

Selected Data on Admission Rates in Barnstable County

Prepared by Barnstable County Department of Human Services for the Assembly of Delegates October 16, 2013

For full report go to www.bchumanservices.net *Substance Abuse Treatment Statistics Focus on 2007 – 2011, July 25, 2013*

In-Patient Admissions by County Residents to Department of Public Health Certified Treatment Centers, 2010 (Source: DPH Bureau of Substance Abuse Services)

- Barnstable County has a higher rate of treatment admissions contrasted to the state.
 - Treatment admissions are strongly associated with substance abuse prevalence, but we do have to be somewhat cautious in making this assumption as County residents have access to Gosnold, one of the lead treatment providers in the state.
 - Enrollment cluster in the 20-29 year old age range, representing 37.9% of admissions for county residents in FY 2011.
- Treatment admissions where *alcohol* is the primary substance remains a large proportion of admissions – in FY 11, they comprised 46% of admissions.
- Treatment admissions over time for other opiates (all narcotics other than heroin) as primary substance increased significantly over time, and in FY 11 comprised almost 30% of admissions.
- Other indicators of substance abuse show higher rates for Barnstable County contrasted to the state, for example alcohol and other substance related emergency room visits, including opioids.

Injuries: Opioid-related Fatal Overdose Deaths

**Source: Massachusetts Vital Records and Statistics, Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health
 MassCHIP download Oct. 16, 2012**

Counts are residents

Opioids include heroin & prescription drugs such as oxycodone (oxycotin), fentanyl, hydrocodone, codeine, & methadone

Geography	Year	Count of deaths	Percent of All causes of death	Death Rate Per 100000 persons
Barnstable County	2005	20	0.8	8.8
Barnstable County	2006	23	0.9	10.2
Barnstable County	2007	31	1.2	13.7
Barnstable County	2008	21	0.8	9.3
Barnstable County	2009	20	0.7	8.8
Massachusetts Total	2005	544	1.0	8.5
Massachusetts Total	2006	637	1.2	9.9
Massachusetts Total	2007	637	1.2	9.9
Massachusetts Total	2008	594	1.1	9.1
Massachusetts Total	2009	627	1.2	9.5

Notes:

- There were 115 opioid-related fatal overdoses in Barnstable County 2005 to 2009, accounting for nearly 1 in 100 of all deaths across age groups
 - 29 of the opioid-related fatal overdoses were in the age group 30 – 39 years of age, and were 1 in 4 of the deaths for this age group
- The death rate per 100,000 persons allows us to compare geographies
 - There is no statistically significant difference in the opioid death rate for Barnstable County contrasted with Massachusetts as a whole in any year, including 2007, as determined by comparing the confidence interval of the rates
 - There is no statistically significant difference in the opioid death rate for either Barnstable County or Massachusetts across the years as determined by comparing the confidence interval of the rates

Injuries: Opioid-related Fatal Overdose Deaths

Source: Massachusetts Vital Records and Statistics, Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health
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Counts are residents

Opioids include heroin & prescription drugs such as oxycodone (oxycontin), fentanyl, hydrocodone, codeine, & methadone

Geography	Year	Count	Rate Per 100,000 persons	95% Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
Massachusetts Total	2009	627	9.5	8.8	10.3
Suffolk County	2009	95	14.5	11.6	17.4
Bristol County	2009	70	12.8	9.8	15.8
Plymouth County	2009	51	10.3	7.4	13.1
Norfolk County	2009	65	9.9	7.5	12.3
Hampden County	2009	45	9.6	6.8	12.5
Essex County	2009	71	9.5	7.3	11.7
Barnstable County	2009	20	8.8	5.0	12.7
Worcester County	2009	66	8.4	6.4	10.4
Middlesex County	2009	121	8.3	6.8	9.7
Hampshire County	2009	10	6.5	2.5	10.5
Dukes County	2009	-	-	-	-
Nantucket County	2009	-	-	-	-
Berkshire County	2009	-	-	-	-
Franklin County	2009	-	-	-	-

