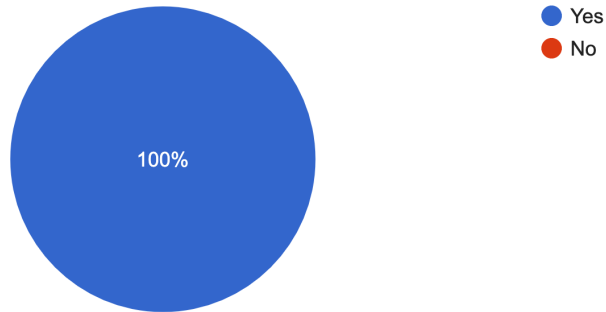


CHARTER COMMISSION PUBLIC SURVEY RESPONSES (AS OF NOVEMBER 17, 2021)

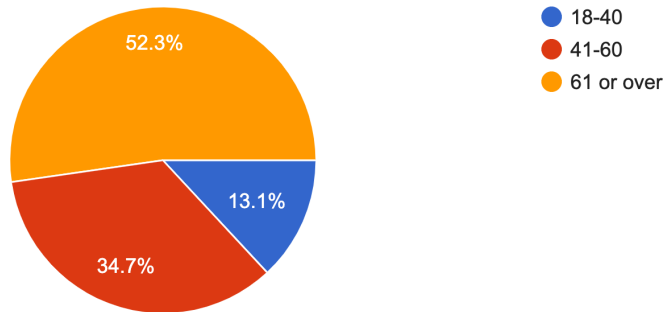
1. Are you a resident of New Gloucester?

332 responses



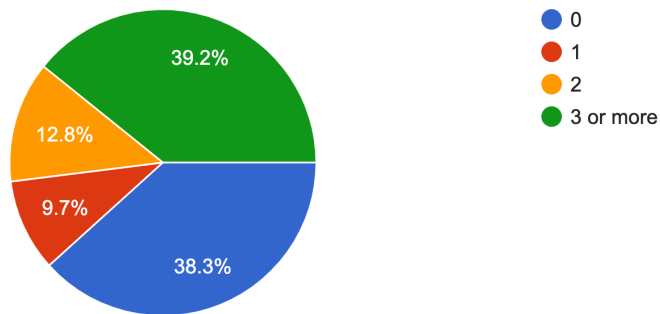
2. What is your age?

329 responses



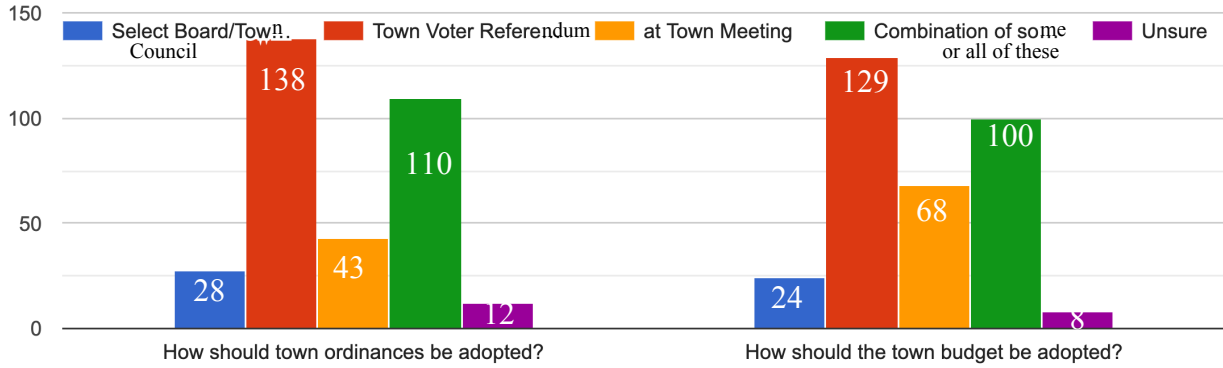
3(a). How many regular or special New Gloucester Town Meetings have you attended in the last seven years?

329 responses



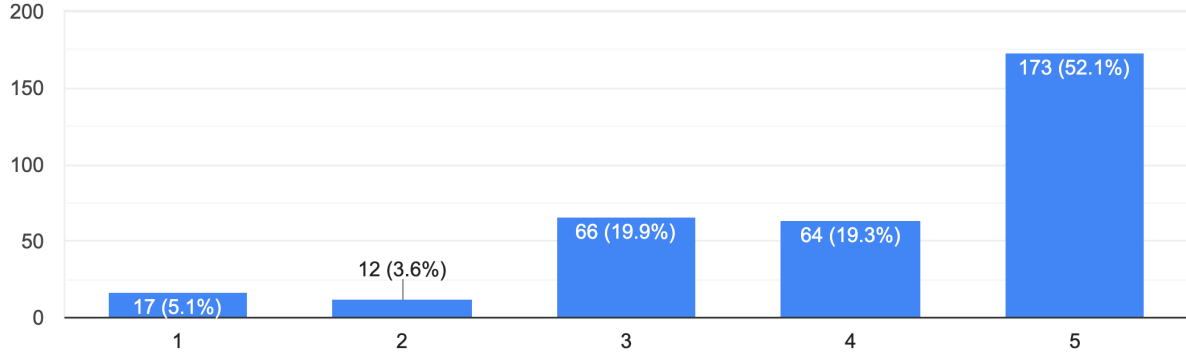
3(b). Please explain or clarify why you have or have not attended one or more Town Meetings.
 See attached spreadsheet for responses

4.



