

## 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/vyhlf2811f/uploads/town\\_charter.pdf](https://www.berlinnh.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf2811f/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://keenenh.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/vyhlf1226/f/uploads/city\\_charter\\_effective\\_november\\_12\\_2018.pdf](https://www.somersworth.com/sites/g/files/vyhlf1226/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/vyhlf3026/f/uploads/charter\\_marc\\_h\\_2020final\\_proofed.pdf](https://www.derrynh.org/sites/g/files/vyhlf3026/f/uploads/charter_marc_h_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/vyhlf4541/f/uploads/town\\_charter\\_amendments\\_7.3.19\\_-\\_scrivener\\_correction\\_implemented\\_8.20.20\\_0.pdf](https://www.hooksett.org/sites/g/files/vyhlf4541/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/vyhlf4616/f/uploads/ch1\\_charter\\_1.11.21\\_with\\_2020\\_charter\\_amendment\\_002\\_1.pdf](https://www.londonderrynh.org/sites/g/files/vyhlf4616/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/vyhlf3536/f/uploads/newmarket\\_town\\_charter\\_-\\_as\\_amended\\_march\\_10\\_2015.pdf](https://www.newmarketnh.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf3536/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](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/goffstownnhproposedchartersubmittedin2005.pdf](https://charter.merrimacknh.org/sample_charters/goffstownnhproposedchartersubmittedin2005.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.*