



CITY OF BRADFORD GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMISSION

Resident Survey on Local Government

Bradford, Pennsylvania • Incorporated 1879

In November of 2025, City of Bradford voters approved a ballot question to study the City's existing form of government and the advisability of adopting a new charter that would change the City's government structure. A seven-member Home Rule Charter Government Study Commission was elected to undertake this work.

What is Home Rule? Under Home Rule, the authority to act in municipal affairs is transferred from state laws controlled in Harrisburg to a local charter adopted and amended by the City voters. Under the Third Class City Code, a City can do only what is permitted by law. Under Home Rule, it can do anything not prohibited by law in the interest of the residents.

The City of Bradford currently operates under the Third Class City Code Commission form of government. Under this form, the Mayor is a member of City Council and each Council member oversees a City department. City Council serves as the legislative and administrative body, making policy and overseeing day-to-day operations. Members are elected “at large” for staggered terms of four years.

To assist and inform the Study Commission’s process, please respond to the following short survey designed to gather information from Bradford City residents about their perspective on local government.

1. Are you a resident of the City?

☐ Yes ☐ No (*If no, you may stop here — this survey is for City of Bradford residents.*)

2. Please provide your physical address, using only the house number and street name.

Address: _____
Bradford, PA 16701

3. What characteristics are most important to you for your City government? Please rank from most important (1) to least important (7). Rank each one once.

_____ Financial responsibility
_____ Responsiveness to residents’ needs
_____ Transparency — open records and meetings
_____ Accountability to residents
_____ Online access to City services
_____ Fair and consistent policies
_____ Opportunity to participate in public discourse

Other: _____

4. If you have a question, complaint, or request for service, how would you prefer to submit it? (Check all that apply.)

☐ Telephone call ☐ Telephone text ☐ Email
☐ Website link ☐ In-person meeting ☐ In writing (letter)
☐ Other: _____

5. **Who in City government is currently most responsive to your requests for service and complaints?**
☐ Mayor ☐ City Council member
☐ City Administrator ☐ Department Director
☐ Other: _____
6. **How effectively has the City responded to your requests for service and answered your questions or handled your complaints in the past?**
☐ Very effective ☐ Somewhat effective ☐ Not effective
☐ Never contacted the City ☐ No opinion
7. **Currently, Bradford has five (5) Council members. Which response best reflects your opinion?**
☐ Five (5) is the right number of Council members
☐ There should be fewer than five (5) Council members
☐ There should be seven (7) Council members
☐ There should be more than seven (7) Council members
☐ No opinion
8. **Currently, the Mayor and the City Council members are elected “at large.” The three methods for electing City Council members are shown below. Which do you favor?**
☐ At large (This means that candidates for City Council are elected by voters to represent the whole City and all voters may vote for all candidates.)
☐ By districts (This means that the population of the City would be divided equally into districts, and candidates would be elected by the residents in their district.)
☐ Elect some Council members at large and some by district.
9. **Real estate and earned income taxes are the two primary sources of City income. Recognizing that no one likes to pay taxes, which of the following is the better source for generating revenue to provide critical services like police, fire, and snow removal?**
☐ Real estate taxes
☐ Earned income taxes
☐ Some combination of real estate taxes and earned income taxes
10. **Home Rule Charters often designate a professionally trained/certified finance director to oversee the financial management of the City. Would you support reorganizing the City's financial administration under a professionally appointed Finance Director rather than separate elected Treasurer and Controller offices?**
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe ☐ Don't know
☐ Other: _____

11. **Please provide any other comments related to the development of the City's Home Rule Charter**

Thank you for participating. Submit completed paper surveys to:
City Hall, 24 Kennedy St, Bradford, PA 16701, by July 31, 2026.

Please share this survey and QR code with any interested residents.
 Scan the code to the right or visit kafferlinstrategies.com/BradfordGSC if you'd like to take the survey online.