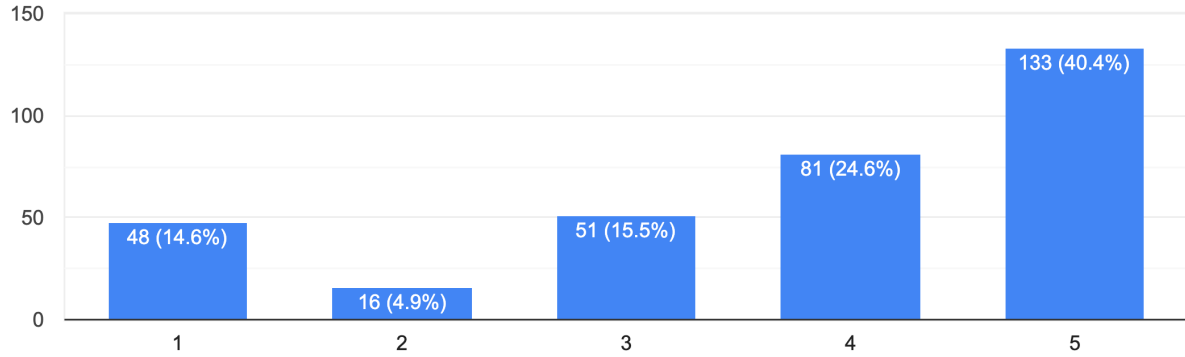
5. Town Meeting should be continued (in some form).

332 responses



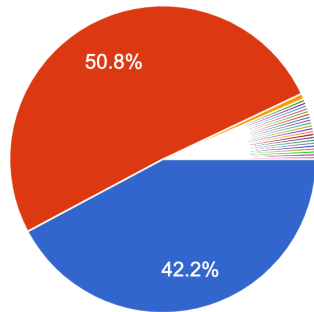
6. There should be a minimum number of voters required to attend a regular or special Town Meeting in order to hold a Town Meeting.

329 responses



7. What should be the size of the Select Board/Town Council?

327 responses



- Five members
- Seven members
- Unsure
- Five members who are unrelated sho...
- 7 is better than 5 for diversity and anal...
- Size commensurate w/the issues the t...
- 10
- Looks like some interests are working...

▲ 1/3 ▼

- 1-2 in each district depending on num...
- there is no town council
- 11
- Nine or 11 as will have more depth
- Nine members
- unsure
- proportionate to population - so it can i...
- 3 - most towns use three.

▲ 2/3 ▼

- Eleven
- Either of the above
- No clear sense of appropriate size.
- Zero
- Seven or more to to encourage diversi...
- not sure
- #8 Districts might improve sense of re...
- seven or more odd number

▲ 3/3 ▼

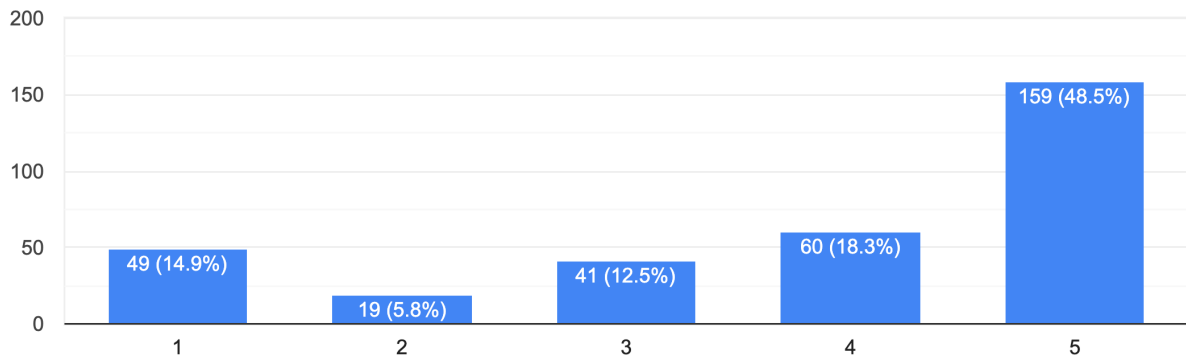
8. How should the Select Board/Town Council members be elected?

324 responses



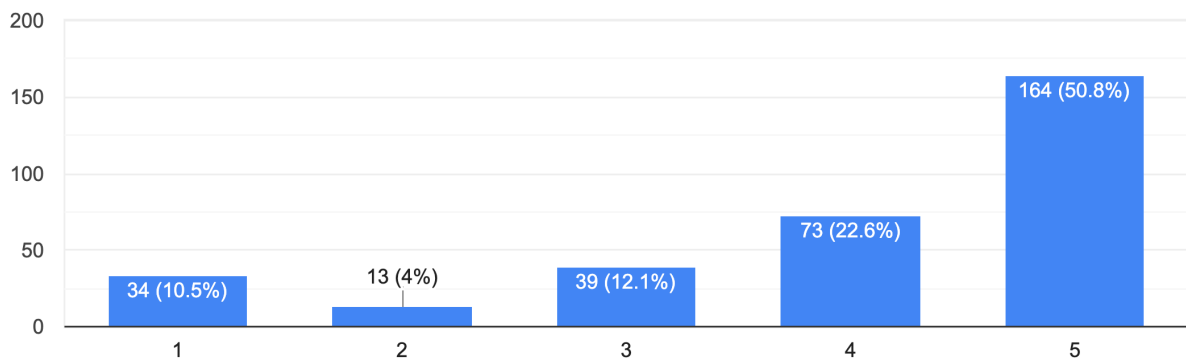
9. There should be term limits for Select Board/Town Council members.

328 responses



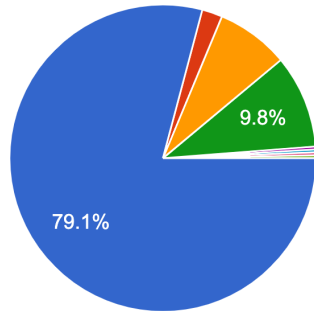
10. There should be a recall provision for Select Board/Town Council members.

323 responses



11. Which executive should New Gloucester have? (The executive is the person who oversees day-to-day operations of the town.)