Notes:

- Counts for Dukes, Nantucket, Berkshire and Franklin counties are fewer than 10 and hence are not reported
- The death rate per 100,000 persons allows us to compare geographies
 - There is a statistically significant difference in the opioid death rate for Suffolk County of 14.5 per 100,000 persons contrasted with the Massachusetts rate of 9.5 per 100,000 persons as determined by comparing the confidence interval (CI) of the rates. The Suffolk County CI of 11.6 to 17.4 per 100,000 persons does not overlap with the state CI of 8.8 to 10.3 per 100,000 persons.
 - There is no statistically significant difference in the opioid death rate for Barnstable County contrasted with Massachusetts in 2009 as the CI overlap.

clerk's copy

**TROY WALL
ASSOCIATES**

ATTORNEYS & COUNSELLORS AT LAW

Memo

To: Assembly of Delegates
From: Robert S. Troy, County Counsel *RST*
Date: October 15, 2013
Re: Website Posting

There has been some discussion about whether the Assembly of Delegates should have a policy that delineates what is appropriate to include on the Website. Although the Assembly does not have a formal Policy adopted by a vote, I am informed that it has a *de facto* policy of posting on its Website any documents that presented to it by anyone who appears at an Assembly Meeting.

Regardless of the content of the policy, it seems prudent for the Assembly to adopt and vote a specific policy. This Memorandum suggests criteria that the Assembly may wish to consider in determining what documents should be posted on its Website.

A published document "Transparency in Massachusetts Municipal Websites" by Common Cause discusses how many municipalities "post important governance records online." The document defines "governance records" as "the governing body's agenda, the governing body's minutes, the current year's budget; the by-laws or ordinances, and if applicable, the town meeting warrant and results." In addition to these documents, Common Cause identified a second category of documents that are also helpful to the public: "an archive" of the

governing body's minutes and agenda, a calendar, zoning by-laws, and a recent agenda and minutes from the school committee and another board or committee." Appendix A of the document identifies the type of documents that Common Cause finds appropriate for inclusion on the Website.

The document also explains the genesis of website postings, found in the requirements of the Open Meeting Law and public records law. "The open meeting law states that an individual has the right to attend the meeting of any local governmental body, while under the public records law an individual has the right to request copies of public records regarding the activities of local governmental bodies."

This description of the conceptual underpinnings of website posting confirms that it is intended to promote publication of documents in order to honor the requirements of the Open Meeting Law and the Public Records Law. This principle also suggests a limitation on what should not be posted on the Web: records which are not public records – and that would not be produced if the request were made to produce them in writing – should not be on the Website. Unless a governmental body adopts a policy for publication of documents on the Web that is consistent with state law governing public records, the governmental body is left in the quandary of publicizing on the Internet written information that would be not produced pursuant to a written request under the Public Records Law.

This policy would impose a duty on the custodian of public records of a governmental body to make a determination as to whether the records could be lawfully produced as public records prior to publishing a record that is produced at a public meeting. For example, if as part of a public meeting, an individual offers a record that would otherwise be withheld under the statutory requirements for public records, that document should not be posted on the website.

I have conferred with Jonathan Sclarsic, Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Open Meeting Division. Mr. Sclarsic informed me that the only documents that are required to be posted on the Website if it has been designated as the posting mechanism for the public body is the notice of the meeting, including date, time and location

of the meeting as well as the topics reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Materials that are going to be discussed at the meeting, even though they could be public records, are not required to be posted.

If a governmental body elects to implement a policy to post documentation in excess of what is required by law to be posted on the Website if it has been designated as the posting mechanism for the public body, it should do so by adoption of a formal policy that clearly defines what will appear on its Website.

The Assembly of Delegates may establish whatever policy it deems appropriate relative to the posting of documents on its Website. One policy that it might want to pay particular attention to is to limit the posting of records that comport with the statutory definition of "public records." This policy would honor the spirit of the Open Meeting Law and Public Records Law.

