

2026-2027 Newton Youth Commission Application

This document is to be used for DRAFTING responses ONLY. To be considered for the Newton Youth Commission, your application MUST BE SUBMITTED ONLINE using [this link](#).

* If using this online form presents a significant barrier, or you have questions about the role, the Newton Youth Commission or Advisory Board, or this application, please contact Amanda Downing by phone or email at (617) 796-1420 or adowning@newtonma.gov.

APPLICATION DEADLINE – 11:59pm EST ON SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2026.

Application Introduction

The Newton Youth Commission (YC) is comprised of nine (9) commissioners, serving 3-year terms, and one supporting staff member from the City of Newton's Health and Human Services Department. Additional information about the Youth Commission at newtonma.gov/youthcommission

This application is competitive. We expect there to be six (6) open commission positions for the 2026-2027 school year.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED by 11:59pm EST on SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2026.

No late applications will be accepted.

If selected, you will not begin in your role until you have been officially appointed by Newton City Council and YC meetings resume in the fall of 2026. No meetings will take place in June, July or August of 2026.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Live in the City of Newton, attend Newton Public Schools, or both.
- Be of high-school age.

SELECTED COMMISSIONERS WILL BE EXPECTED TO:

- Attend 90% of the year's scheduled meetings (see below).
- Attend YC meetings 1-2 times per month, throughout the school year (September-June).
 - Meetings take place virtually (via Zoom) on Monday nights from 7:30-8:30pm, and/or in person directly following monthly YCAB meetings (weekdays at 8:00pm). The number of YC meetings per month may vary based on the time of year and the current focus of the commission.
- Attend additional monthly YCAB meetings, in person on a weekday evening from 6:30 – 8:00pm, throughout the school year.
 - Location TBD (Newton Free Library or Newton City Hall). A schedule will be disseminated at the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year.
- Actively participate during virtual meetings.

2026-2027 Newton Youth Commission Application

- Engage in occasional individual work outside of scheduled meetings.
- Attend occasional City Council/City Council Committee meetings and YC/YCAB events.
- Regularly check emails and respond in a timely manner.
- Communicate meeting and event absences to the Newton HHS staff member at least 24 hours in advance.

IMPORTANT: You will not be able to save your progress in this form. Please draft your responses using the links below and then fill out the online application. Only applications submitted through this online form will be considered.

THANK YOU!!

The Application

Unless otherwise indicated, all questions are required and all responses are free-text.

Applicant Profile

1. First Name:
2. Middle Name:
3. Last Name:
4. Email Address (school email addresses will not be accepted):
5. Phone Number:
6. Home Address (Street #, Street Name, City, State, Zip Code):
7. Birthdate (month, day, year):
8. School (2026-2027 school year):
9. Rising Grade in School (2026-2027 school year):
 - a. 9th grade
 - b. 10th grade
 - c. 11th grade
 - d. 12th grade

About the Applicant

10. Why do you want to join the Newton Youth Commission?
11. What strengths would you bring to the position of Newton Youth Commissioner?
12. How would you bring diversity to the commission?

2026-2027 Newton Youth Commission Application

13. In what ways do you contribute to or stay involved in the Newton community?
Use this opportunity to tell us about any personal experiences you've had that directly relate to civic engagement and community work. (If you are currently or have been on the Newton Youth Commission Advisory Board, please focus on other experiences. You will have an opportunity to write about YCAB in a moment).
14. Are you currently, or have you been, a Newton Youth Commission Advisory Board member?
a. Yes (Continue to question 15)
b. No (Skip question 15, move to question 16)
15. Reflecting on your time with the Youth Commission Advisory Board, what initiatives or projects have you contributed to, what have you learned from those experiences, and what aspects of the Board have been most meaningful or valuable to you?
16. What do you consider the top 2-3 issues facing Newton's young people today?
17. Choose one of the issues you listed above and explain how you might begin to address the issue locally. How could the Youth Commission and its Advisory Board play a role in the solution?
18. Why do you think the drafters of the Newton city ordinances designed the Youth Commission and Advisory Board to function as described?
You can find a copy of the ordinances [here](#).
19. Will you be available to meet via Zoom most Monday nights from 7:30-8:30pm during the 2026-2027 school year?
We will meet during this time 1-2 times per month (September – June).
a. Yes
b. No
c. Other:
20. Will you be available to meet in person from 6:30-8:00pm for monthly Newton Youth Commission Advisory Board meetings?
Meetings will take place October through June. Location and dates TBD.
a. Yes
b. No
c. Other:

Emergency Contact Information

21. First and Last Name of Emergency Contact #1:
22. Relationship to Emergency Contact 1 (examples: parent, guardian, mom, etc.):
23. Phone Number of Emergency Contact 1:
24. Email Address of Emergency Contact 1:

2026-2027 Newton Youth Commission Application

- 25. Optional - First and Last Name of Emergency Contact 2:
- 26. Optional - Relationship to Emergency Contact 2 (examples: parent, guardian, mom, etc.):
- 27. Optional - Phone Number of Emergency Contact 2:
- 28. Optional - Email Address of Emergency Contact 2:

That's It!

- 29. Thank you for filling out this application. Do you have any questions? Is there anything else you would like to share?

This question is optional.