

GOVERNANCE & GOVERNING BODY AUTHORITY

Academy for Good Governance

Class of 2024



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INTRODUCTION TO NHMA AND THE NHSBA

<https://www.nhmunicipal.org/>

<https://nhsba.org/>

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Welcome to the
Academy, Class of
2024!

Learn the law

Learn best practices

Understand basic roles and
responsibilities for different
governing bodies

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Authority of Political Subdivisons



No home rule

Home rule v. local control



Authority comes from the state

RSAs
Case law
Rules

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Types of Governmental Entities



Cities



Towns



Village Districts



School Districts



Counties

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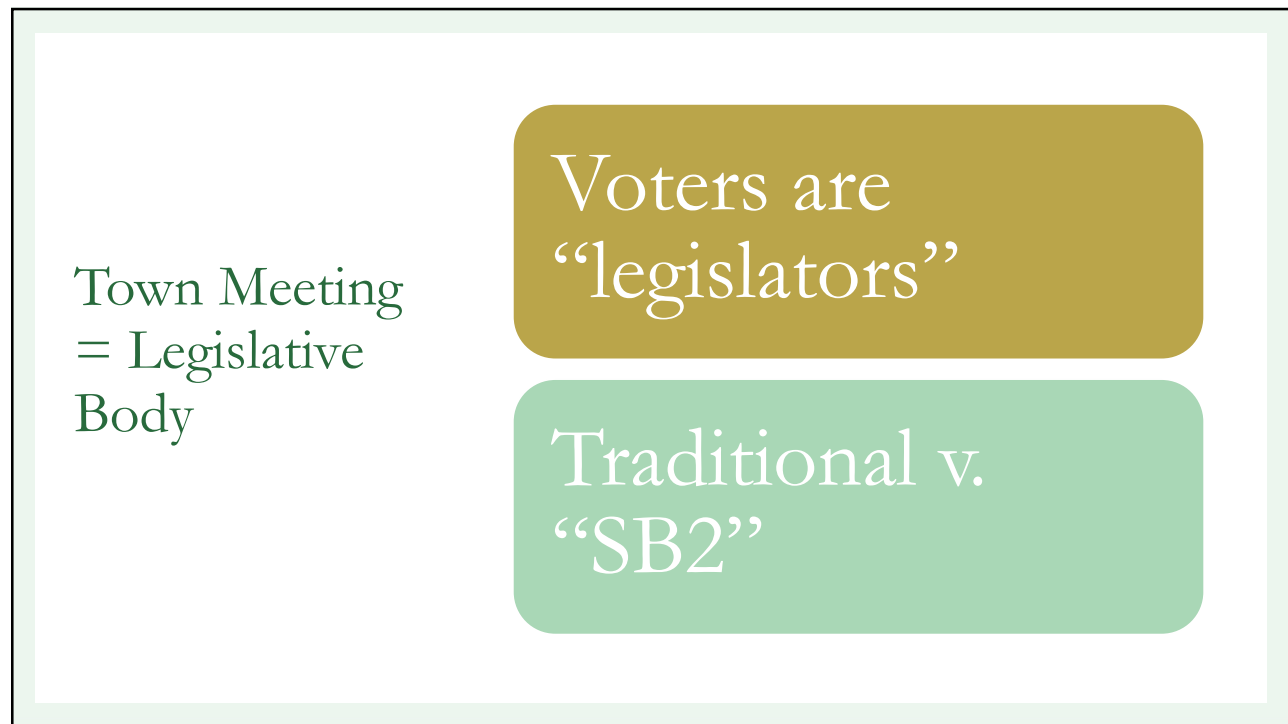
Separation of Powers

