



The Research Bureau

MARCH MUNICIPAL MADNESS



Please Indicate Which Item You Would Like To EXPAND or ESTABLISH. Mark with the ITEM NUMBER.

1 WPD Traffic Enforcement and Jaywalking Response

2 Roadside Solicitation and Panhandling Response

3 WPD Gang Unit

4 Citizen Review Board for WPD Incidents

5 Combat Opioid Epidemic

6 WFD First-Responder Responsibilities

7 Armed Security in All Schools

8 Universal Body Cameras for Police

9 Marketing of Worcester & Region

10 Incentives for New & Existing Businesses

11 Historic Preservation Fund

12 Street Repair/Repaving Program

13 Affordable Housing

14 Sidewalks, Crosswalks, & Bikepaths Upgrades

15 Commuter Rail & Bus Activity

16 Tax Incentives for the Pawsox

PUBLIC SAFETY

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CHAMPION

17 After-School Programs, Including Sports & Arts

18 Technology in the Classroom

19 School Facilities Investment

20 School for High-Achieving Students

21 Principal/School Autonomy

22 Privatization or Merger of Non-Core Services

23 Number of Teachers

24 Universal, Free Pre-K at 4 Years Old

25 Establish Diversity & Inclusion Initiatives

26 Mandatory Municipal Employee Performance Evaluations

27 A Single Tax Rate

28 Funding for OPEB Obligations

29 A "Strong Mayor" System

30 3-Year City Council Terms & Term Limits

31 A Sanctuary City Policy

32 Payment-in-Lieu-of-Taxes (PILOT) for Non-Profits

EDUCATION

OPERATIONS

Send your completed bracket to info@wrrb.org or fax to 508-767-7720.

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.