326 responses



- Town Manager (what New Gloucester currently has)
- Mayor
- Town Administrator (has less authority than a Town Manager)
- Unsure
- leave this one alone.
- GET RID OF TOWN MANAGER - US...
- First selectman should see the day to...
- Rotating helpers

Please comment on any of the above.
See attached spreadsheet for responses

3(a). How many regular or special New Gloucester Town Meetings have you attended in the last seven years?	3(b). Please explain or clarify why you have or have not attended one or more Town Meetings.	Please comment on any of the above.
2	Busy schedule and also was not always aware that meetings were occurring.	
1	Increasingly wanting to be more connected to town issues and activities.	
0	I moved into NG in June 2020, during Covid.	<p>1) How were the age groupings decided? It seems bizarre to have 18-40 yr olds grouped together considering the very different life challenges an 18yr old faces compared to a 40yr old. It's too late but it'd be nice I imagine to see what youths in our town want vs those with families.</p> <p>2) More information on 11 is needed for the Town overall. I do not know how many citizens know what a Mayor would do vs a Manager, Administrator vs Mayor, etc. If there is a way to put this information in an easy to reference chart, and perhaps reference various towns for each executive type, that would be very helpful. I am curious if after you send out more info on this, if the answers would change. I don't know if it's even universally clear what power our current Town Manager has vs the Board.</p> <p>3) For the Public Engagement committee: What in-person ways are planned to gather more survey participants? Wondering if it would be helpful to have tablets at the election in November, at Board meetings and Charter meetings, etc.</p>
3 or more	I love attending town meetings. It makes me feel connected to the community and I learn a lot.	
3 or more		

<p>3(a). How many regular or special New Gloucester Town Meetings have you attended in the last seven years?</p>	<p>3(b). Please explain or clarify why you have or have not attended one or more Town Meetings.</p>	<p>Please comment on any of the above.</p>
<p>1</p>		<p>Institute the council/manager form of government. Allow the council to adopt the budget and ordinances. If residents don't like the budget or ordinances that they pass, then they can vote out those elected officials. Or, the charter could allow a petition process whereby voters could place a question on a ballot to repeal an adopted ordinance, or to Institute an ordinance that the council refused to consider or voted down. This creates a more professional government with elected officials focused on policy and vision for the future, with the manager running the day to day affairs and providing options and recommendations to the elected officials. Residents have a voice and if they feel their elected officials are not hearing that voice, they have a recourse at the ballot box and/or through the petition process.</p>
<p>3 or more</p>	<p>haven't missed any in the last seven years</p>	
<p>3 or more</p>	<p>I attend so my vote can be counted; it's usually somewhat entertaining; and I don't have kids so am able to attend without childcare issues</p>	<p>With respect to the combination of town meeting/referendum questions, I think holding a town meeting is good for information sharing and possibly proposing amendments, but the ultimate vote should be by referendum/ballot vote so that more people are able to participate.</p>

3(a). How many regular or special New Gloucester Town Meetings have you attended in the last seven years?	3(b). Please explain or clarify why you have or have not attended one or more Town Meetings.	Please comment on any of the above.
1	Well, for the first several years after moving to NG in 2014, I didn't believe I understood the issues being brought up at the town meeting well enough to have an educated, well-formed opinion. Didn't want to stick my nose in things I did not have an understanding of. More recently, I just haven't attended. My wife and I always vote whenever there is an election/ballot, but the town meeting just doesn't do it for me. Maybe if there were only 100 people in the town would it seem more important to attend, but I think NG is too big to have adequate representation in a town meeting	
3 or more		
2	Timing	
0	Town government only became an interest/priority for me in the last couple of years.	Thank you for using this survey to collect input from NG residents!
3 or more		
1	Time	
3 or more	To provide necessary input.	
0		
0	Just moved to New Gloucester this year	
3 or more	Seems like this is the best time to voice options on issues. Selectmen meetings are not the best avenue to reach the voters	

3(a). How many regular or special New Gloucester Town Meetings have you attended in the last seven years?	3(b). Please explain or clarify why you have or have not attended one or more Town Meetings.	Please comment on any of the above.
3 or more	Life's busy and I'm not always good about going to the website to see what's happening. And of course sometimes the topic is not interesting to me.	
3 or more	I attend the meetings as it is important to be involved in making changes to our community.	Please do not include a history lesson in the charter. Also please refrain from racism.
3 or more		
	0 Out of the loop	Avoid relatives serving on Boards.
0	There has been very little notification and the timing is not great.	

<p>3(a). How many regular or special New Gloucester Town Meetings have you attended in the last seven years?</p>	<p>3(b). Please explain or clarify why you have or have not attended one or more Town Meetings.</p>	<p>Please comment on any of the above.</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>In the past, I was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict. Also, to be clear, since our daughter was born in Feb. 2020, my wife and I would not be able to attend any in person town meeting without arranging child care. Even if we could arrange child care, we would not attend this coming year without a mask policy in place.</p>	<p>Let me be clear from the start: if the charter that comes out of the commission process looks like our current town meeting system (with the final budget and ordinances voted on at the meeting), I will vote no and will do my best to get everyone I know in town to vote no.</p> <p>This is not to say that I don't think a town meeting can serve a purpose; I think it's a great way for the budget committee and selectboard to gather public feedback on a draft budget (to avoid another library fiasco), but NO BINDING VOTES should be held at that meeting. Instead, the final draft of the budget should be voted on through a ballot vote/referendum. That is the only way to ensure that every resident of voting age has equal access to the democratic process.</p> <p>The town meeting - as it is set up now - severely limits democratic participation in the budget approval and ordinance approval process (around 1% of the population attends - that's unacceptable!). It is an exclusive process that makes absolutely zero sense for a town of our size. My wife and I are both very motivated participants in the democratic process, but we would likely not be able to attend due to child care needs (at least, not both of us). I would also not attend an in person town meeting without a mask rule in place until COVID is far more under control. How many others are in the same boat? It's more than a few...I can tell you that.</p> <p>As for ordinances, I think that is best handled at the selectboard level (as they are elected representatives and fill the legislative role in our town gov't), although I would be fine with bringing those up for a ballot vote/referendum, as well. Again, it is completely unacceptable for 1% of the population to be deciding on those at town meeting.</p>

3(a). How many regular or special New Gloucester Town Meetings have you attended in the last seven years?	3(b). Please explain or clarify why you have or have not attended one or more Town Meetings.	Please comment on any of the above.
0	I moved here after Covid arrived	There should be term limits for all committees and boards
3 or more		
0	At a time that is inconvenient.	
3 or more	I attend because I want to listen to the debate and to express my opinion on the budget items. This vote is very important to me.	I still have issues with one family sitting on important boards and backing each other up with their opinions which in the past have led to suspicions about power and control. Sorry, but that is my sentiment no matter how well idealistic they may be.
3 or more		
0	Too busy	
1	Email updates are enough to keep m in the loop	

