



The Research Bureau

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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Rev. 11/23

CHAIR OF THE BOARD AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Much has changed in Worcester since 1985 when the Worcester Regional Research Bureau was founded, but we have had an unchanging commitment to our mission, “to instruct the public as to the organization, activities, finances and administrative or operational problems of Greater Worcester, through non-partisan, non-political and impartial research.”

As the Bureau shared earlier this year in our *Reinventing Worcester* report, the changes our community has been experiencing over the last thirty years are far greater and far deeper than the historic level of ongoing developments. While we’ve experienced dramatic population growth, this has kept our median age below 35 and has led to expanded racial and ethnic diversity, with increased educational attainment fueling shifts in our economy towards modern employers. As Worcester is evolving and growing, new challenges and opportunities are arising that demand public discussion and governmental attention, but that require rigorous objective analysis.

Thanks to the vision of our founders, Greater Worcester is fortunate to have The Research Bureau serve the community by providing such data driven objective analysis and research on a tremendous range of issues. As noted later in this report, the Bureau’s work has advanced understanding and informed responses to transit, municipal budgeting, food security, elections, climate, education, and many other issues.

Fulfilling the Bureau’s organizational mission wouldn’t be possible without the governance that has remained true since our founding. We have benefited from the dedicated participation of business and community leaders on our Board of Directors and Executive Committee, which has provided thoughtful direction and vision for our work. Befitting the range of our work, our Board is large, while our Executive Committee is tremendously involved in setting the Bureau’s research agenda. Four members are stepping down this year, due to term limits and professional changes, so we want to extend our thanks and appreciation to those members – former Chair John Spillane, Vice President for Finance Rick Powell, Todd Rodman, and Rita Smith.

Beyond the Bureau’s governance remaining true to our mission, our work simply wouldn’t be possible without the steadfast support of our region’s employers and philanthropy. The resources that are provided by these contributors and sponsors – listed at the end of this report – demonstrate their commitment to an informed public and deliberative decision-making by our policymakers.

While all deserve our thanks, it merits mention that the Bureau was proud this year to have significant levels of philanthropic support from the Barr Foundation and the Alden Trust, and honored to have substantial in-kind support from PENTA Communications and Greenberg, Rosenblatt, Kull & Bitsoli P.C.

The Bureau’s work also wouldn’t be possible without the cooperation and attention of public agencies from within the City of Worcester, as well as the Worcester Public Schools, other municipal governments, regional entities, and state officials. Our analyses and work depends upon the objective data provided from such sources, and has benefited from further engagement with government on all levels. We have been honored to have our research utilized by public agencies, and be asked to provide our expertise to a wide range of efforts, such as the Worcester Public Schools’ Strategic Planning effort, the Worcester Now|Next master plan, the city’s Municipal Broadband Taskforce, the Coalition for a Healthy Greater Worcester, the Center for Food Equity, UMass Chan Medical School’s Prevention Research Center’s Community Advisory Board, the Massachusetts Broadband and Digital Equity Working Group, and other state, local, and community initiatives.

The quality and impact of the Bureau’s work is not just being noted by policymakers however; this year, our research was highlighted on a statewide and national level. Bureau staff spoke on our residential rents report at the Boston Area Research Initiative’s Annual Conference, and we’ve worked with our statewide peers on a host of shared research priorities. The Federal Reserve Bank of Boston has consulted with the Bureau on the needs of New England cities, and on their development of new initiatives such as a regional income survey. Our higher education institutions also have a strong interest in the Bureau’s work, with our staff briefing classes on our research and participating in relevant efforts such as the College of the Holy Cross’ “Worcester Initiative for Sustainability and Engaged Research”.

Nationally, for the first time the Bureau hosted the annual conference for the Governmental Research Association, which has served objective, non-partisan policy researchers since 1914. While the program details are covered later in this report, the response from our national peers was truly gratifying –

▪ *I gained a fresh perspective on the city and greater appreciation for the tremendous transformation Worcester has undergone in the last ten years.*

- *Visiting Worcester for the 2023 GRA conference has been an amazing experience... The city is interesting, beautiful, and jam-packed with friendly people.*
- *It was also great to get to see some of the completed and up and coming development projects around the city and get to hear from Worcester’s government officials directly.*

State and national attention to our work is welcome, and it underscores both the increased value and need for the Bureau’s objective data-based policy analysis. Our elevated perspective from our new 19th floor office in one of the city’s top office buildings, the Mercantile Center, thanks to Chip Norton, provides the Bureau with high visibility and modern amenities, with a view on needs of our neighborhoods and Greater Worcester.

