

Greater Boston's
400-year tradition of
participatory, largely-volunteer
local government is legendary.



Dynamic and Representative Government

A MetroCommon 2050 publication
by L.J. Baptiste for the
Metropolitan Area Planning Council



Our schools, fire protection, and
parks are just some of the
things our local governments
provide.

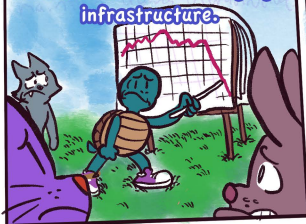


But local governments struggle to respond to regional challenges.



None of these can be solved at just the local level.

Municipalities face increased cost for pension and health benefits to maintain aging infrastructure.



The Commonwealth also constrains ways local governments can raise revenues.



Participation in civic life and decision-making is declining. This goes for voting in local elections, attending meetings, and running for office. Participants seldom reflect the diversity of the region.



In many of our municipalities, the elected and appointed leaders do not reflect the demographics of their constituents.

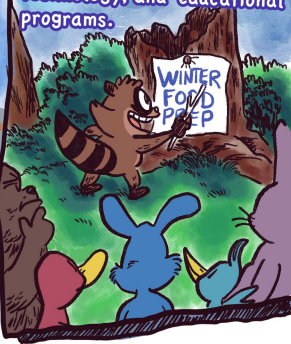


GOALS FOR THE REGION:

Cities and towns receive the federal and state funds needed to support critical services such as schools and public safety, all while ensuring equity amongst communities.

Cities and towns have greater flexibility to modernize their governance and to raise funds needed to address local issues, and they are careful stewards of these funds.

Complex policy issues, data, and processes are made accessible to and understandable by the public through better information design, technology, and educational programs.



STORIES OF INNOVATION

Remote options make getting to meetings easier, and more people are participating.



**Regional
Ballot
Initiatives**



**Twin Cities -
planning agency
runs transit and
water**



There's plenty to be said about the vast potential of more dynamic government for the Greater Boston area. While it comes with its own challenges, it also carries with it a unique opportunity to strengthen our community in a time where unity is more paramount than ever.



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