3(a). How many regular or special New Gloucester Town Meetings have you attended in the last seven years?	3(b). Please explain or clarify why you have or have not attended one or more Town Meetings.	Please comment on any of the above.
	Monday nights are really hard if you have a job. If you also have children, its impossible. In addition, the process, while great to hear people's perspectives, seems like pretty much a rubber stamp for the select board's budget.	1) Town meeting is not democratic when so few people are deciding on a multi-million dollar budget that impacts nearly 6,000 people; 2) there should be term limits and recall provisions for select board and all boards and committees clearly tied not just to not breaking the law but violating ethical standards (that should be in policy); 3) appointed boards and committees should have a thoughtful process for appointments, including an interview, limit the number of terms that a person can serve on any body to 2 with a year off, and there should only be one member of a family serving on any body at a time. Board liaisons (and staff) should play an ex-officio role (non-voting), providing consultation and advocacy for the group's work. 4) After watching the most recent meeting, I'm strongly in favor of a qualified, professional town manager as chief executive, overseeing all staff and contractors. The select board should not be overseeing anyone other than the town manager. The board's job should be policy making, not managing the town! 5) I'm hopeful that the process will yield a charter that is fresh, representative and supportive of all community members and doesn't just cement what we already have/do.
2	conflict with work schedule	
0	Too few people deciding their own will for the town's direction.	
3 or more	Too busy with kids' high school sports some years and did not know about some of the special town meetings (like Stevens Brook)	I think that 5 is a sufficient number on the Board since it's hard to get people to run for office and I like the at large seats since this town really isn't big enough to vote by district. A recall provision would be helpful but it should not be easy to start the recall process.
0	Not aware when meetings are happening.	

3(a). How many regular or special New Gloucester Town Meetings have you attended in the last seven years?	3(b). Please explain or clarify why you have or have not attended one or more Town Meetings.	Please comment on any of the above.
2		
1	Strong feelings about agenda item, not attending in person now due to Covid	We need honest and transparent board members that work for the interests of all community members.
0	Didn't know about them	
3 or more	As a long time resident who cares deeply about our town, I have tried to stay involved in and responsible for it.	
3 or more	As a resident I feel responsible for what the town does	
3 or more		
1		
2	They are difficult to attend as a working parent.	The town meeting and budget process needs to be more inclusive and accessible for all New Gloucester residents. It is undemocratic if less than one percent of our registered voters are making decisions for the whole town. I understand and support the need for public participation but there are other ways to achieve this that doesn't disenfranchise 99% of our population. As a working parents who are both very politically involved and have never missed an election, my husband and I will never both be able to vote in a town meeting at 7pm when we have a toddler at home. If we truly want a democratic election and public participation we need to rethink the town meeting.
2	No special issues I was interested in and they are very often too long with people questioning items that they could have had the answers to by attending preliminary meetings.	

3(a). How many regular or special New Gloucester Town Meetings have you attended in the last seven years?	3(b). Please explain or clarify why you have or have not attended one or more Town Meetings.	Please comment on any of the above.
3 or more	Decided to learn how things get done here and where I can help make things more democratic, fair, transparent, balanced, and empathic, and to address the issues of partisanship and decades of dominance by a small group of politically active residents.	I was surprised there wasn't a question about whether multiple family members should be allowed on the same board or committee. Perhaps this has already been addressed however please ensure this is no longer allowed. One family should not hold undue influence or control over an entire town.
3 or more	I like to stay up-to-date on town issues	
2	In-person meetings are inconvenient. Zoom meetings have enabled me to attend.	
2	Inconvenient times	
0	Time and the contentious nature of the meetings.	
3 or more		
3 or more		
3 or more		
2	Board does not listen to the public. They do whatever they want. No need to go to a meeting only to be shunned.	
3 or more	I attend every year that I can	
3 or more		
1		
2	Curiosity of process or specific topic	
3 or more		

3(a). How many regular or special New Gloucester Town Meetings have you attended in the last seven years?	3(b). Please explain or clarify why you have or have not attended one or more Town Meetings.	Please comment on any of the above.
3 or more		Please don't change our structure of government. Implement policy for helping it run fairly, efficiently and effectively.
	Moved to town in late June, haven't had the time	
3 or more	I attended when I felt strongly about an issue, but find them extremely tiring and long. But I am very interested in our town government and would like to vote every year.	4,5,6: I strongly prefer an informational/ conversational town meeting and a ballot vote
3 or more		
3 or more	I think I may have been out-of-town for one. But, in-person town meetings are important to me, so I make them a priority.	In-person Town Meeting is important to me and my spouse. We both benefit from hearing the opinions of our fellow citizens in regard to warrant articles. We appreciate the ability of citizens to make changes to a warrant article at the meeting. I think that if a citizen feels strongly enough about how this town is governed, they will make attending a priority.
		The reason for my answer in #9 is because of the past domination of some members who have chosen not to be transparent and have seemed to have conducted business "behind closed doors" amongst themselves rather than with the entire board. Communication between these members and the town has not been satisfactory.
	2 Timing	
3 or more		

<p>3(a). How many regular or special New Gloucester Town Meetings have you attended in the last seven years?</p>	<p>3(b). Please explain or clarify why you have or have not attended one or more Town Meetings.</p>	<p>Please comment on any of the above.</p>
	<p>I attend most town meetings and special town meetings. However, I was not able to go to the special town meeting in June 2019 related to a property tax assistance for older residents -- due to a death in my family. Four of us in my family from New Gloucester were not able to attend that special town meeting which was held at night . The ordinance was voted down by a vote of 25 to 21. If we had been able to make that meeting, the ordinance vote would have at least been tied. To me, this shows the weakness in a town meeting vote on ordinances when only a small number of people turn out. This was a very important issue and one that affected many residents in town. I would prefer to see well-publicized public hearings on ordiances with a vote by the Selectboard and a safety-valve that would allow a petition for a full ballot vote if some percentage of the voters request it. Ordinances do not necessarily follow a predictable time line like the budget which is always voted on once a year at town meeting. With the growth in the town and the need to address issues in a timely manner, town ordinances need to be passed in a more timely and effiecient way. While a special town meeting may provide opportunity to ask questions and debate an ordincance, it is not a democratic process for passing³⁴ "law" of the town. Imagine the chaos if we had a "statewide town</p>	<p>I support an increase in the number of Selectboard members in order to spread the work load of the members among more people. We are a growing town with many important committees. It is difficult for the Selectboard members to attend all the Selectboar meetings and be expected to attend 2 or 3 other committee meetings in the month. With more</p>