We will continue tackling these complex and complicated issues by utilizing objective data, incorporating innovative online visualizations, exploring substantive collaborations with funders, academia, media, community, and research partners, and working with public agencies and policymakers to achieve meaningful change. Thanks to the support of so many across Greater Worcester, the Bureau will continue ensuring that we have a bright future by leveraging intelligence for a smarter community.

Sincerely,



FRANCIS W. MADIGAN, III

Chair of the Board



PAUL F. MATTHEWS

Executive Director & CEO

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Bureau continued to release reports that dive deep into issues of local government. **Breaking Down the Budget: City of Worcester's Fiscal Year 2024** is a continuation of the Bureau's annual report on the City of Worcester's budget. Each year on July 1, Massachusetts cities and towns must implement a new budget. Worcester's Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) budget took effect on July 1, 2023. Municipal budgets must balance—expenditures cannot exceed revenues. The budget process forces municipalities to confront the challenge of fixed costs, including debt service and pensions, while deciding among priorities like education, public safety, economic development, and public services. The City's revenues for FY24 are shown on this page; in total, the City budgets \$847.7 million in FY24. A large portion of City spending is in education—59.9% of this year's total budget is earmarked for education. However, the source of more than 70% of the City's revenue for spending on education is from state aid. Accordingly, this year the Bureau began a new, separate, annual project to examine and explain the budget of the Worcester Public Schools. This report, **Paying for a Public Education: An Examination of the FY24 Worcester Public Schools' Budget**, seeks to understand the more than \$552 million budget of the Worcester Public Schools for FY24, explaining to the lay reader the ins and outs of how exactly, public education is paid for. Just like the City, the Worcester Public Schools must have a budget in place by July 1 each year; and, like the City, WPS has its own "fixed costs," namely, a minimum it must spend on educating students, determined annually by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Foundation Budget formula. Each district in the state is allocated some state aid to fund that education, and municipalities provide the rest. In Worcester's Public Schools, state aid for education made up 60.4% of its total budget (when including both general and grant revenues) or 72.1% of its general revenue budget alone. Finally, **Paying for a Public Education** compared Worcester to its neighbors and to other Gateway Cities on spending above and beyond what is required by the Commonwealth.

SCAN FOR MORE:

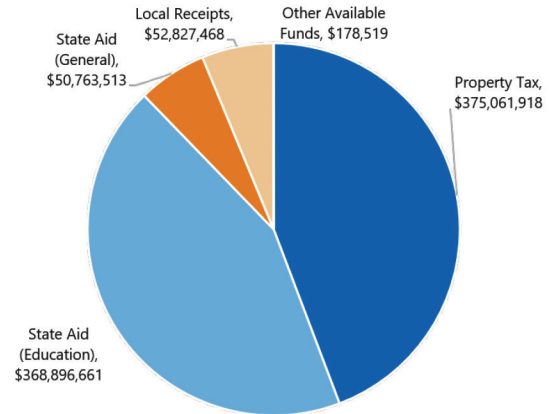
Breaking Down the Budget FY24



Paying for a Public Education FY24



CITY OF WORCESTER, SOURCES OF FY24 REVENUE

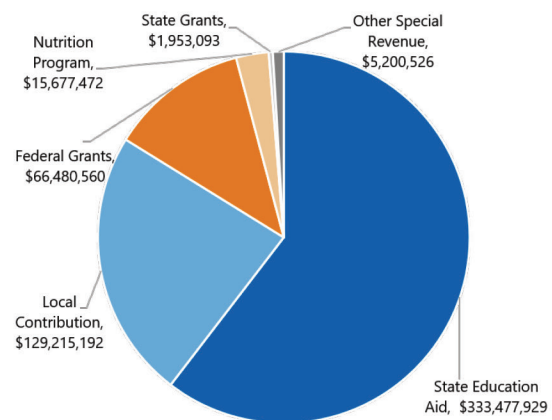


City of Worcester Expenditure Centers

Total Education	\$507,436,102
Total City Services	\$183,708,699
Total Fixed Costs	\$156,583,278
Total Expenditures FY24	\$847,728,079

Source: City of Worcester, FY24 Budget

WORCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS, SOURCES OF FY24 REVENUE



Worcester Public Schools Expenditure Centers

Total Employees*	\$453,830,483
Total Supplies and Services	\$85,200,037
Total Capital Equipment	\$12,974,253
Total Expenditures FY24	\$552,004,773

