

Town Meeting-Selectmen-Manager

This is the second most common form of local government in Maine. As municipalities grow in size, as state and federal regulations increase in number and complexity, many a municipality (currently, the number is 135) has hired a manager to administer the town government.

Under this form of government, the board of selectmen continue to serve as the town's executive body; the only difference is that they now can attend more to issues of policy, now that they have an administrator to oversee the daily operations of the municipality.

Towns may adopt the town manager form of government either by adopting the state's Statutory Town Manager Plan or by adopting - via charter - their own custom-designed plan. In either case, the manager is responsible directly to the selectmen. The towns of Mapleton (pop. 1,950), Castle Hill (pop. 470) and Chapman (pop.452) are unique in Maine in that they share in the services of a single manager.