If the Assembly does not adopt a policy that aligns its public posting of documents with state law, it faces the anomalous situation where the Clerk of the Assembly would post a document on the Website that would otherwise be redacted under the Public Records statute.

RST:geo

Cc: County Commissioners
County Administrator
Assistant County Administrator

10-16-13

submitted of B. Tracy memo of
10-15-13



Transparency in Massachusetts Municipal Websites

COMMON CAUSE MASSACHUSETTS
TRANSPARENCY IN MASSACHUSETTS MUNICIPAL WEBSITES

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*Common Cause Massachusetts is a non-partisan, non-profit government
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SUMMARY

In January of 2010, Common Cause Massachusetts began its annual review of all 351 Massachusetts municipality websites to determine how many post important governance records online. These items—the governing body’s agenda, the governing body’s minutes, the current year’s budget, the by-laws or ordinances, and if applicable, the town meeting warrant and results—are by no means comprehensive, but do provide a critical baseline for transparency.

Our research found that 326 municipalities have some presence on the Internet, while 25 do not maintain a website at all. Of those with websites, we concluded that 181 municipalities, or 51.5% post all of the targeted records. 91 municipalities, or 25.6%, also post additional governance documents¹—an archive of the governing body’s minutes and agenda, a calendar, zoning by-laws, and a recent agenda and minutes from the school committee and another board or committee. Additionally, the review found that 303 municipalities maintain a website with at least a single targeted document. Despite having gone through the effort of building a website, there are 23 communities that did not post any of the documents we were looking for.

It should be the priority of government, at any level, to make information readily available to the public it serves. As is evident from the results of this study, an overwhelming percentage of Massachusetts municipalities possess the resources to make government accessible to their constituents. The findings in this report demonstrate that the past three years have seen a significant increase in the number of municipalities meeting our criteria—unfortunately there is still much work to be done.

INTRODUCTION

Common Cause Massachusetts launched the Massachusetts Campaign for Open Government (MACOG) in March of 2006 to determine the prevalence and quality of municipal websites in the state. As a result of the growing prominence of the Internet, there have been several recent studies which provide comprehensive analysis of what is variously called referred to as e-government, digital government, online government at state level—there is even a journal devoted to the subject.² On the federal level, the White House hosts an ‘open government’ blog in order to inform the American public

¹ In 2008, Common Cause Massachusetts began looking for additional governance documents. Those municipalities that also post these documents receive the e-Government Award with Distinction.

² See Holzer et al. 2008. ‘U.S. States E-Governance Report: An assessment of state websites’, *National Center for Public Performance*. Rutgers, NJ; the *International Journal of Electronic Government Research (IJEGR)* has been in publication since 2005.

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on how President Obama's Open Government Directive of December 2010 is being implemented across the federal government and even solicits recommendations from the public.¹

Our study shows that there is a trend in local Massachusetts government towards maintaining a stronger Internet presence.² However, some municipalities still do not maintain any Internet presence at all. There are compelling reasons why Massachusetts municipalities should care about maintaining a strong online presence—doing so is a simple way for a municipality to provide frequently requested documents, to serve and educate its citizens, and to fulfill, its obligation under the constitution to, at all times, be accountable to the people.

Access to information concerning government activities is a right granted by the open meetings law³ and the public records law⁴. The open meeting law states that an individual has the right to attend the meeting of any local governmental body, while under the public records law an individual has the right to request copies of public records regarding the activities of local governmental bodies. The greatest practical limitation here is time, as most people find it difficult to commit the time required to attend a meeting or wait up to ten days for their request for documents to be processed. These laws are also restrictive because an individual needs to know these rights exist and has to understand how to exercise them. Requests under the public records law also have the potential to be costly. Maintaining a strong Internet presence is the best way around these limitations. When a municipality posts public records online, anyone at any time may obtain important information about their local government at no cost.