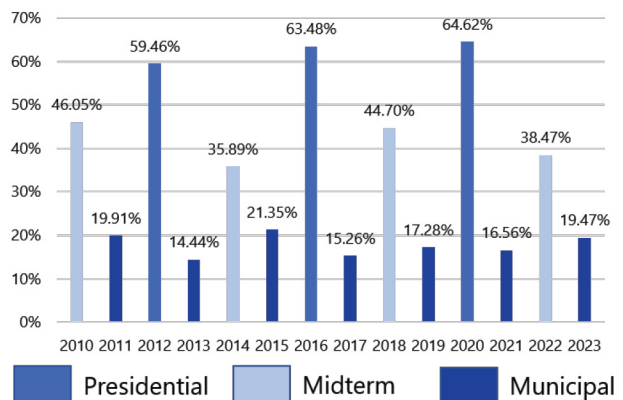
Source: Worcester Public Schools, FY24 Budget
(*Employees includes salaries, overtime, and fringe benefits)

The Bureau also released several briefs regarding local Worcester public administration and operations. **Department of Justice Pattern or Practice Investigations** explained the basics behind what a “Pattern or Practice” investigation is and is not, as one was announced into the Worcester Police Department by the Department of Justice in November 2022. Looking at the history of these investigations since they began in the 1990s, the report found that the median case took nearly two years from start to announcement of findings, and, if unconstitutional conduct was found, more than six years from beginning to case closed and conduct resolved.

As part of The Research Bureau's local government and election work, in October 2023 The Bureau released **Understanding Worcester's Charter**. Worcester, like most cities in Massachusetts, has a governing document known as a "charter." This document, whose current version has largely existed since the 1980s, outlines everything from how a City Councilor is elected to the specific powers of the City Manager; and it makes clear that, as in other constitutions, power is separated between the legislative and executive "branches" of the City. It was last amended in September 2022 with a new structure for the School Committee.

In addition to Worcester's Charter discussion, the Bureau provided an opportunity for the public to learn about Worcester's Citywide Plan, Worcester Now!Next. A forum was held in conjunction with Jane Week in the Woo to provide an update and dialogue on **Worcester Now!Next**. Presenters include the team drafting the Master Plan, City of Worcester lead representatives on the Master Plan, and local stakeholders including Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission and the Urban Planning Partnership. A highlight of this forum was the chance for attendees to provide direct input on the draft plan and showcased the necessity of community involvement in these efforts. As another dive in local community engagement in the civic process, the Bureau explained each of Worcester's 34 boards and commissions on which Worcester residents can serve with **Serving on Worcester's Boards and Commissions**. It explained the process of joining a board, and, as of April 25, 2023, pointed out vacancies among them (out of 227 possible seats, 49 were vacant at the end of April).

TURNOUT PERCENTAGE IN NOVEMBER ELECTIONS SINCE 2010



Source: City of Worcester Election Commission, Worcester City Clerk

SCAN FOR MORE:



Bureau Brief: Department of Justice Pattern-or-Practice Investigations



Understanding Worcester's Charter



Event: Worcester Now Next



Bureau Brief: Serving on Worcester's Boards and Commissions

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONTINUED

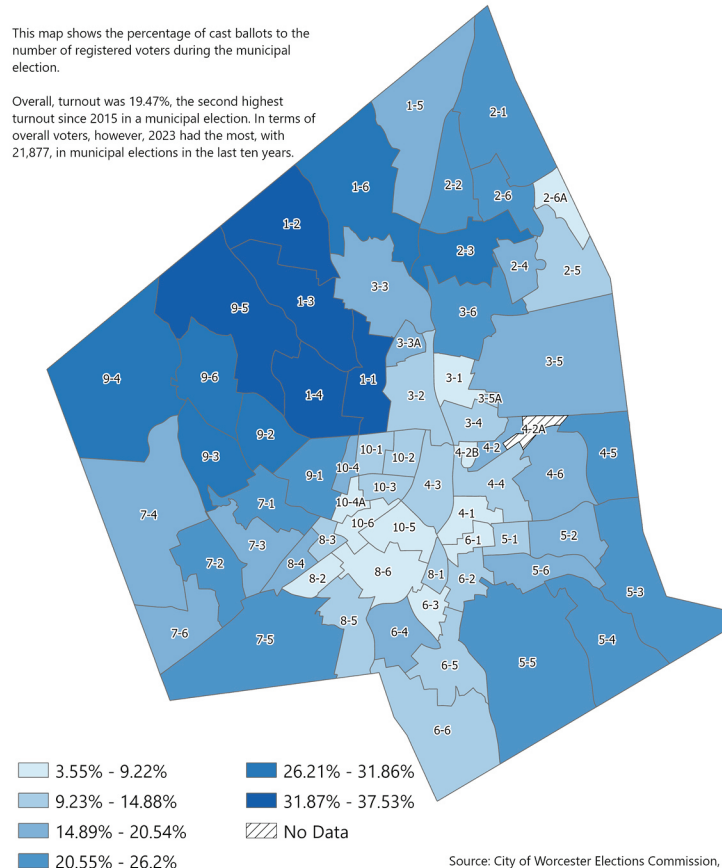
This year is an election year, and as always, the Bureau provides independent and non-partisan contributions to this year's election cycle. Early on in the year, WRRB issued **Worcester's 2023 Election, a Primer** explaining how municipal elections in Worcester work—with an election on November 7, 2023, and one in which new School Committee districts were to be used, the brief served as an introduction and a refresher to Worcester's elections. As the election approached, WRRB released its traditional **Questions for the Candidates** report which highlighted important issues facing the City, Schools, and residents. Some of the same topics covered in this report, and others, were directly posed to the candidates during the **2023 Municipal Election Candidate Debates** at Mechanics Hall. With partners, Worcester Telegram & Gazette, Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce, and Worcester Education Collaborative, the Worcester Regional Research Bureau gathered candidates to discuss and debate the most pressing issues facing constituents. In a series of 5 events, one for each race for At-Large School

