



Bureau Brief—Community Dialogues on Race—Representative Government

City of Worcester Government

The City of Worcester, as established by the City Charter, is known as a modified Plan E form of government which is a Council-Manager form of government with a popularly elected Mayor. The Worcester Public Schools is a quasi-independent department of the City.

The City Council is the City's legislative body while the City Manager serves as chief executive officer. The City Council is composed of 11 members - six elected city-wide (or at-large) and five elected from districts. The Mayor is a member of the City Council who receives the most votes in the mayoral election and wins an at-large City Council seat. In addition to his or her role as City Councilor, the Mayor serves as the ceremonial head of the government and chairs both the City Council and School Committee. The City Council hires the City Manager and can remove him or her by majority vote. The City Manager hires all City employees (except the City Clerk, City Auditor, and Worcester Public Schools employees), oversees City operations, and presents the City Council with an annual budget that must be approved by June 30th of each year. The City Council has the authority to reduce the City Manager's proposed budget, but not increase it. The approved budget must be balanced.

The Worcester School Committee is the Worcester Public Schools' legislative body while the Superintendent of Schools serves as chief executive officer. The School Committee consists of the Mayor and six elected at-large members. The School Committee sets district-wide school policies, votes on the district budget, and hires and removes the Superintendent.

City Council and School Committee elections are held in odd numbered years.

Mayor

Joseph M. Petty

City Council

Anthony J. Economou, District 1
 Philip P. Palmieri, District 2
 George J. Russell, District 3
 Sarai Rivera, District 4
 Gary Rosen, District 5
 Morris Bergman, At-Large
 Michael T. Gaffney, At-Large
 Konstantina B. Lukes, At-Large
 Frederick C. Rushton, At-Large
 Kathleen M. Toomey, At-Large

School Committee

Dianna L. Biancheria
 John L. Foley
 John F. Monfredo
 Tracy A. O'Connell Novick
 Brian A. O'Connell
 Hilda Ramirez

City Manager

Edward M. Augustus, Jr.

Superintendent

Melinda J. Boone, Ed.D.

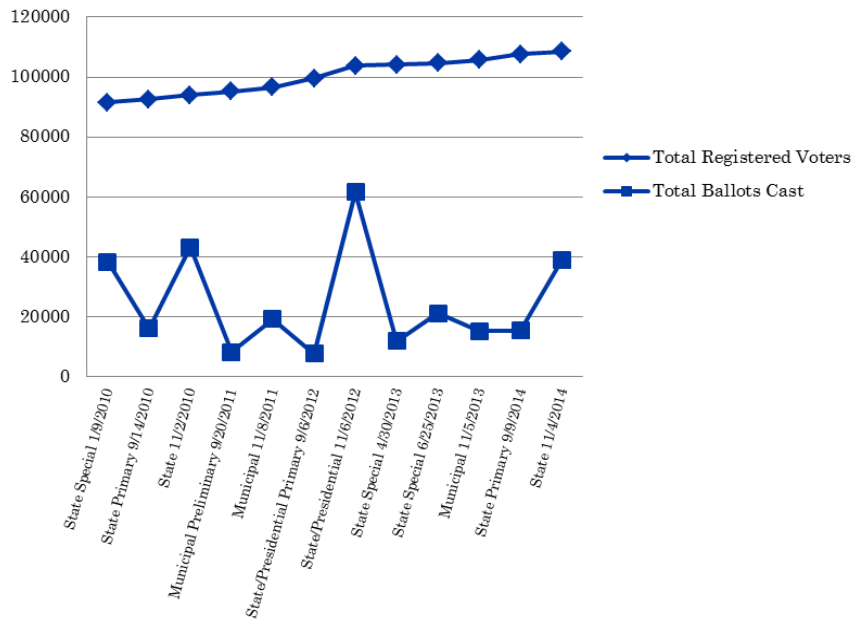
City Clerk

David J. Rushford

City Auditor

Robert V. Stearns

City of Worcester Registered Voters & Ballots Cast



Voter turnout in the City of Worcester varies depending on the type of election. Municipal elections, which are held in odd numbered years, experience the lowest turnout. Only 14.4% of registered voters turned out in November 2013 to vote for the Mayor, City Council, and School Committee. State elections, which occur in even-numbered years, and especially elections including the election for President, experience the highest turnout.

Source: Massachusetts Secretary of State and City of Worcester Elections Division.

As of January 2015, 47% of Worcester’s registered voters were not enrolled in a political party. 44% of voters were Democrats while 9% of voters were Republicans.

Party Affiliation, 2015	# of Registered Voters
Unenrolled	41,982
Democrat	39,877
Republican	7,669
Libertarian	230
Green Rainbow	159
Interdependent Third Party	45
Green Party USA	13
Conservative	10
MA Independent Party	10
United Independent Party	9
Reform	6
Socialist	6
Working Families	5
American Independent	4
Pirate	4
We the People	4
Rainbow Coalition	3
Constitution Party	2
Natural Law Party	2
Twelve Visions Party	2
New World Council	1
Veteran Party America	1

Source: City of Worcester Elections Division.