More and more people are becoming increasingly proficient with Internet technology. The social networking site, Facebook, has more than 400 million active users, 50% of whom use the site every day and 25% of whom access the site through their web-enabled mobile phones.⁵ Additionally, a National Retail Federation survey found that almost 100 million people planned to shop online the Monday after Thanksgiving (referred to as "Cyber Monday").⁶ Massachusetts municipalities must recognize that as Internet technology becomes easier to use, more people will make it an integral part of their life and will come to expect a high level of online content from their government. The Massachusetts constitution

¹ See www.whitehouse.gov/open/blog; as part of Obama's Open Government Directive, websites for every major government agency were created in order to provide the public with a way of tracking how each agency is conforming to the Open Government Directive. It acts as an online mode of civic engagement.

² See e-Government Awardees figure.

³ M.G.L. c. 39, §§ 23A-23C, 24 (Open Meeting Law provisions applying to municipal and district governments).

⁴ M.G.L. c. 4, § 7, clause 24; M.G.L. c. 66. See Also 950 CMR §§ 32.01-32.09.

⁵ See <http://www.facebook.com/press/info.php?statistics>

⁶ See http://www.nrf.com/modules.php?name=News&op=viewlive&sp_id=842

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reminds us that the government is at all times accountable to the people.¹ This being the case, municipalities must ensure that they utilize the technology that their constituents rely on to its full effect.

FINDINGS

Our review period began mid-January 2010 and lasted through mid-February in order to determine which municipalities were posting governance documents online. During this window, researchers combed through each municipality's website twice looking for the basic criteria and the additional criteria². On March 16, 2010, those communities that meet the basic criteria will receive the e-Government Award and those who meet the additional criteria will receive the same award but with distinction.

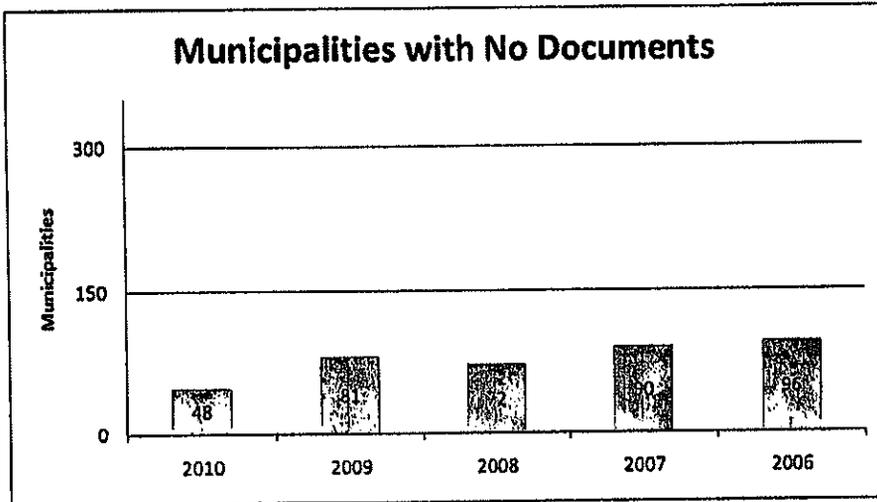
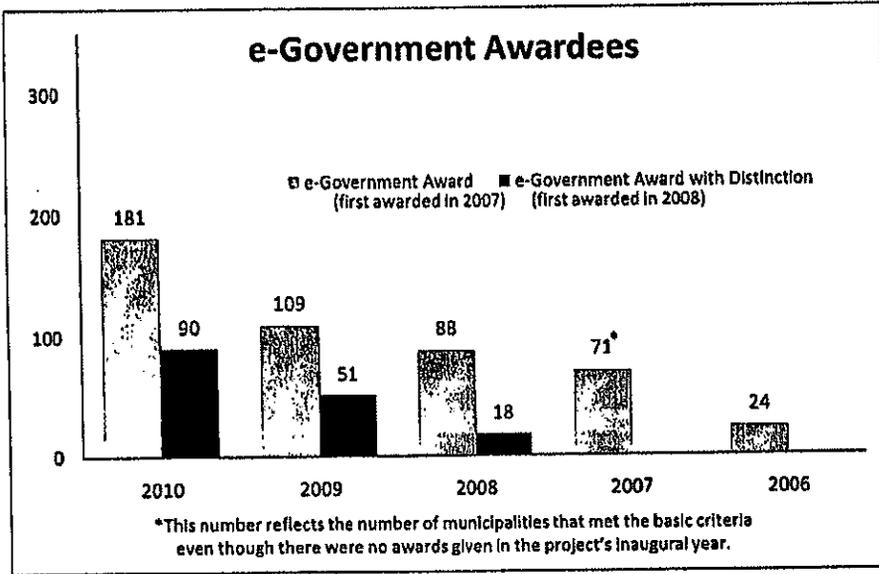
Our research found that 181 municipalities, or 51.5%, post all of the essential records online while out of these 181 municipalities, 91 of them post the additional documents. 2010 saw the largest increase in the number of municipalities posting all the required documents online. In 2009 there were 109, in 2008 there were 83, in 2007 there were 71, and in March of 2006 there were only 24. While there were only 18 municipalities who met the additional criteria when it was introduced in 2008, there are 91 this year. In the past year, significant strides have been made in the quantity and quality of information posted online by cities and towns.