Committee, Contested District School Committee, At-Large City Council, Contested District City Council, and Mayor, the community had the opportunity to learn about candidate's positions and plans for their potential term in office. Despite strong attendance at these debates and a very active election cycle, turnout was approximately 19.5%, which while higher than typical turnout, is still substantially fewer than presidential or state elections. The 2023 election was explored in more depth with an interactive StoryMap, **Worcester's Municipal Elections, 2013-2023**. This series of maps looked at overall precinct-by-precinct turnout in a series of maps of municipal elections from 2013 to 2019, and then looked at elections in 2021 and 2023 with more depth. These more detailed maps allowed readers to see more detailed information about voter turnout, ballots cast in the mayoral election, and the results of district races, as well as information about citywide vote share for at-large candidates. Such maps demonstrate where Worcester's voters are coming from as well as trends over the past ten years.

TURNOUT BY PRECINCT: NOVEMBER 7, 2023 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

This map shows the percentage of cast ballots to the number of registered voters during the municipal election.

Overall, turnout was 19.47%, the second highest turnout since 2015 in a municipal election. In terms of overall voters, however, 2023 had the most, with 21,877, in municipal elections in the last ten years.



Source: City of Worcester Elections Commission, November 7, 2023 Unofficial Results

SCAN FOR MORE:



Bureau Brief:
Worcester's 2023
Election, a Primer



Questions for
the Candidates



2023 Worcester
Municipal Election
Candidate Debates



Worcester's
Municipal
Elections,
2013-2023

TRANSPORTATION

The Research Bureau released two reports with an interactive dashboard and StoryMap on the Worcester Regional Transit Authority. These reports serve as a follow-up to The Bureau's earlier work in 2019 and 2020 on a fare-free WRTA. They delve into the recent finances and ridership of the region's primary transit authority, which serves 37 communities in south-central Massachusetts, with support from the Barr Foundation. **All-Aboard: Financing a Fare-Free WRTA** was released in March and provided an analysis of the WRTA's recent revenues and expenses. It found that the bulk of the WRTA's operating revenues come from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, with an uptick in recent years in Federal assistance thanks to the COVID-19 relief fund, CARES. The remainder of the report considered the implications of resuming fare collection, and provided alternative sources of operating funds for the WRTA to consider. Since the report was released, Massachusetts did raise the amount of operating funds it provided to RTAs from \$96 to \$150 million in its FY24 budget.

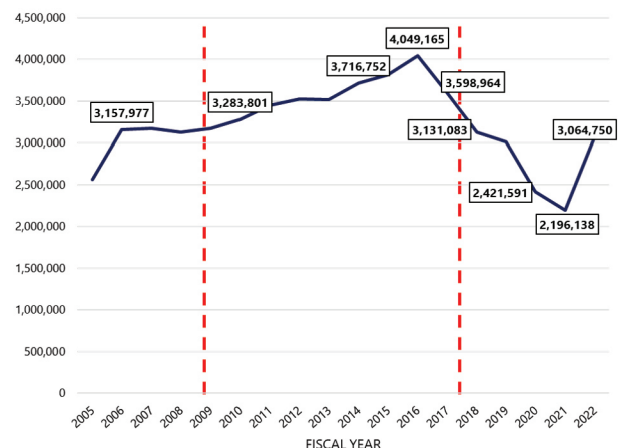
In April, The Research Bureau released **Resurging Regional Ridership: An Analysis of Mobility Flows, Riders, and Ridership in the WRTA Region** and the StoryMap, **Onboard for Data**. This comprehensive report looked at ridership, commuting, and demographic data in Worcester and the entirety of the WRTA region, to provide a picture of the importance of the WRTA to regional mobility. The report began with an examination of commuting patterns within Worcester and Worcester County and followed that with an analysis of demographics in WRTA communities using both American Community Survey data and rider surveys from the WRTA itself. Strikingly, the report notes that in 2018, 65% of surveyed fixed-route riders had incomes less than \$24,999. Finally, the report analyzed the remarkable