Governing Body

Legislative Body

In some
municipalities,
they are the same

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Governing Body Basics



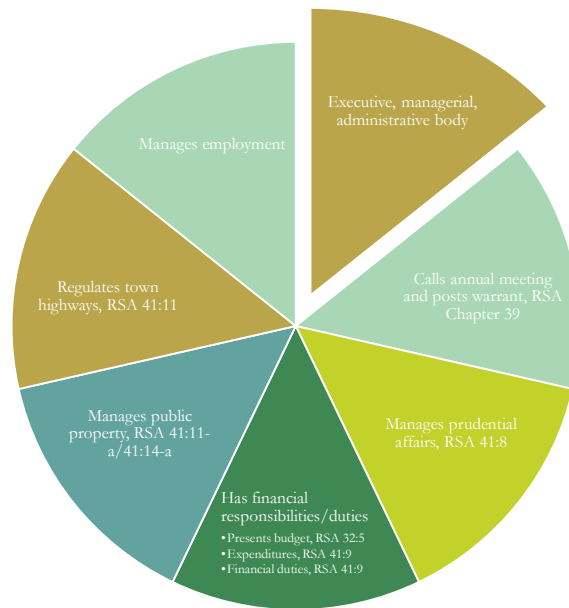
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Governing Body Relationship with Other Elected Officials, Generally



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Select Board Fundamental Authority



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“Town Manager” is a
form of town
government

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Are cities different from towns?



Yes, because cities have some authority towns don't have



A city has a charter; charter must still comply with law and does not override state law



Towns with town councils are also different from other towns

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Cities: Two Forms of Governing Body

Elected body is both the legislative and governing body of the city

Mayor-aldermen ("strong mayor")

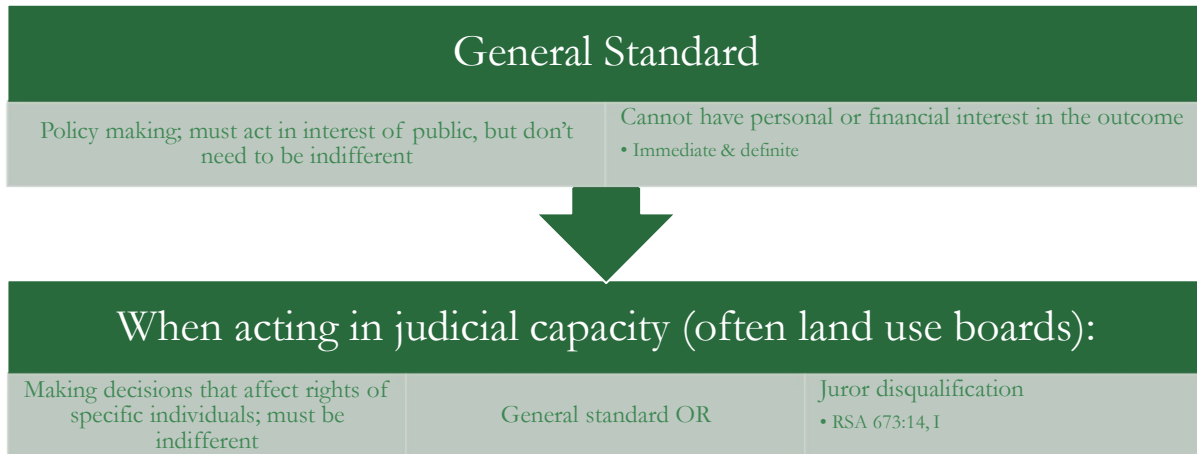
- Mayor and board together are elected body
- Mayor elected at large, full-time employee, CEO of city

Council-manager

- City council is elected body
- Mayor either elected at large or chosen from council
- Mayor does not serve full-time; council hires a full-time manager to serve as CEO of city

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Conflicts of Interest



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Incompatibility of Offices

RSA 669:7 Incompatibility of Offices (Towns)

RSA 31:39-A, Local Conflicts Ordinances

RSA 48:1, Disqualification for Employment (Cities)

RSA 673:7, Land Use Boards

RSA 32:15, Budget Committees

A municipal charter, if applicable

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