3(a). How many regular or special New Gloucester Town Meetings have you attended in the last seven years?		3(b). Please explain or clarify why you have or have not attended one or more Town Meetings.	Please comment on any of the above.
	2		
3 or more		I like to connect with other residents and participate in the voting process.	I feel this was a good survey!
	2	Negligence	
3 or more		N/A	
3 or more		I have not been made aware of the meetings or known/understood what they are about.	
	0	Didn't know, then inconvenient, most recently Covid	
	0	Have recently become engaged with the town and will now attend Town Meetings.	I appreciate your time and creation of this survey!
3 or more		I have been a camera operator with the Cable TV Committee for many years.	
3 or more		Civic duty	
	2	We resided in Concord, NH	The charter should provide that a petition of 10% of the voters can require a vote on the budget, ordinance or to abolish town meeting.

<p>3(a). How many regular or special New Gloucester Town Meetings have you attended in the last seven years?</p>	<p>3(b). Please explain or clarify why you have or have not attended one or more Town Meetings.</p>	<p>Please comment on any of the above.</p>
<p>0</p>	<p>In-person ones are just too long and require me to find someone to watch an elder parent and a child while I am there. The option to attend on Zoom was better, but the timing just didn't work out for me.</p>	<p>The town meeting is essential for providing a space to discuss issues. However, it's not always feasible to attend this, so it's beneficial if there is another way for the select board/town council to get input from the community. Ballotting is a great way to identify the majority of voters preferences, but it provides no input to the select board/town council if an item is voted down. Consider what happened with the library - residents voted against the budget, but the select board provided no comprehensive means to obtain input about the reason(s) for this and subsequently put forth another budget that did not address the concern that residents had. Personally, I feel that ballotting (voting) is the best way to get town resident approval on select board recommendations, but there must be a forum for discussing these recommendations. Surveys such as this help town committees to get resident input on town issues. Open comment spaces such as this are an essential component of surveys in order to get more in depth feedback.</p>

<p>3(a). How many regular or special New Gloucester Town Meetings have you attended in the last seven years?</p>	<p>3(b). Please explain or clarify why you have or have not attended one or more Town Meetings.</p>	<p>Please comment on any of the above.</p>
	<p>availability, length of time required to participate, families have busy lives and schedules, not receiving notification in time, being new to town did not understand what town meeting was.</p>	<p>Combination of at large and by-district representation is intriguing. I do wonder how districts would be established and what the goal would be when drawing them- neighborhood centric? Equal number of residents in each district? Is there data available from this and past boards that could show us where the board members reside? Is the current at-large structure causing issues that could otherwise be addressed? I would be concerned that drawing boundaries in our community could be more detrimental than beneficial at this time. I think if a change is proposed, a thorough analysis should be done first.</p> <p>I feel strongly that there should be a method to cast a vote on the budget without attending the lengthy and generally inconvenient town meeting. I understand and appreciate the community dialogue that must be robust at town meeting, however the voter turnout for this last election demonstrated that the residents want to participate when its made accessible to them. The goal of the process should be to have as many residents represented as possible.</p>
<p>3 or more</p>	<p>My civic duty to participate.</p>	<p>The town needs a form of government that gives the Town leadership (manager and SB) the authority to make decisions for the day to day and has Town wide input for the big decisions like budget, bonds, ordinances that impact a major change in the current way the town runs, etc. Recall needs to be well defined and only be for the most serious of issuesk, like fraud, sexual harassment, stealing from the Town, etc. Otherwise, elected officials should be left in place until an election when the electorate can vote a person out.</p>

3(a). How many regular or special New Gloucester Town Meetings have you attended in the last seven years?	3(b). Please explain or clarify why you have or have not attended one or more Town Meetings.	Please comment on any of the above.
3 or more	I like to stay involved and know what is going on. The Town has declined terribly since January 2021	The impetus for the charter drive and drastic changes are a vendetta against certain people by Stephen Hathorne and his "friends". That's the truth.
		We need to keep big government out of our small town.
		The Government of the absolute majority instead of the Government of the people is but the Government of the strongest interests; and when not efficiently checked, it is the most tyrannical and oppressive that can be devised. John C Calhoun
3 or more	I have attended all of them	I don't think the town needs a "town counsel"
3 or more		Power is and should always be with the people.
3 or more		
3 or more	I want my voice heard, I want to hear what others have to share. I value hometown tradition of the community input.	
3 or more	Civic Duty	We do not need a charter
	2	
	2 Transportation is an issue	
3 or more	The town meeting has run late into the evening for those of us with early morning hours for work.	No additional comments at this time. Thank you for reaching out with this survey.
3 or more		Question 4 was confusing.
	0	

3(a). How many regular or special New Gloucester Town Meetings have you attended in the last seven years?	3(b). Please explain or clarify why you have or have not attended one or more Town Meetings.	Please comment on any of the above.
3 or more		Quorum of 100 for regular town meeting. 50 for special Recall ordinance should have standards Term limits 3 terms 1 year off Bonding by referendum
3 or more		
0	Laziness mostly!	
0	My business	Keeping options open will help curtail a sense of ownership by governing boards.
0	The same people just talk talk, talk & some people are negative about everything.	
0	No reason	
3 or more		
0		
3 or more		
0	Years of attending annual town meetings and then years on the budget committee, planning board, and board of appeals for David Field and library committee for Ellen not to mention historical society work for both was enough.	
2		
2	na	
0	Hard to find time	
0	No interest with present ways	

3(a). How many regular or special New Gloucester Town Meetings have you attended in the last seven years?	3(b). Please explain or clarify why you have or have not attended one or more Town Meetings.	Please comment on any of the above.
3 or more	Time and interest.I put my effort into knowing who I vote for, and choose to trust/have good faith in those elected to represent NG.	
3 or more		
3 or more	I think the town meeting is one of the last pure democratic processes we have left. I see it as a civic duty for citizens to attend.	
3 or more		In reference to question 9: Voting by the citizenry of the town in elections is in itself a form of term limits. If the majority vote for or against a candidate they either retain their elected position or are replaced. Term limits by majority is already working well enough I would say without imposing some arbitrary length of time someone can serve.
3 or more		Having been on the budget committee, I see no useful purpose for that committee, but oversight should exist. Not sure how to accomplish that
0		
0	No time and/or to tired from working!!	
0		
0	Not interested enough.	