recovery in ridership on the WRTA and presented some considerations for increasing ridership further. The two charts on this page show the WRTA's ridership recovery during the pandemic. Its rapid return to full-service levels in summer 2020 in combination with fare-free service likely aided its recovery; unlike all other RTAs in Massachusetts, the WRTA was well above 100% of its December 2019 levels in December 2022. **Onboard for Data** is an interactive version of the two reports referenced above, and allows readers to examine the budget, commuting, demographic, and ridership in greater detail.

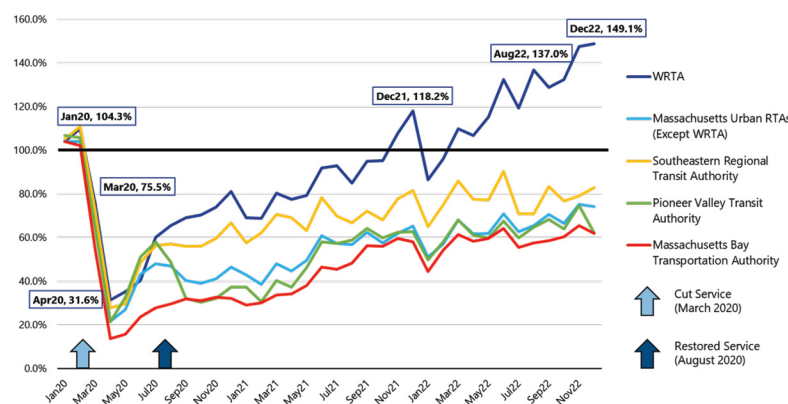


The Research Bureau received the 2023 Outstanding Policy Achievement Award for Local/Regional Work from the Governmental Research Association for these reports.

ANNUAL FIXED-ROUTE BUSES RIDERSHIP (FY2005-2022)



MONTHLY RECOVERY RATE (2019 MONTHS AS BASELINE)



SCAN FOR MORE:



All-Aboard: Financing a Fare-Free WRTA



Resurging Regional Ridership



Onboard for Data

GOVERNMENTAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION



The Worcester Regional Research Bureau has been an active member of its national association, the Governmental Research Association, for many years with WRRB staff members serving in leadership roles. In recognition of the Bureau's role in the GRA and prominence of WRRB's research amongst its peers, coupled with national interest in Worcester, the Worcester Regional Research Bureau was selected as the host of the GRA's National Conference for 2023.

The Research Bureau hosted dozens of public policy researchers from across the country to learn, collaborate, and recognize significant achievements by organizations across the country at the Jean McDonough Arts Center. WRRB organized 10 forums on significant areas of interest for the GRA membership and the communities they serve. These also spotlighted community leaders active on these topics to share their expertise and provide context from Worcester and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. These educational sessions covered Transportation, Housing, Food Security, ARPA, Public Workforce, Racial Equity, Education Finance, and skill shares on Podcasting and ArcGIS. The conference included a tour of the City of Worcester focusing on development projects which featured a visit to Polar Park, The Reactory, and Worcester Memorial Auditorium. It concluded with the panel **Reinventing Worcester**, on Worcester's past, present, and future and featured the Bureau's report **Reinventing Worcester**. This report, and StoryMap, provided a substantial review of the changes in Worcester over the past 30 years—from physical development to demographic shifts, economic opportunities to industry needs—using the latest census data. This report found that Worcester has been a consistently “young” city with median age in the early thirties, and that Worcester is an increasingly more educated city with occupations shifting to “Management, professional, and related occupation.” Industry has matched this trend with an overall increase in employment, particularly in the “Services” sector which is largely “Educational, health, and social services.” All the while, Worcester's total population increased, reaching a historic peak.

The Annual Conference concluded with an awards dinner at Worcester Historical Museum and was honored to feature the Managing Director of the Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University, Chris Herbert, to discuss the Joint Center's comprehensive analysis of housing across the country in “The State of the Nation's Housing 2023.” At this Awards dinner, organizations were recognized for their contributions to their communities.