We found 23 municipalities maintaining a website that do not have any of the targeted documents posted. An additional 25 municipalities do not maintain a website at all. If these numbers are combined, then 48 municipalities are not providing their constituents an easy and efficient way to find any governance documents. While these results are still high, they are encouraging nevertheless. In 2006, our review found that 96 municipalities, or 27%, did not post any of the key governance records online; the subsequent three years did not see much improvement either—90 in 2007, 72 in 2008, and 81 in 2009. Our review also found there are 20 municipalities missing just one of the targeted documents.

¹ As Article V of the Massachusetts Constitution states, "All power residing originally in the people, and being derived from them, the several magistrates and officers of government, vested with authority, whether legislative, executive, or judicial, are their substitutes and agents, and are at all times accountable to them."

² See Appendix A

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The municipalities which post the targeted documents had a median population of 14,285. Those that did not post these documents, or had no website, had a median population of 5,426. Regardless of a municipality's size, however, there are significant benefits to posting these targeted documents online:

- Improved public access to information about local government.
- More political accountability.
- Probable increase in civic participation.

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- Less time and money spent responding to requests for documents.
- Improved communications and less misunderstanding about governance issues.
- Increased ability to compare with other municipalities.
- Market the municipality to outside interests.

Since 2006, there has been a steady rise in the number of Massachusetts municipalities posting documents online, greatly increasing access to information about local government for millions of Massachusetts residents. We expect the trend to continue as the Internet becomes a central part in the lives of more people. With municipalities recognizing the importance of maintaining a strong Internet presence, democracy can only become stronger and civic engagement more vibrant.

BACKGROUND

The Massachusetts Campaign for Open Government has worked since 2006 to dramatically increase the number of municipalities that post records online. This ongoing effort is a grassroots project that accomplishes its goal by mobilizing the members of Common Cause Massachusetts and other concerned citizens.

For those cities and towns that already have a website, we encourage interested citizens to contact their municipal officials to ask them to post all the key governance records online. For those communities that have no website, we encourage interested citizens to convince their municipal officials to create and maintain a website, not only because it is an effective method by which the municipality can make public information available to its residents, but also because having a website can benefit the municipality in so many other ways.

Tools for grassroots activism are located on our website as is up-to-date information on which towns post which documents. As more towns and cities are persuaded to post all the key governance records online, we will announce it on the website and update the information. The website also has forms for citizens to report apparent noncompliance with the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law and the Massachusetts Public Records Law by local officials. Unfortunately, the state does not maintain records on noncompliance issues unless legal action is pursued.

