



**Sharon Governance Study Committee
Town-Wide Survey | August 2022**

Updated using available data as of August 21, 2022

**1,213 on-line responses
28 paper responses
1,241 TOTAL RESPONSES**

Question 1: How long have you lived in Sharon

Average (mean): 21.1 yrs Median: 18 yrs

Question 2: Where do you learn about town government? (Check all that apply)

Top 4 are bolded (> 50% of respondents)

Source	# choosing	% of total respondents
Local news media (Wicked Local/ Patriot Ledger/ Weekly Shopper etc)	239	19.3
Sharon Community TV	216	17.4
Banner on Main Street	430	34.6
Sharon Facebook groups	628	54.6
From the town warrant document sent to my home	705	56.8
Word of mouth / friends / neighbors	783	63.1
School communications (from principals/ PTOs/ etc.)	305	24.6
Town web pages or emails	628	50.6
Twitter or Instagram	57	4.6
Flyer postings or bulletin boards	71	5.7
Other	59	4.8

Question 3: Are you a registered voter in Sharon? (% do not sum to 100 due to rounding)

Yes – 1134 (92%)
No – 82 (7%)
Not sure – 21 (2%)

Question 4: Did you attend Sharon's Annual Town Meeting in...?

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018 or before
Yes	148 (12%)	213 (17%)	236 (19%)	404 (33%)	639 (51%)
No	1012 (82%)	930 (75%)	855 (69%)	649 (52%)	455 (37%)
Don't remember	18 (1%)	31 (3%)	67 (5%)	97 (8%)	77 (6%)
Blank	63 (5%)	67 (5%)	73 (6%)	91 (7%)	70 (6%)
I have never attended an Annual Town Meeting → -- 290 (23%)					

Q4A: Respondent attended at least one of past 4: 523 (42%)

NOTE: 772 (62%) said they attended in 2018 or before OR at least one of the past 4, leaving 469 who answered "No" about having attended any of these meetings. Yet, 290 respondents said "Yes", I've never attended a town meeting. There is a gap between the 469 who reported non-attendance and the 290 who said they've never attended. For the further analysis, classified those who said 'no' to all cited meetings as nonattending, rather than use the responses to the final part of Q4.

Question 5: If you didn't attend a meeting, which of the following kept you from attending? (Check all that apply) Percentages are % of 1241 respondents; bold indicates top 4 reasons

Schedule conflict (work etc.) -- 540 (44%)

Caregiving responsibilities -- 346 (28%)

Transportation or parking -- 46 (4%)

Concern about COVID-19 -- 368 (30%)

Town Meeting is too long -- 482 (39%)

I prefer my vote to be anonymous -- 163 (13%)

I don't think one vote makes a difference -- 49 (4%)

Not informed about the issues -- 187 (15%)

Not interested -- 75 (6%)

Other -- 180 (15%)

Question 6: Which form of town government do you think would be best for our town of Sharon?

Keep the Select Board and the open Town Meeting in which all voters meet at least once each year and can speak on issues and vote on their own behalf. -- 523 (42%)

Keep the Select Board but change to a representative Town Meeting in which voters elect a body of people to vote on their behalf. -- 195 (16%)

Replace the Select Board and Town Meeting with a town council elected by voters to make decisions on behalf of the town. -- 338 (27%)

No preference -- 151 (12%)

Blank -- 34 (3%)

Question 7: Would you be more likely or less likely to attend Town Meeting if it were moved from Monday evening to...?

	More likely to attend	Neither more nor less likely to attend	Less likely to attend	Did not respond
Any other weeknight other than Monday	133 (11%)	927 (75%)	85 (7%)	96 (8%)
Saturday evening	210 (17%)	404 (33%)	525 (42%)	102 (8%)
Sunday afternoon	361 (29%)	422 (34%)	354 (29%)	104 (8%)

Question 8: Would you prefer than Sharon public meetings (Select Board, School Committee, etc.) be...?

In person live-streamed meetings where I can watch from home but have to attend in person if I want to speak -- 357 (29%)

Fully hybrid meetings where I can both watch and speak from home or in person -- 741 (60%)

Fully remote meetings where everyone attends online -- 106 (9%)

No Response – 37 (3%)

Question 9: How many members do you think the Sharon Select Board should have?

Three -- 156 (13%)

Five -- 729 (59%)

No preference -- 277 (22%)

Other -- 62 (5%)

Question 10: Should non-citizen legal residents of Sharon (with immigration status such as “green card,” refugee, other visa, etc.) be permitted to vote in town elections and at Town Meeting?

Yes -- 711 (57%)

No -- 398 (32%)

No preference -- 97 (8%)

Blank – 35 (3%)

DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

Age

18-24 -- 6 (.5%)

25-34 -- 49 (4%)

35-47 -- 356 (29%)

48-54 -- 224 (18%)

55-59 -- 119 (10%)

60-74 -- 346 (28%)

75+ -- 88 (7%)

Prefer not to say -- 44 (4%)

Blank – 9 (1%)

1232 responses, 9 blanks

Your gender identity [US Current Population Survey (CPS) reports 52.2% female]

Male -- 596 (48%)
Female -- 574 (47%)
Nonbinary / Nonconforming -- 2 (0.2%)
Prefer not to say -- 58 (5%)
Blank -- 11 (1%)

Are you a U.S. citizen? (datausa.io figure is 94.8%)

Yes -- 1163 (95%)
No -- 65 (5%)

Which of the following best describes you? (Check all that apply)

White -- 900 (73%) (US CPS says 75.4% white)
Black or African American -- 24 (2%) (CPS 1.6%)
American Indian or Alaska Native -- 6 (0.5%) (CPS 0.1%)
Asian -- 198 (16%) (CPS 17%)
Hispanic or Latino -- 22 (2%) (CPS 4.6%)
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Island -- 4 (0.3%)
Other -- 63 (5%)

Do you serve or have you served on a Sharon town government board or committee?

Yes -- 153 (12%)
No -- 1076 (87%)
Blank -- 12 (1%)