3(a). How many regular or special New Gloucester Town Meetings have you attended in the last seven years?	3(b). Please explain or clarify why you have or have not attended one or more Town Meetings.	Please comment on any of the above.
3 or more	I attend in order to try to keep the town constitutional	If a recall plank is included, it should ONLY be for a felony CONVICTION. There should not be term limits. In 1993 term limits were instituted in Maine because of ONE DEMOCRAT representative from Eagle Lake. He is still in the Legislature today 2021. That worked well. It sure seems that there is a move to substantially change town government in New Gloucester. I am very disappointed in Ben and anyone else that wants to erase town history. There should be a history of the town since the town was incorporated and not before.
2		
0	We only moved to New Gloucester in November of 2020 and have been rather occupied with caretaking an elderly family member and settling the estate of another.	I thank the current town leaders for their work on our behalf.
3 or more	none	
3 or more		No Comments
0	Much traveling and not aware of the meetings	

3(a). How many regular or special New Gloucester Town Meetings have you attended in the last seven years?	3(b). Please explain or clarify why you have or have not attended one or more Town Meetings.	Please comment on any of the above.
3 or more	they moved the meeting from march. More people attended the meeting during the colder months. Since it was moved less and less people attend. Place it back in the month it was initially intended, more will attend at this time of year.	it's disingenuous to phrase the above questions as select board/town council: we do not have nor do we want a town council, ever. You seem to have already concluded that we will have one. Also your mailer stated: the draft charter will be approved by the voters. It will be voted on by the voters, they will approve or DISAPPROVE. From the heavy handed way you are presenting this I probably will vote against it. I'm not convinced that a charter, any kind of charter is a good idea. It will probably lead to our town being controlled by state officials and outsiders, do-gooders who will require new services (unnecessary) and higher taxes, which many people on fixed incomes cannot afford, they will lose their homes. Leave good enough alone. This has been a great place to live and raise a family. Outsiders will screw it up. Charter = outside influence = more lawyers and government career hacks...
3 or more		
	1 COVID, too busy, conflict of time	
3 or more		no town council, no mayor, no charter.
1	To political not about the best for the town	
3 or more	My responsibility as a community member	
3 or more	Simply to remain engaged with the Town's issues (pro as well as con.)	More communication with Town folk. Example: I rec'd notification of the Commission Info Workshop Zoom meeting held on Oct. 20, in my mail after October 20th., so that wasn't going to work. Pretty basic.
0	Time restraints	
0	New Resident	
3 or more		Recall should have good reasons
3 or more	? Age and health	

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0	Time, husband has to get up very early for work and 7 pm too late for both of us	
3 or more		KEEP TOWN MEETING and KEEP THE CHARTER SIMPLE
2		
0	My work schedule	Let people have a voice on what happens in their town, keep the charter simple.
3 or more		
3 or more		
3 or more		Recall. This is just another way to "cancel" someone you disagree with. If you don't like someone's way of handling things then vote them out at the next ballot.
0		
3 or more	scheduling problems	Participation of citizenry is so important to any model, but not sure how to get there
0	unproductive, always a few people strongly stating opinions, no one discussing issues in a meaningful way	
0	Never notifyd	
1		Recall should be for legal issues only.
3 or more		
3 or more		
3 or more		

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	I was part of a planning committee that was looking towards solutions for the development of growth in upper New Gloucester. It had been attempted twice prior. We were split into groups, given certain criteria to address. Maps were given and we stepped into brain storming for solutions/ideas. Again, nothing came of it. I also, do not always find warmth in the town office from certain employees. That has been consistent since I built in 2004. Not All the employees, of course. 1 Thank You for Your efforts.	#10: What does "recall provision" relate to?
	1	Was not sure on the term limits. Seems likely to be town voter's for new terms. My other thought was on executive for New Gloucester. I think for the size of the town of New Gloucester a town manager is sufficient . With the assistance of the town charter should be able to make good decisions for the good of New Gloucester.
3 or more		Thank you to all working on the charter.
	2 Children	
	0	
3 or more		
	0	
3 or more		Town meeting should be a time to discuss, debate and amend the budget and ordinances. Then voting on these items should be held by ballot at the polling place on voting day.

<p>3(a). How many regular or special New Gloucester Town Meetings have you attended in the last seven years?</p>	<p>3(b). Please explain or clarify why you have or have not attended one or more Town Meetings.</p>	<p>Please comment on any of the above.</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>When they were broadcasted on TV I watched religiously. When that stopped, I stopped. Recently I saw them listed on line and listened for the vote last summer for Selectmen vote.</p>	<p>Referencing Town Meetings - I thought when Selectmen Hold their meetings is the same thing as a town meeting (whether or not the town people must leave at some point) Term Limits will be accomplished when they are voted out. Recall? Just vote them out!</p>
<p>3 or more</p>	<p>No time off</p>	

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		<p>These comments are meant only for the charter commission and are not for publication.</p> <p>I am brand new to NG and while I'm gaining an understanding of some of the issues, I haven't yet formed an opinion between the options for types of governance. Some general observations after living here for 18 months:</p> <p>I think whatever system is decided, it should have enough checks and balances to keep decision-making power in the hands of all residents, not a few active ones.</p> <p>I appreciate the commitment and experience of long-time public servants. At the same time I believe that someone who has been here a long time does not necessarily have more qualifications than a newcomer.</p> <p>While I think being related to a public servant should not necessarily preclude someone from service, I believe family members should not be on the same committee or vote on each other's motions. Conflicts of interest are not in the best interests of the town. The town is large enough for this not to be an issue.</p> <p>Term limits might not be necessary if power is broadly disseminated.</p> <p>I think closing any public facility, including the library, should be handled at the highest broadest level and not lie in the hands of a single committee — even during a state of emergency.</p> <p>Hiring committees should always include one resident who has some expertise in the area but is uninvolved in the department. A town planner on the town manager hiring committee, for instance.</p> <p>43 I believe we should hold principles over personalities when we make decisions and follow our guidelines. This is a wonderful town. What is in the best interests</p>

