

Timeline For LWVA Positions on Local Government

- 1938 Amherst voters approve 1936 Special Act establishing a Representative Town Meeting
- 1939 LWV of Amherst founded
- 1950 LWVA approves original Structure of Town Government (STG) position: “The League supports selectmen-manager form of government.” (a.k.a. “the 1950 statement.”)
- 1951 Amherst voters defeat 1951 Special Act establishing Selectmen-Manager form of government
- 1953 Amherst voters approve 1951 Special Act
- 1957, 1960 Amherst voters defeat referenda to repeal 1951 Special Act
- 1966 Home Rule Amendment to state Constitution passed
- 1969 LWVA begins study of effectiveness of current local government. Decides not to study home rule option.
- 1970 LWVA adopts initial version of Legislative Branch section of STG
- 1972 LWVA adopts initial version of Executive Branch section of STG; the 1950 statement is retained as part of this section.
- 1988-1990 LWVA again studies current town government, again decides not to study other options that might be considered under home rule option.
- 1990 LWVA adopts additions to STG, both Executive Branch and Legislative Branch sections
- 1994 First Amherst Charter Commission formed
- 1995-1996 LWVA opposes Charter proposal based on general criteria (not on 1950 statement)
- 1996 Amherst voters defeat proposed Charter
- 2001 Amherst voters combine the two Special Acts into a single “Amherst Town Government Act” (no structural changes)
Second Amherst Charter Commission formed
- 2002 LWVA studies principles, concepts, and practices that make for effective local government
- 2003 New position on Local Government: Concepts, Principles and Practices (LG) adopted. LWVA bases educational forums and publications on new position. LWVA does not take a position on the proposed charter.
Amherst voters defeat proposed Charter
- 2008 LWVA adopts additional sections and bullets under STG: Executive Branch.
- 2016 Third Amherst Charter Commission formed