City of Worcester 2015 Municipal Election

The 2015 Municipal Election is scheduled for Tuesday, November 3, from 7:00am to 8:00pm.

Positions marked with an asterisk () require a Preliminary Election due to the size of the candidate field.*

The Preliminary Election will be held on Tuesday, September 8, from 7:00am to 8:00pm.

Worcester City Council—At Large* (16 Candidates for 6 Positions)

- Morris A. Bergman
- Carmen L. Carmona
- William S. Coleman, III
- George A. Fox, III
- Michael T. Gaffney
- Juan A. Gomez
- Khrystian E. King
- Konstantina B. Lukes
- Ronald L. O'Clair
- Philip P. Palmieri
- Linda F. Parham
- Joseph M. Petty
- Robert J. Sargent
- Kate Toomey
- Matthew E. Wally
- Christina L. Zlody

Worcester School Committee (10 Candidates for 6 Positions)

- Dianna L. Biancheria
- Cotey J. Collins
- Donna M. Colorio
- Nicola J. D'Andrea
- Jack L. Foley
- Molly O. McCullough
- John F. Monfredo
- Tracy O'Connell Novick
- Brian A. O'Connell
- Hilda Ramirez

District 1 Councilor (2 Candidates for 1 Position)

- Tony J. Economou
- Cindy T. Nguyen

District 2 Councilor* (4 Candidates for 1 Position)

- Jennithan Cortes
- Candy F. Mero-Carlson
- Ana I. Sequera
- Larry R. Shetler

District 3 Councilor (1 Candidate for 1 Position)

- George J. Russell

District 4 Councilor (2 Candidates for 1 Position)

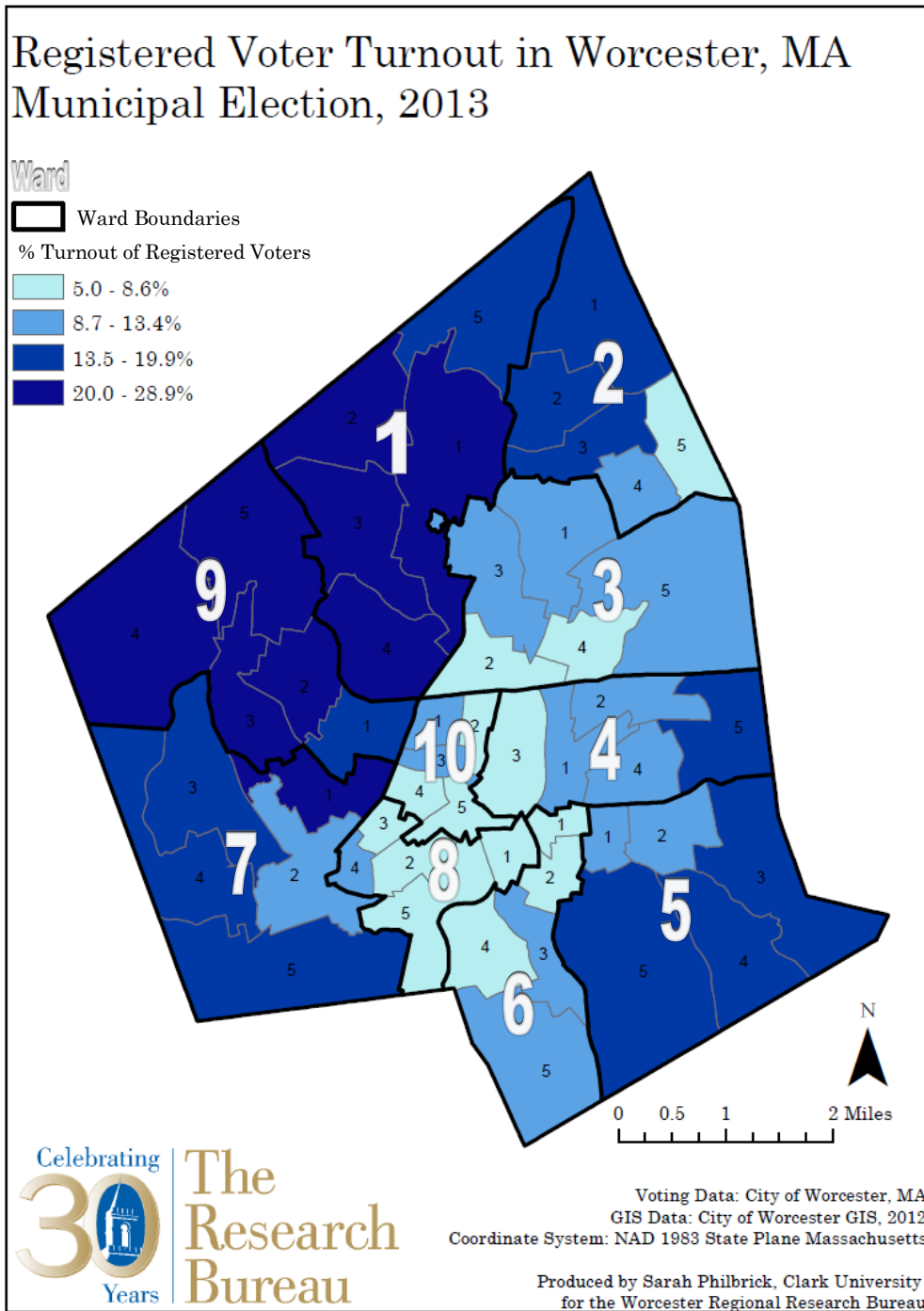
- Jacqueline Gisela Kostas
- Sarai Rivera

District 5 Councilor (1 Candidate for 1 Position)

- Gary Rosen

Wednesday, October 14, 2015—Last day to register for the 2015 Municipal Election.