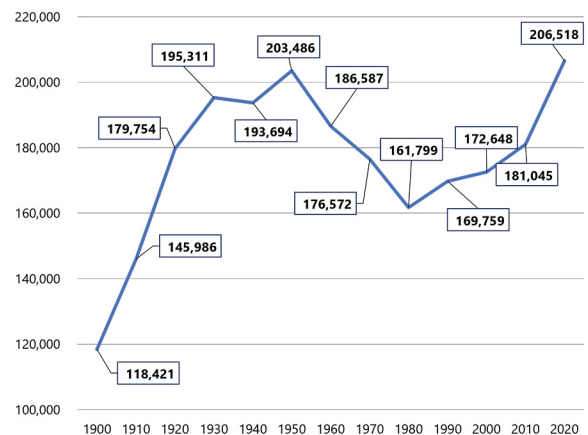
As noted above, the Bureau was recognized with the 2023 Outstanding Policy Achievement Award for Local/Regional Work.

It was also recognized with a 2023 Certificate of Merit for Best Digital Communication for its ArcGIS StoryMap on Static Income, Rising Costs: Renting in the Heart of the Commonwealth.



GRA
2023 Conference
Recap

GRAPH 1: CITY OF WORCESTER'S POPULATION



Source: Decennial Censuses of 1920, 1940, 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2020

SCAN FOR MORE:



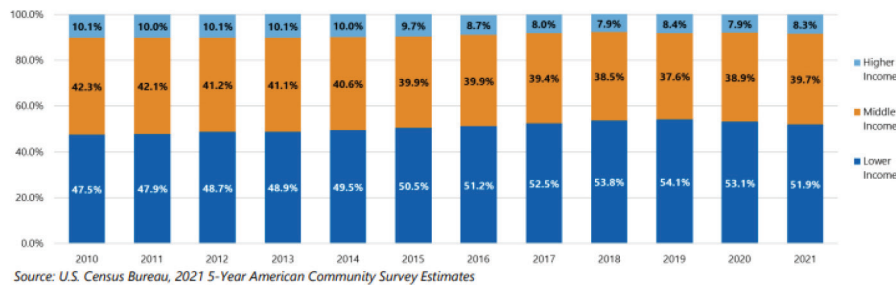
**Reinventing
Worcester**

THE WORCESTER ALMANAC 2023

The Research Bureau released its ninth edition of **The Worcester Almanac**, a compendium of information on all things Greater Worcester. The Bureau undertakes the Worcester Almanac each year to provide government officials, residents, businesses, and institutions with an easily accessible, user-friendly source of current and trending data on various civic concerns. The Worcester Almanac would not be possible without the generous support of UniBank which has served as the sponsor of the Almanac for years.

From household income to voter registration, public school attendance to health status, the Worcester Almanac has data on government, demographics & the economy, health, education, public safety, transportation, sports, weather, an appendix on Children, and more. These charts are a sampling of the visualizations that are included in the Almanac. The Worcester Almanac's data was featured in the Worcester Business Journal's Worcester: Just the Facts, as part of its annual FactBook.

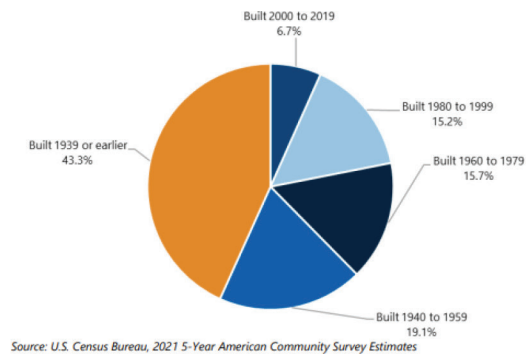
WORCESTER: PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS BY INCOME LEVEL, 2021



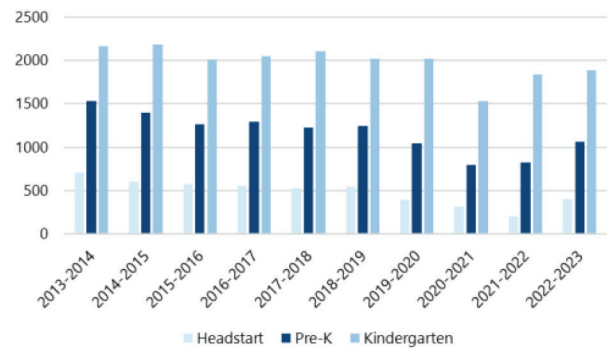
SCAN FOR MORE:

Worcester Almanac 2023

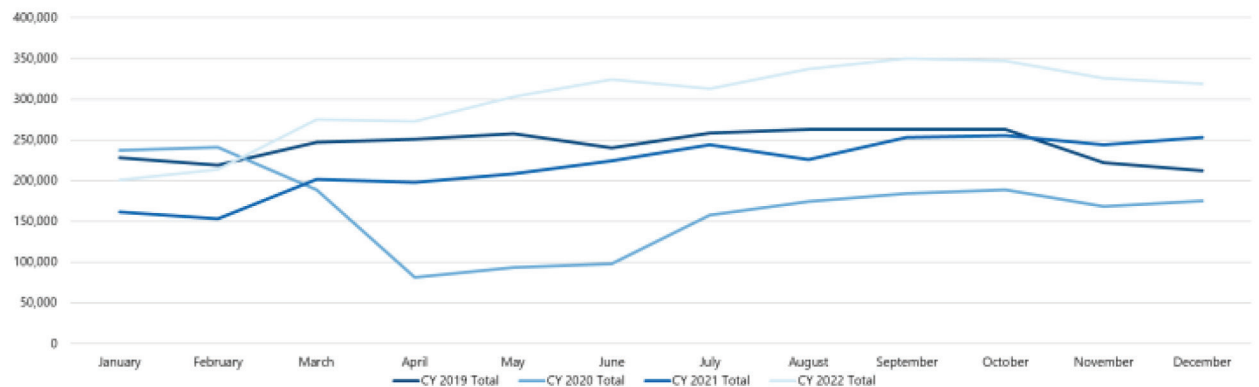
WORCESTER: AGE OF HOUSING STOCK, 2021



WORCESTER: PARTICIPATION IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, 2013 – 2023



WORCESTER: MONTHLY FIXED ROUTE RIDERSHIP, CALENDAR YEAR 2019 – CALENDAR YEAR 2022



FOOD SECURITY

Food Security has been a persistent issue on the local, state, and federal level. Based on the importance of the Bureau's work on this issue, the Bureau updated its StoryMap, **Is Worcester Food Insecure? It Depends on Where**. The StoryMap, expanded on its sections related to the Supplementary Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). One of these expanded topics was the SNAP Gap. This gap is defined as the percentage of individuals who are eligible for SNAP benefits but don't receive them. This is calculated by comparing MassHealth users against SNAP beneficiaries. The 2022 version showed the monthly SNAP gap between January 2018 and July 2022. The 2023 expansion brought this to March 2023, as seen on the table here, and added a similar view of the monthly SNAP caseload. Additionally, new interactive dashboards were created and added to explore the relationship between SNAP usage, social vulnerability, and income sources. The scatterplot on this page shows the positive correlation between SNAP reception and vulnerability using the 2020 Social Vulnerability Index. The map shows the geographic distribution of census tracts in Worcester County according to the interaction of these two variables. Many of the tracts with high vulnerability and high SNAP usage are found in Worcester itself.

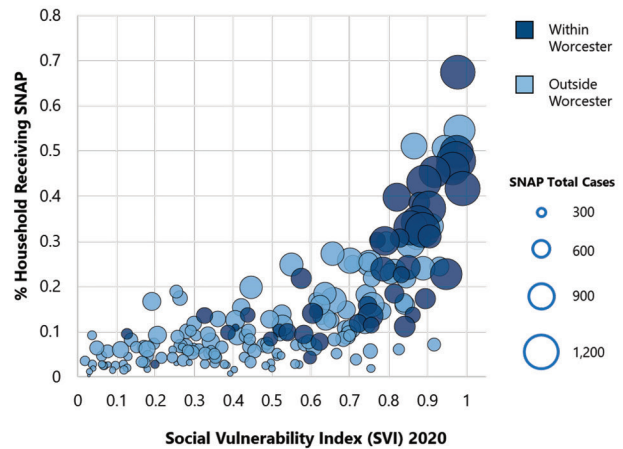
The Bureau has continued sharing its work on food security with different audiences such as its briefing at the Center for Food Equity's Food Summit in May. The WRRB's work has had clear impacts on regional and national discussions related to hunger and food insecurity and established a need for a comprehensive **Community Food Assessment**, which has been a joint project between The Center for Food Equity, Coalition for a Healthy Greater Worcester, and UMass Chan's Prevention Research Center. The Bureau serves on the Steering Committee and has been an active contributor to the effort to quantify the lived experience of food insecurity in Worcester.