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APPENDIX A

The criteria we used in evaluating each website focused on whether the essence of the particular public record had been posted, rather than strictly whether the actual targeted records have been posted. The following is the criteria used in determining whether a municipality had posted the targeted record:

CRITERIA FOR e-GOVERNMENT AWARD

- Agenda for a governing body (board of selectmen, town council, city council, board of aldermen, etc.) meeting held or scheduled within the two (2) weeks previous to or two (2) weeks after the review period. It must contain a list of items to be discussed, not just, date, time and location of a meeting.
- Minutes for a governing body meeting occurring any time during the two (2) months prior to the review period.
- Budget information for the current fiscal year (July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010). It must be *at least* a detailed operating budget, which can be a separate document or contained in another record such as a finance committee report to the town meeting, a mayor's report to the city council, the town meeting warrant, the town meeting results, or the town's annual report.
- Complete general bylaws, code, or ordinances (with or without zoning bylaws).
- Town meeting warrant for any annual or special town meeting occurring in the previous 12 months or a warrant for the next scheduled town meeting. Warrant articles can be included in the town meeting results.
- Town meeting results for any town meeting occurring within the past 12 months. Results can be in any format as long as the decision or vote on each article is indicated. For example, acceptable formats include a copy of the warrant with notations under each article as to whether the article passed, with or without a vote tally; a spreadsheet with a row for each article, a short description of the article, and a vote tally; and actual minutes with a description of who spoke, who made motions, and what the vote was.

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CRITERIA FOR e-GOVERNMENT AWARD *WITH DISTINCTION* (Only applies if municipality's website meets the basic criteria.)

- A year's history of past governing board minutes.
- A year's history of past governing board agendas.
- Zoning by-laws.
- A community calendar which includes meetings of local government committees and boards.
- Agendas for school committee (if none, the regional school committee) or a link to a separate website that contains the school committee meeting agendas for a meeting held or scheduled within the two (2) weeks previous to or two (2) weeks after the review period. It must contain list of items to be discussed, not just date, time and location of a meeting.
- Minutes for school committee (if none, the regional school committee) or a link to a separate website that contains the school committee meeting minutes for a meeting occurring anytime during the two (2) months prior to the review period.
- Agenda for at least one other town or city committee or board for a meeting held or scheduled within the two (2) weeks previous to or two (2) weeks after the review period. It must contain list of items to be discussed, not just date, time and location of a meeting.
- Minutes for at least one other town or city committee or board for the most recent meeting occurring anytime during the two (2) months prior to the review period.

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APPENDIX B

LIST OF MUNICIPALITIES. The municipalities in black are the 2010 e-Government Award recipients, the municipalities in bold are recipients of the 2010 e-Government Award with Distinction, and the municipalities with an asterisk are the 2009 e-Government Award recipients.

	Blandford	Conway	* Gardner
	* Bolton	Cummington	Georgetown
Abington	* Boston	* Dalton	* Gill
Acton	Bourne	Danvers	* Gloucester
Acushnet	* Boxborough	Dartmouth	Goshen
Adams	Boxford	* Dedham	Gosnold
Agawam	Boylston	Deerfield	Grafton
Alford	Braintree	* Dennis	Granby
* Amesbury	Brewster	Dighton	Granville
* Amherst	Bridgewater	Douglas	Great Barrington
* Andover	Brimfield	Dover	Greenfield
Aquinnah	Brockton	Dracut	Groton
* Arlington	Brookfield	* Dudley	Groveland
* Ashburnham	* Brookline	* Dunstable	Hadley
Ashby	Buckland	* Duxbury	Halifax
Ashfield	* Burlington	East Bridgewater	Hamilton
* Ashland	* Cambridge	East Brookfield	Hampden
Athol	Canton	* East Longmeadow	Hancock
Attleboro	Carlisle	* Eastham	Hanover
Auburn	* Carver	Easthampton	Hanson
Avon	Charlemont	* Easton	Hardwick
Ayer	* Charlton	Edgartown	Harvard
* Barnstable	* Chatham	* Egremont	Harwich
Barre	* Chelmsford	Erving	Hatfield
* Becket	* Chelsea	Essex	* Haverhill
* Bedford	Cheshire	* Everett	Hawley
Belchertown	Chester	Fairhaven	Heath
* Bellingham	Chesterfield	Fall River	Hingham
* Belmont	Chicopee	* Falmouth	Hinsdale
Berkley	* Chilmark	* Fitchburg	Holbrook
Berlin	Clarksburg	Florida	* Holden
Bernardston	Clinton	Foxborough	* Holland
Beverly	Cohasset	Framingham	* Holliston
Billerica	Colrain	Franklin	* Holyoke
Blackstone	* Concord	* Freetown	Hopedale

