. I feel most of the concerns for town residents is that the Town Meeting format is inefficient and ineffective as far as accountability goes. A Board of Selectmen would not be a wholesale change to the town government format.

True representation should be district only, no at large candidates. At one of your meetings one of your guests from another city which had all at large councilors, had all the councilors come from a neighborhood (hardly representative of the entire city). Even only 4 at large would be more than half the councilors needed for a majority in your current model. So if you take the 4 away from your plan, that would mean 9 district councilors which I feel is WAY too SMALL. The only logical choice is to go one for each precinct (as they are today), or 18. A tie vote loses.

I believe that each voting district in the town should have at least one representative on the council, possibly two but definitely one. After that, at-large members would be fine. If each district is not represented, then how fair is it when a governing body makes decisions and that district had no say in the matter.

Fair representation is always noted as a problem with our current form of gov't, so district representation puts each district on an even footing. Competition is always good for democracy, so district voting and term limits can help foster competitive races. Lots of media attention lately has shown how even local elections are being influenced by money from outside interests and big money interests; it will be important to mitigate that. Citizen participation can be unwieldy, but it also can add expertise, perspective and more hands to get the work done. The leg. branch

structure should build in meaningful ways for citizens to take part. Citizen petition and redress must be doable and not so onerous as to become impossible. I'd bet that it would be extremely rare to actually have to invoke such a process, but it is an important inflection point if we move from a TM to a city for voters to know that remedies are available.

transitioning from a town with 18 districts to a city should have 18 district councilors plus an at large or three - at least to start with. Review after a few years as Newton has done.

Don't change the precincts and elect one councilor from each.

Hire a manager don't elect a mayor

Topic 2 I could not see the full answers on my device but i would vote for mixture with most elected

9 Ward Councilors and 4 At-Large. The 9 wrads should be composites of two current precincts matched up by similar characteristics.

Town meeting is a joke

Topics 1&2. 13 member council. 9 district and 4 at large. Combine each of our 18 precincts into 9 wards (1/2, 3/4, 5/6, etc.). I could live with 15. 9 district and 6 at-large. Any more is too cumbersome. Also, the School Committee should have district and at-large members too.

Topic 3. 2 year terms. Everyone up at once. Mayor should also be 2 years. Just like Marlborough.

Topic 4. Same for Mayor. 4 terms and out. I'd prefer to not specify consecutive. 4 total terms over one's lifetime...consecutive, non consecutive, 4 and done.

Topic 5. I'm not unsure at all. The appointing authority needed one more option. Mayor and Council. I believe the Mayor should nominate a Clerk and the Council should have to confirm the nominee. Much like Supreme Court Justices. Executive nominates. Legislature confirms (if they aren't jackasses like our current US Senate!!).

Keep up the good work!!

What are you thinking? Of course every precinct or district - whatever you call it should stay as it is now and have a council member representing it. That would be the best way to keep the neighborhoods represented fairly. Also, I don't want an elected Mayor. It seems better to get someone who is qualified by hiring them instead of having a popularity contest for a Mayor.

I don't want a Mayor but this survey is crazy. I don't know how the public can give you educated feedback when most of us don't know much about this

regarding the term length and the number of terms to be served, this committee should consider the effect on the retirement board and the number of folks who would be come legible for a pension. 3 Yr terms with 4 term limit would make folks eligible for a pension where 2 yr terms with 4 term limit would not. 12 yrs VS 8 yrs As elected officials they would be eligible to contribute and after 10 yrs receive a pension.

Keep doing the good work! It is time for Framingham to be a city!!