

## **SAMPLE – PREAMBLES FROM MASSACHUSETTS MUNICIPAL HOME RULE CHARTERS**

Barnstable (Council – Manager Government)

The people of the Town of Barnstable, desiring to manage their affairs in an honest, forthright, o and efficient manner, and wishing to participate most fully in exercising the rights and responsibilities of local government, and praying for the minimum of interference from the yet larger state, do adhere to this charter. We assert our willingness to assume all responsibility for the conduct of matters pertaining to the town, and do by this document earnestly affirm our right as inhabitants of Barnstable, to live and grow in freedom, dignity, and tranquility.

Franklin (Council – Manager Government)

We, the people of the Town of Franklin, Massachusetts, in order to form a more perfect community, reaffirm the customary and traditional liberties of the people with respect to the conduct of our local government and take fullest advantage of the Home Rule Amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth, do ordain and adopt this Home Rule Charter for our Town.

Falmouth (Rep. Town Meeting – Board of Selectmen – Manager government)

We, the people of the Town of Falmouth, Massachusetts, in order to reaffirm the customary and traditional liberties of the people with respect to the conduct of our local government and to take the fullest advantages inherent in the home rule amendments of the Constitution of the commonwealth, do hereby adopt the following Home Rule Charter for this town.

Reading (Rep. Town Meeting – Board of Selectmen – Manager government)

We, the people of The Town of Reading, in order to re-establish our individual sovereignty with respect to the conduct of our local government and to take the fullest advantages inherent in the Home Rule Amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby adopt the following Home Rule Charter for the Town of Reading

Winchester (Rep. Town Meeting – Board of Selectmen – Manager government)

We, the people of Winchester, in order to reaffirm the customary and traditional liberties of the people with respect to the conduct of our local government and to take the fullest advantages inherent in the home rule amendment to the constitution of the Commonwealth, do hereby adopt the following home rule charter for the Town of Winchester.

North Andover (Open town meeting – Board of Selectmen – Manager government)

We, the people of the Town of North Andover, Massachusetts, in order to reaffirm the customary and traditional liberties of the people with respect to the conduct of local government and to take the fullest advantages inherent in the home rule amendments to the constitution of the Commonwealth, do hereby adopt the following home rule charter for this town.

Athol (Open town meeting – Board of Selectmen – Manager government)

We the people of the Town of Athol, Massachusetts, in order to reaffirm the customary and traditional liberties of the people with respect to the conduct of our local government and to take the fullest advantages inherent in the home rule amendment of the constitution of the Commonwealth and

General Laws Chapter 43B, do hereby adopt the following home rule Charter for this town. It is the intention of this document that it reflects a gender nonspecific approach. Any references to masculine gender are intended to reflect both masculine and feminine gender, and should not be otherwise construed. *(also used in the town of Oxford – same form of govt – adopted 1998)*

Harwich (Open town meeting – Board of Selectmen – Manager government)

We, the people of the town of Harwich, Massachusetts, in order to reaffirm the customary and traditional liberties of the people with respect to the conduct of local government and to take the fullest advantages inherent in the home rule amendments to the constitution of the commonwealth, do hereby adopt the following charter for this town.

Provincetown (Open town meeting – Board of Selectmen – Manager government)

We, the people of the town of Provincetown, Massachusetts, in order to reaffirm the customary and traditional liberties of our local government, and to take the fullest advantage of the Home Rule Amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby adopt the following home rule charter for this town

Sutton (Open town meeting – Board of Selectmen – Manager government)

We, the people of the Town of Sutton in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in order to assure the effectiveness of town government, facilitate the delivery of services, maintain our high quality of life, prepare for future growth, and encourage public participation in municipal affairs, all in accord with the Home Rule Amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth, do ordain and establish this Home Rule Charter for the Town of Sutton.