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* Hopkinton	Mendon	Norwood	* Sandwich
Hubbardston	Merrimac	Oak Bluffs	* Saugus
* Hudson	* Methuen	Oakham	Savoy
Hull	Middleborough	* Orange	* Scituate
Huntington	Middlefield	* Orleans	Seekonk
* Ipswich	Middleton	* Otis	* Sharon
* Kingston	Milford	Oxford	* Sheffield
* Lakeville	* Millbury	Palmer	Shelburne
Lancaster	Millis	* Paxton	Sherborn
Lanesborough	Millville	Peabody	Shirley
Lawrence	* Milton	Pelham	Shrewsbury
Lee	Monroe	* Pembroke	Shutesbury
Leicester	Monson	* Pepperell	Somerset
Lenox	Montague	Peru	* Somerville
* Leominster	* Monterey	Petersham	* South Hadley
Leverett	Montgomery	Phillipston	Southampton
Lexington	Mount Washington	Pittsfield	Southborough
Leyden	Nahant	Plainfield	Southbridge
Lincoln	* Nantucket	Plainville	* Southwick
* Littleton	Natick	Plymouth	Spencer
* Longmeadow	* Needham	Plympton	* Springfield
* Lowell	New Ashford	Princeton	* Sterling
Ludlow	New Bedford	* Provincetown	Stockbridge
Lunenburg	New Braintree	Quincy	Stoneham
Lynn	New Marlborough	Randolph	Stoughton
Lynnfield	New Salem	Raynham	Stow
* Malden	Newbury	* Reading	Sturbridge
Manchester-by-the-	* Newburyport	Rehoboth	Sudbury
Sea	* Newton	Revere	Sunderland
Mansfield	* Norfolk	Richmond	Sutton
Marblehead	North Adams	Rochester	Swampscott
Marion	* North Andover	* Rockland	Swansea
* Marlborough	North Attleborough	* Rockport	Taunton
* Marshfield	North Brookfield	Rowe	Templeton
* Mashpee	* North Reading	Rowley	Tewksbury
Mattapoissett	* Northampton	Royalston	Tisbury
* Maynard	* Northborough	Russell	Tolland
Medfield	* Northbridge	Rutland	Topsfield
Medford	Northfield	* Salem	Townsend
Medway	Norton	* Salisbury	Truro
* Melrose	Norwell	Sandisfield	Tyngsborough

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Tyringham	Wayland	Westborough	* Williamstown
Upton	Webster	Westfield	Wilmington
Uxbridge	Wellesley	* Westford	Winchendon
Wakefield	Wellfleet	Westhampton	* Winchester
Wales	Wendell	* Westminster	Windsor
Walpole	Wenham	* Weston	* Winthrop
Waltham	* West Boylston	Westport	* Woburn
Ware	West Bridgewater	* Westwood	* Worcester
Wareham	West Brookfield	* Weymouth	Worthington
Warren	West Newbury	Whately	* Wrentham
Warwick	West Springfield	Whitman	Yarmouth
Washington	West Stockbridge	* Wilbraham	
Watertown	West Tisbury	Williamsburg	