3(a). How many regular or special New Gloucester Town Meetings have you attended in the last seven years?	3(b). Please explain or clarify why you have or have not attended one or more Town Meetings.	Please comment on any of the above.
0		
0	Not very tech savvy!!!	
0	Times of meetings	
0	Not enough time in a day	I would strongly encourage looking at how other towns operate. This is not new by any means and New Gloucester is not anything different then other communities in Maine. I appreciate the thoughtfulness and hard work of the committee, but don't over complicate things.
3 or more	I have attended all since moving to Town in 1979. I attend because it is my civic duty and and opportunity to have my voice heard.	At a future time when either, interest in attending Town Meeting falls to a target level or the Town reaches a target population, we should move to a council form of government but maintain the Town Manager position. At that point, ordinances and budgets should be set by the Council, after appropriate hearing and opportunity for input and comment prior to finalization.
0	Schedule	
0	Do not feel it makes a difference	
0	It always seems to be an inconvenient time and/or day	
1	Moved to town in 2019. My "2" are both the paper vote under pandemic.	Size of selectboard would be bigger (7) if they take over some decisions from town meeting. If we keep full town meeting, the board can be 5. Budget by ballot should allow for voters to select a CHOICE between when selectboard and budget committee have different recommendations, and set the process where a denial can be promptly remedied to avoid the situation like what happened with the library.
1		
3 or more	Town Meeting are where I hear from people I don't usually hang out with or know.	I'm not sure about the "executive" function if Select Board has veto power over everything.

3(a). How many regular or special New Gloucester Town Meetings have you attended in the last seven years?	3(b). Please explain or clarify why you have or have not attended one or more Town Meetings.	Please comment on any of the above.
0	Too long. Too many long testimonials. Sense that the 'old school' waits to wear out busy folks who leave before the important votes.	Town Meeting is VERY poor method to get broad voter participation.
0	Work and family obligations conflict with meeting times.	I like the Town Meeting as a resident education and feedback form. Combining with a vote, especially with low percentage of resident turnout, is not a honest representation of the town's population.
0	new to the area	major decisions should either be made by voters referendum or by elected officials, not by a hired executive who voters have no control over appointment/hiring
0	I recently relocated from Portland to New Gloucester in September.	
0	Have not yet felt the need, but that will be changing.	
0	I am a new resident.	
0	New resident as of 2020 ; Covid ; ...worse, prior bad habits of ignoring old MA town issues	The district idea, i assume means a Select person for each district. Where I live is almost North Raymond and my neighbors are quite spread out (farms and lake cottages). New to this idea, and now retired and have more time for home/land issues. BTW, if the town needs volunteer help with IT infrastructure (eg networking, or Linux servers/desktops) let me know.
3 or more	A few years I was vacationing on Monhegan Island in early May	
0	waste of my time	on question 11 , I came from Brooksville Maine and they only deal with the selectmen's on a day to day operations.

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0	I am busy with my personal and professional lives and have not wanted to become involved in town politics.	
2	We attended in support of Library funding and to learn more about selectperson positions and perspectives.	
3 or more		
1	crazy busy lives should do more zoom	
1	working	
0		
3 or more		
0	Just moved to town in late June	
0	Work, kids, no time	Looks good
3 or more		I have lived in NG for 52 years and have been very happy with the way the town manager or selectmen runs the town. I wish the people coming from large cities to New Gloucester would be happy with the way we run our town and not try to make changes so it is like the city they came from.
3 or more	I attend Town Meeting to learn all I can about the various articles. Hearing from the Town Manager, Selectmen, Department Heads and other voters, help me in making my decisions when it is time to vote.	
3 or more	out of town	
2		
2	to vote	

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3 or more	Many as I can	Great Town keep it that way
	I work weird hours and can't get time off.	<p>I did not like the town council doing an all-or-nothing vote as the only choices when we voted on the budget. We need to be given options. We were told that \$x was recommended and the council wanted \$z. I should have been able to vote on \$x or \$z, or some percentage of the total tax budget. Instead the ballot was written so I had to choose yes or no on \$z. This does not make sense to me.</p> <p>I would also like a website with info on all the things we need to spend money on, what the departments are asking for, and to be able to put in my opinion re the total pie, before voting even starts. I'd like to be able to dig down and get granular, if I want. What does the music teacher want for a budget to support band for the middle-schoolers? The voters need a way to weigh in at some point with an opinion on what we want the money spent on.</p> <p>Ordinances should be voter approved - either referendum or town meetings, or some combination of the two. Ordinances should only be changed very occasionally, we don't need or want them changing without full knowledge of all the voters.</p>
0	Been away	
2	Honestly, I should do more, but I just haven't.	
1	time	
0		
3 or more	This town is a special place to raise children and for my grandkids to be able to raise their children.	Everyone should have a chance to speak, choose, and vote for what they want. We all should care about what happens in our town.
3 or more		

3(a). How many regular or special New Gloucester Town Meetings have you attended in the last seven years?	3(b). Please explain or clarify why you have or have not attended one or more Town Meetings.	Please comment on any of the above.
0	no interest	
0	Moved here end of 2019. Was not aware the meetings happened in 2020 and 2021	
3 or more	Conflict with date and/or time	
3 or more		
0	I moved to New Gloucester in August 2021 and haven't gotten up to speed on town government just yet.	
3 or more	It is a place for people to gather and make decisions for the best interests of the town. Getting rid of Town Meetings would NOT be a wise decision, especially since we have already seen corruption at the polls.	
3 or more	It is important to attend the Town Meetings.	Keep Town Meetings!!
3 or more	to be better informed and participate in town deacision making	
3 or more	Been attending my entire life	There should not be term limits. Volunteerism is important and should be valued as such. It does not matter how long a person serves. It is the voters choice to make the decision of who sits in these seats.
0	Moved to NG at the start of pandemic. Not fully socializing yet with young kids at home.	
1	Too busy	
1	Work constraints	Thank you