Source: City of Worcester Elections Division.



Highest and Lowest Turnout by Ward-Precinct in City of Worcester 2013 Municipal Election							
<i>Top 5</i>				<i>Bottom 5</i>			
	<i>% Turnout</i>	<i>Ward- Precinct</i>	<i>Poll Location</i>		<i>% Turnout</i>	<i>Ward- Precinct</i>	<i>Poll Location</i>
1	28.87	1-4	Congregation Beth Israel, 15 Jamesbury Drive	50	4.99	8-3	Saint Peter's Church, 929 Main Street
2	25.76	9-5	First Congregational Church in Worcester, 1070 Pleasant Street	49	5.37	6-1	Worcester Senior Center, 128 Providence Street
3	25.73	9-4	Worcester Seventh Day Adventist Church, 2 Airport Drive	48	6.01	8-2	Main South CDC, 875 Main Street
4	25.68	1-3	Assumption College, 500 Salisbury Street	47	6.52	10-5	Murray Avenue Apartments, 50 Murray Avenue
5	25.66	9-2	Temple Emanuel, 280 May Street	46	6.55	3-4	Worcester Technical High School, 1 Skyline Drive

Source: City of Worcester Elections Division.

Boards and Commissions of the City of Worcester	
	<u>Number of Seats</u>
Affirmative Action Advisory Committee	9
Board of Election Commissioners	5
Board of Health	5
Cable Television Advisory Committee	7
Citizen Advisory Council	11
Civic Center Commission	5
Commission on Disability	7
Commission on Elder Affairs	15
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Advisory Committee	10
Conservation Commission	7
Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) Memorial Board of Trustees	5
Historical Commission	9
Hope Cemetery Commission	5
Human Rights Commission	9
License Commission	3
Mayor Thomas J. Early Scholarship Committee	5
Memorial Auditorium Board of Trustees	5
Off-Street Parking Board	5
Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Commission	7
Planning Board	5
Retirement Board	5
Status of Women Advisory Committee	9
Trust Funds Commission	3
Worcester Airport Advisory Committee	9
Worcester Arts Council	9
Worcester Housing Authority	5
Worcester Public Library Board	12
Worcester Redevelopment Authority	5
Zoning Board of Appeals	7
Total Number of Boards: 29	203

Source: City of Worcester.

City of Worcester Budgeted Employee Counts, Draft FY16 Budget	
Positions	# of Budgeted Employees
Legislative Offices	
City Council	11
Mayor's Office	2
City Clerk	10
Election Commission	9
City Auditor	8
Retirement	0
City Manager's Office	
City Manager's Office	9
Elder Affairs	8
Public Library	100
Dept. of Economic Development	
Economic Development	37
Workforce Investment Board	9
Workforce Central Career Center	36
Cable Services	4
License Commission	3
Public Health	
Human Resources	17
Law Department	15
Police Department	508
Fire Department	428
Emergency Communications	78
Dept. of Inspectional Services	60
Worcester Public Schools	3,902
Public Works and Parks	
Golf	2
Public Works	197
Parks, Recreation, and Hope Cemetery	54
Enterprise: Sewer Division	68
Enterprise: Water Division	134
Administration & Finance	
Finance	42
Assessing	10
Technical Services	27
City Energy and Asset Management	13
TOTAL	5,824

Source: City of Worcester FY16 Proposed Budget.

Each year, as part of the annual budget process, the City Council approves staff positions within City departments. Authorized positions are filled at the discretion of the City Administration or Worcester School Committee/School Administration and can be full-time or part-time. While City Administration has proposed a budget that can accommodate 5,824 positions, it is possible that not all of these positions will be filled during the fiscal year or that some of these positions will be filled with part-time employees.

WPS Budgeted Employee Counts, Draft FY16 Budget	
Positions	# of Budgeted Employees
District Administrators	23
School Administrators	79
Teachers	2,158
Instructional Assistants	601
Bus Monitors	39
Crossing Guards	106
Educational Support	88
Custodial Services	153
Maintenance	33
Full Year Clerical	63
School Year Clerical	68
School Nurses	55
District Support	50
Bus Drivers	42
Child Nutrition	230
Head Start	114
TOTAL	3,902

Bureau Brief

Worcester Regional Research Bureau, Inc.
 500 Salisbury Street
 Worcester, MA 01609
 508-799-7169
 www.wrrb.org



This Bureau Brief was drafted to support the City of Worcester Community Dialogues on Race held in May/June 2015.