

1. Cities with Mayor, Aldermen, no City Manager

a. Manchester

- i. 14 Aldermen
- ii. City Charter approved on November 5, 1996.
- iii. <https://www.manchesternh.gov/departments/city-clerk/city-charter>

b. Nashua

- i. 15 Aldermen
- ii. City Charter: <https://www.nashuanh.gov/226/Ordinances-City-Charter>
- iii. *Reason to consider: Closer to Salem's size than Manchester. 15 aldermen.*

2. Cities with Mayor, City Council, City Manager

a. Berlin

- i. https://www.berlinnh.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif2811/f/uploads/town_charter.pdf

b. Claremont

- i. Current City Charter was not located online
- ii. 2005 version available in NH Charters section at <https://charter.merrimacknh.org>.

c. Concord

- i. 14 Councilors
- ii. Adopted November 3, 1992, with amendments since then.
- iii. <https://www.concordnh.gov/DocumentCenter/View/103/City-Charter?bidId=>

d. Dover

- i. Adopted 2005
- ii. <https://ecode360.com/32591433#32591433>
- iii. *Reasons to consider: Mayor, Deputy Mayor, City Manager. 8 Councilors. Population close to Salem's.*

e. Franklin

- i. 9 councilors, Smallest city (pop. 8.7K)
- ii. Charter adopted by town meeting 3-19-1894
- iii. Franklin's Charter: <https://www.franklinnh.org/home/pages/charter-codes>

f. Keene

- i. 15 councilors.
- ii. Charter effective January 2, 1970, with revisions since then listed in the final section of the charter
- iii. Charter and more: <https://keenennh.gov/my-city-government/governing-documents>

g. Laconia

- i. Revised charter, 1995
- ii. <https://ecode360.com/15182539#15182539>

- h. **Lebanon**
 - i. Charter: <https://ecode360.com/12119235>
- i. **Portsmouth**
 - i. Adopted November 1987, with amendments since then.
 - ii. <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/city-charter>
- j. **Rochester**
 - i. Original Charter adopted 4-3-1891. Revised Charter (City Manager form of government) adopted 9-12-1989, effective 1-2-1990.
Amendments
 - ii. <https://ecode360.com/32080821#32212137>
 - iii. *Reasons to consider: Population is closest to Salem's. Salem's. Mayor, Deputy Mayor, City Manager. 11 Councilors. Assistant Town Manager, Joe Devine lives in Rochester*
- k. **Somersworth**
 - i. 9 councilors.
 - ii. Charter effective 11-6-2018
 - iii. https://www.somersworth.com/sites/g/files/vyhlif1226/f/uploads/city_charter_effective_november_12_2018.pdf

3. Town Councils, which function as both the governing and legislative body (similar to city councils). RSA 49-D:3, I(a)

- a. **Derry**
 - i. Adopted 1985, Revised 1993; Amended 13 times since then.
 - ii. https://www.derrynh.org/sites/g/files/vyhlif3026/f/uploads/charter_marshall_2020final_proofed.pdf
 - iii. *Reasons to consider: Only town with more population than Salem's. 7 Councilors. Town Administrator.*
- b. **Durham**
 - i. 10 councilors, Town administrator.
 - ii. <https://www.ci.durham.nh.us/municipal-code/town-charter>

4. Town Councils with an official ballot vote (SB2) on all budgetary matters. The Town Council handles zoning and ordinances.

- a. **Hooksett**
 - i. 9 councilors.
 - ii. Town charter dated July 1, 2019; Amendments not reflected on the online version.
 - iii. https://www.hooksett.org/sites/g/files/vyhlif4541/f/uploads/town_charter_amendments_7.3.19_-scrivener_correction_implemented_8.20.20_0.pdf
 - iv. *Reason to consider: Town Manager for Hooksett is André Garron, Salem's former Assistant Town Manager.*

- b. **Londonderry**
 - i. Salem's 2009 Charter Commission based its draft on Londonderry's 2005 Town Charter.
 - ii. Their current charter *has been amended since 2005*
 - iii. https://www.londonderrynh.org/sites/g/files/vyhlif4616/f/uploads/ch1_charter_1.11.21_with_2020_charter_amendment_002_1.pdf
 - iv. *Reasons to consider: Similar population. 2005 draft Charter based on Londonderry's.*
- c. **Merrimack**
 - i. Charter Adopted 2006. Amendments as recent as 4/12/22
 - ii. Current charter with amendments: <https://ecode360.com/14799677>
 - iii. Charter Commission process of 2005 well documented: <https://charter.merrimacknh.org>
 - iv. *Reasons to consider: 2005 notes, 7 Councilors, similar population.*
- d. **Newmarket**
 - i. Charter Revised 2014, Amended 2015. (Amended since 2015?)
 - ii. https://www.newmarketnh.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif3536/f/uploads/newmarket_town_charter - as amended march 10 2015.pdf
 - iii. The Charter Commission process of 2013 was well documented on a separate website, not on the town's official website. That website is no longer functioning.
 - iv. Still, much of their info can be found at <https://www.newmarketnh.gov/node/3118/minutes/2013>

5. Town Council with town meeting to vote only on the operating budget. The Town Council handles zoning and ordinances.

- a. **Bedford**
 - i. Adopted 1987, multiple amendments
 - ii. <https://www.bedfordnh.org/DocumentCenter/View/593>

6. Town Charter with Board of Selectmen

- a. **Seabrook**
 - i. 3 Selectmen
 - ii. Current charter Commission not located online
 - iii. The version in effect in 2005 is located at: https://charter.merrimacknh.org/sample_charters/seabrooknh.pdf
 - iv. Part of Seabrook's charter, adopted in 1983, was ruled invalid in 2005: <https://www.nhmunicipal.org/court-updates/town-charter's-recall-provision-ruled-invalid>
- b. **Conway**
 - i. Charter adopted 1989, amended multiple times.
 - ii. <https://ecode360.com/29479573>

c. **Goffstown**

- i. The current charter Commission was not located online.
- ii. 2005 Charter found at:
https://charter.merrimacknh.org/sample_charters/goffstowntnhproposedcharterssubmittedin2005.pdf

7. Miscellaneous:

a. **Henniker**

- i. Select Board, Town Meeting, Not SB2
- ii. Population: 6,185; Square Miles: 44.1
- iii. No charter was found online.
- iv. *Reason to consider: Joe Devine was Town Administer before coming to Salem as Assistant Town Manager*

b. **Milford**

- i. 5 Selectmen, Town Administrator, SB2
- ii. No modern charter found online. Original charter 1794. Became SB2 prior to 2019.
- iii. <https://www.milford.nh.gov/municipal-coderules/pages/charter>
- iv. *Reason to consider: Similar geographic size.*