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0	Don't know the schedule	As a guiding principle, the Town charter should try to maximize individual freedom for our citizens.
3 or more		
3 or more		
0	I moved to town less than a month ago.	
0	I just moved to NG in September.	
1	Limited time	
0		
1		
3 or more	citizen responsibility; reporter for Lewiston Sun Journal in past	Need spokesman for municipality; lacking is a liaison to community
0	Didn't know the schedule	
0	Timing--young kids	
0	no time to go	
0		
0	Due to work schedule	
2	Time of meetings	
3 or more		
0		
1		
0	no reason	
1	Lazy	
0	I don't have the time. Single mom of two young children.	
0		
0	Work Hours	
1		

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3 or more		
2		
0		
2	I'm generally fairly content with what's going on in New Gloucester	
0	Early riser 4 AM--Go to bed early for after supper meetings	
0	Unaware of times. Issues?	
3 or more		
0		
0	Shift work	
3 or more	I wanted my voice heard, but I would prefer a paper ballot vote on election day to get more participation	
2	Poorly or not advertised	Thanks!
3 or more	It's our responsibility as town residents who are interesting in the functioning of town government.	
3 or more		
2		
3 or more		
1	My choice	
0	not interested	
3 or more		
3 or more		
3 or more		

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0	I either don't keep informed, or schedule conflict	I need more information in order to form opinions
0	have not been involved in town government at all	
0	Health	
3 or more	I like to hear details brought out at the meeting so that I can make an informed choice.	
3 or more		

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<p>3 or more</p>	<p>I like the idea of a responsible citizenry. However, as an institution of regular governance, Town Meeting has failed badly. Attendance is terrible. A very few speakers regularly dominate. Most attendees (including myself) do not prepare and are reduced to rubber-stamping decisions effectively made for them by the select board but not articulated or explained by those who have made them.</p> <p>My seat-of-pants preference might be for the Board Chair to speak initially for, say, ten or fifteen minutes, indicating the Board's sense of the major issues and priorities in the proposed budget and those issues and priorities on which it would like to solicit citizen opinion, looking forward. Then allow for comments. The voting on itemized warrant articles is tedious. Perhaps vote on individual articles only if requested by a specified number of citizens?</p>	

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		<p>-- I understand the sentimental attachment to town meeting, but it no longer works for our growing community, especially for single-parent households or families with two adults who work. Those younger families represent the future of the town, and their absence from town meetings in recent years is undeniable. My spouse and I missed most town meetings when our kids were little and we both worked.</p> <p>Beyond that, having 100 or 150 residents - with no accountability - making budget and ordinance decisions for a 6000-person community is simply not representative. Send the budget to a referendum vote following public hearings and input from an *elected* budget committee that takes up both the capital and operating budgets or both elected budget and CIP committees. (Why are those two functions split? Why not a holistic picture?)</p> <p>-- I support a town council form of government, in particular so that ordinances can be enacted without waiting for an annual town meeting or calling a lightly attended special meeting. The town's uneven response to the pandemic was sobering - mostly seemingly off-the-cuff decisions by the then-town manager. Ordinance authority in a council (or emergency ordinance authority in the select board) would have provided clarity and formal opportunity for public input and quick action to respond to the emergency.</p> <p>-- The size of the council or select board should be seven, in my view. Seven means more opportunities for a diversity of viewpoints, experiences, and questions, and also more turnover, which would help strengthen leadership. The town shouldn't rely on a few dedicated individuals' years of institutional knowledge. We need to build a bench. Term limits are essential for that reason. Strong recall provisions help ensure members' accountability.</p> <p>Above all, having seven members offers more</p>

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0	inconvenient timing mostly--many times I may have been out of town.	
0	I am quite deaf	
3 or more	Tuesday nights are not as convenient as Saturday	
3 or more		
3 or more		
3 or more		
0	Not attended because I have had numerous things to do on those dates. I'm busier now than when I was working.	Voters by their ballot will decide term limit
2	too much bickering, too much anger, too little knowledge of the subject, too little attendance and doesn't reflect the common good, only personal agenda.	Town Voter Referendum (ballot vote) would give everybody a say. Everyone would know what ordinances are being adopted and what is being spent.
2		Does the Commission not believe the Electorate?
0		
0	no good reason	
3 or more	Always have attended	
0	Work conflicts, or wasn't aware	
0	Unaware of dates.	
0	just never got involved	
0	Unsure	
0	No interest	
0	Between kids, work, and events, I've never had the time to attend meetings I know about.	
0	out of state	

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3 or more	Poor notification of when	
3 or more	moved here 7-8 years ago	
	1 felt it was controlled and not fair	Qualified peoples to be picked from computer generated to keep track of overseeing
	0 no excuse	
3 or more		Thank you
	0 Not able due to obligations in my family and work.	
	1 at camp	
	0	
	1 crowded	
	2 Sorry I'll try to do better	
3 or more		
	0	
	2 time/work	
	2 work related-work in Augusta	
	0	
3 or more		
	0 Was not informed when they were to have them.	
3 or more	Interested in Town Business.	
	0 No excuse, I should participate more!	
3 or more		
	0 scheduling conflicts	Thank you for your efforts on our behalf
	0 I don't get informed of when they are and I haven't sought out the information	
3 or more		

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0	to busy	
0		
2	time and business	
0	haven't had a personal need to	
3 or more		
0	Wish it were somehow easier for families with young children to come. Do not know when meetings are. We need an electronic sign like the town of Gray.	
0		
0	Moved here as a new mother 3 years ago. stay at home mom. have had more time and concern to explore	
2	work	
2		
3 or more		
1	other life priorities take over	I need to prioritize learning more about this.
2	workload	
0		
0	New Resident 10/1/21	Transparency above all
0	Time issues...	
1	Not in town most meetings	
0	Time, haven't felt a need	
1	usually out of town. Always go when here and always have gone	
3 or more	I sometimes watch them televised	
0		

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3 or more		
0		
3 or more		