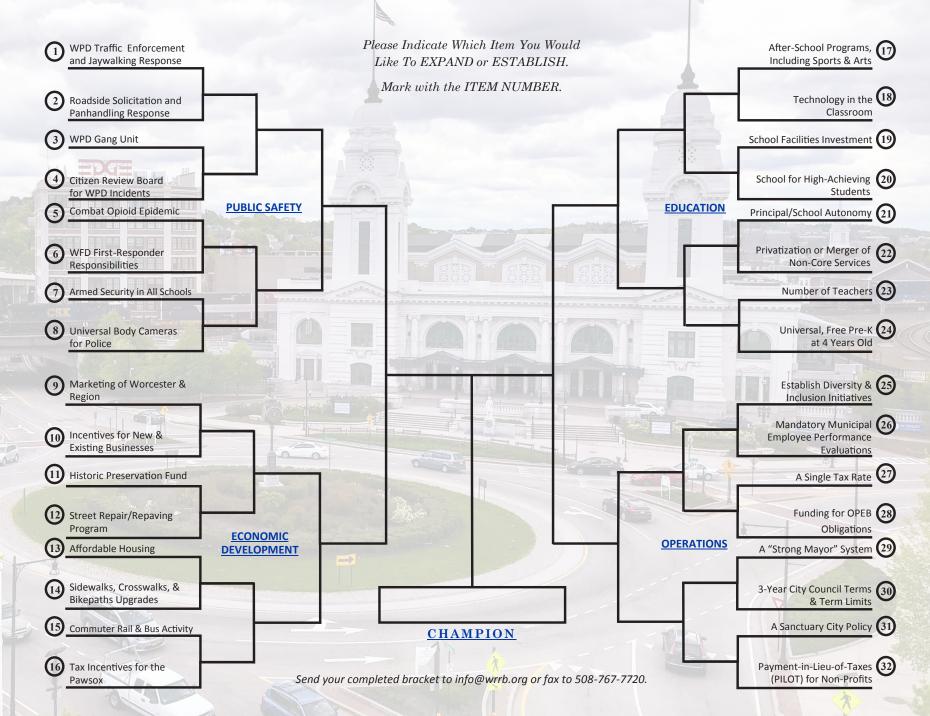


MARCH MUNICIPAL MADNESS





Municipalities make tough choices. Local leaders are called upon to prioritize hundreds of initiatives, but with limited resources at their disposal. Policies and programs are pitted against one another and scarce funds and staffing are allocated to the winner.

In honor of the NCAA March Madness Basketball Tournament, the Worcester Regional Research Bureau and Worcester Magazine have teamed up to present "March Municipal Madness." Within four broad categories (Public Safety, Economic Development, Education, and Operations), you will determine which policy initiatives you would like to expand or establish, unfortu-

nately to the detriment of other worthy selections. This process will lead to a winner, but it will lead to 31 admirable losers as well. Ultimately, the Champion itself faces defeat as it must square off against a community's current initiatives to secure itself a coveted spot in the annual budget.

We invite you to submit your bracket and your Champion. You can fill out a bracket online at www.wrrb.org, print and send a copy of the bracket via email to info@wrrb.org or via fax to 508-767-7720, or send via post to The Research Bureau, 500 Salisbury Street, Worcester, MA 01609. The most frequently submitted Champion priority will be announced on April 3.