

Comparison Chart – Saugus Elections

The proposed charter will implement the recommendation of the Massachusetts Department of Revenue that Saugus adopt staggered elections. It will allow voters to choose key leadership positions. It will require incumbent precinct candidates to obtain nomination signatures and require at-large candidates to obtain a minimum geographic distribution of nomination signatures. Please attend the public hearing on March 12 at 7:30 P.M. in the Saugus Town Hall.

CATEGORY	CURRENT CHARTER	DRAFT PROPOSAL
Time of Election	First Tuesday in November in odd numbered years	First Tuesday after the second Monday in April in each year
Positions Voters Decide Upon	(4 positions) selectmen, school committee, town meeting members, housing authority	(7 positions) select board, select board chairman, school committee, town precinct assembly member, at large assembly member, assembly president, housing authority
Precincts	Ten	Ten
Term of Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town meeting members – 50 (5 per precinct) for two-year non-staggered terms • Selectmen – 5 for two-year non-staggered terms • School Committee – 5 for two-year non-staggered terms • Housing Authority – four members elected for 4 year staggered terms (Fifth member appointed by governor for five year term) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town assembly member – 20 (2 per precinct) for two year staggered terms • Town assembly member-at-large – Six for three year staggered terms. (2 up each year) • Town assembly president – 1 for three year term • Select board member – 4 for three-year staggered terms • Select board chair – 1 for three-year term • School committee member – Five for three-year staggered terms. (2 up, 2 up, 1 up) • Housing Authority – (no change in draft)
Voting Locations	As recommended by town clerk and adopted by selectmen	As recommended by town clerk and adopted by town assembly (no proposed changes in voting locations)
Board of Registrars	Four, including the town clerk	Four, including the town clerk
Nomination Signatures – Selectmen	Fifty	Fifty, but not more than fifteen from any one precinct can count toward the fifty
Nomination Signatures – Select Board Chair, Assembly President	None required (Selectmen chair "top vote recipient" is elected by selectmen and moderator is elected by process determined by town meeting members)	Select board chairman and assembly president must obtain one hundred signatures but not more than twenty from any one precinct can count toward the one hundred
Nomination Signatures – School Committee	Fifty	Fifty, but not more than fifteen from any one precinct can count toward the fifty
Ballot Position	Drawn at random by town clerk	Drawn at random by town clerk
Candidate for Re-election	Must be stated on ballot	Must be stated on ballot
Limitations on seeking multiple offices	No limit but candidate must only accept one if candidate wins more than one office	Candidate can only appear on one ballot in any year