

To: Plymouth Charter Commission Members
From: Jane Crimmins, 11 Great Kame, Plymouth, Massachusetts 02360
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I have been privileged to live in Plymouth Massachusetts since 2004 and have great respect for the Selectboard and other board members who devote countless hours to make decisions on behalf of Plymouth citizens and businesses. Plymouth's current growth in population, development and operating costs require efficient management and administration. With an annual budget of \$250 million, our current form of government cannot enable the proficiency necessary to support the needs of Plymouth.

At our current population, development and budgetary growth, a smaller legislative body (such as a Town Council) meeting frequently would be more productive. This would give Plymouth the ability to establish experience and qualification requirements for a chief executive with the ability to remove appointed chief executives at any time by vote of the elected council. While our current form of government in theory encourages greater citizen participation in decision-making, our reality is few residents of Plymouth do participate as evident by the low voter turnout and low participation in meetings of the Selectboard. On most occasions citizens show up only when they have a self-interest.

With a population of over 60,000 and annual budget of \$250 million, a more centralized form of government would also facilitate greater efficiency in management and administration. This form of government calls for the chief executive to be elected directly. The mayor would work with a small legislative body, holding frequent meetings of the legislative body, with an ability to make significant decisions more frequently than twice a year, a significant limitation of the current Town Meeting schedule.

A change in our form of government may result in little change in leadership as council members would be chosen by popular vote. It would enable these leaders to make decisions more efficiently.

I would encourage Charter Commission members to consult with other towns and cities who have chosen alternative forms of government to assess the pros and cons and strive to make an objective decision. Many who participated in the election to serve on the Charter Commission stated their bias for maintaining our current form of representation and government; others expressed their desire for a change in Plymouth's form of government. It is imperative that all serving on this commission have an open mind and objectively approach their research to understand how other forms of government could impact and benefit Plymouth.

My thanks to all who have volunteered to serve on this Charter Commission and to all who have served our town as board members or in other capacities. I offer my appreciation for your commitment to making Plymouth a desirable place to call home.