



SELECT BOARD

(Prepared by LWV-Needham, Updated October 1, 2021)

OVERVIEW

MISSION: Responsibilities and Goals

- Establishing policies and procedures for the coordination of town government operations.
- Representing the interests of town residents in business dealings, legal affairs, and inter-governmental cooperation with other municipal, county, state, and federal agencies.
- Making appointments to those town boards and committees under its jurisdiction.
- Convening the annual town meeting in May and any special town meetings that may be required and preparing the Warrant (listing of articles) for town meeting consideration.
- Licensing all food and liquor establishments and transportation companies.
- Appointing the town manager and town counsel.
- Approving appointments recommended by the town manager for the positions of assistant town manager / finance, assistant town manager / personnel, fire chief, police chief, and director of public works
- <https://www.needhamma.gov/493/Responsibilities-Goals>.

WHEN ESTABLISHED: 1711 (as Board of Selectmen; changed to Select Board by a Home Rule Petition adopted by the 2018 Annual Town Meeting)

WHY ESTABLISHED: To oversee the general operation of the town.

GOVERNING REGULATIONS

- MA General Laws: c.45, §1 (3 or more for term of not more than 3 years, subject to provisions of §21)
- Needham Charter: §16 - 5 members, 3-year terms
- Needham Bylaws: §1.9.1(a) - 5 members for 3-year terms

NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 5

LENGTH OF TERM: 3 years

CURRENT MEMBERS as of October 1, 2021, in alphabetical order: Matthew Borrelli, Marianne Cooley, Daniel Matthews, Marcus Nelson, one vacancy

REQUIRED SPECIAL TRAINING: None

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES, ETC:

- Interacts with all other town officers, elected officials, and committees
- All members are Town Meeting Members at Large, Needham Town Charter §7

COMPARISON TOWNS THAT ELECT: Must be elected according to Massachusetts General Laws.

RECENT ELECTION HISTORY

In the last ten years, there have been three contested races for this board (2012, 2018, 2021).

In the past 32 years (Figure B1.1), there have been 16 contested races for this board, in 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1999, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2012, 2018, and 2021. The occasional three open seats in a given year (1993, 1996, 2012) were due to unscheduled vacancies. As a 5-person board with 3-year terms, generally there are one or two seats on the ballot each year.

Figure B1.1. Select Board: Number of Candidates and Number of Seats Available on Annual Town Election Ballots Over Time