MONTHLY SNAP GAP, WORCESTER COUNTY ZIP CODES AVERAGE

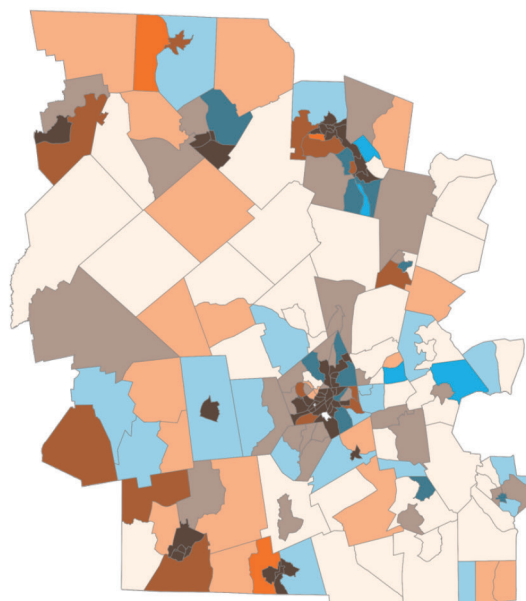


Month	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Grand Total
1	36.7%	36.7%	39.0%	41.9%	42.1%	41.0%	39.6%
2	37.0%	36.6%	39.1%	42.1%	41.9%	40.3%	39.5%
3	36.6%	37.2%	40.0%	41.7%	41.9%	40.3%	39.6%
4	36.6%	37.1%	41.1%	41.6%	42.0%		39.7%
5	36.5%	37.0%	41.0%	41.9%	42.0%		39.7%
6	36.6%	37.1%	39.6%	41.5%	42.2%		39.4%
7	36.7%	36.6%	39.6%	40.8%	41.8%		39.1%
8	36.6%	36.7%	40.3%	40.7%	41.1%		39.1%
9	36.4%	38.9%	40.1%	41.1%	40.1%		39.3%
10	36.4%	39.1%	40.6%	41.4%	39.9%		39.5%
11	36.4%	39.0%	41.0%	41.4%	40.5%		39.6%
12	36.5%	39.0%	41.2%	41.9%	40.4%		39.8%
Grand Total	36.6%	37.6%	40.2%	41.5%	41.3%	40.5%	39.5%

SOCIAL VULNERABILITY & SNAP FOR WORCESTER COUNTY

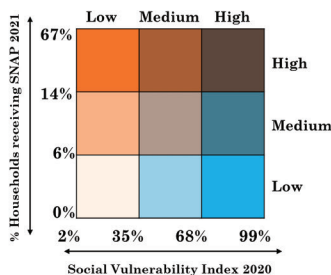


SOCIAL VULNERABILITY & SNAP FOR WORCESTER COUNTY



SCAN FOR MORE:

Is Worcester Food Insecure? It Depends on Where



ENVIRONMENT & HOUSING

The Bureau released a thorough analysis of Worcester's environmental situation using Environmental Justice as the theoretical framework in **Environmental (In)Justice**. This report presents a comprehensive exploration of Worcester's environment using data from the City of Worcester, CDC, and more. Beginning with the origins of the Environmental Justice (EJ) movement, this report explores Worcester's environmental outcomes, geographic distribution, and its correlation with social vulnerability, highlighting clear differences in some areas of the city. It intertwines current trends with the 1936 redlining map to explore if and to what extent it still shapes Worcester's present reality. The report concludes with a review of existing policies and investments at the federal, state, and local level, including: the federal grant Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods, the State's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program, the City's Green Worcester Plan and Urban Forest Master Plan. To educate the public about these plans, The Research Bureau released **Bureau Brief: Worcester's Urban Forest Master Plan**. This brief covered the health and societal benefits of trees for urban residents, as well as the recommendations of the Master Plan and the potential costs that transitioning to a proactive form of forest management would produce.

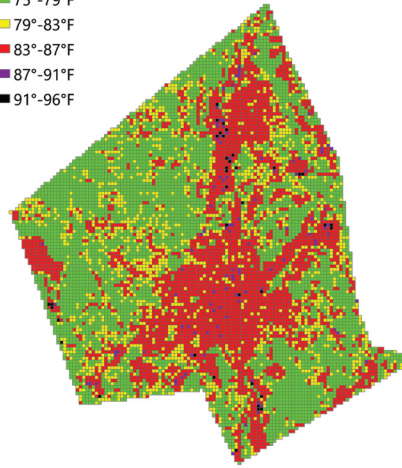
Worcester City Council adopted Massachusetts' "specialized stretch code," a new set of building standards for new residential construction aimed at creating a net-zero economy in Massachusetts by 2050. Massachusetts allows communities to opt-in to the stretch energy code and into the specialized code; Worcester was already a stretch code community. The Research Bureau released a short report, **Energized? No, Specialized: Decoding the New Specialized Stretch Code**, the aim of which was to explain to readers the ins and outs of the new building standards. The report broke down the requirements for new residential construction, studies that described the potential costs and savings of the new code, and explained the difference between HERS, TEDI, and Passive House building standards.

Housing continues to be a priority of The Research Bureau. In late 2022, the Bureau released **Static Income, Rising Costs** which broke down renting trends in Worcester and an analysis of renter-households over time. This report included the 1936 Redlining Map, which marked the first time this Map has been made public digitally. To facilitate public awareness of this map, The Research Bureau partnered with the Worcester Historical Museum to host a forum, **Worcester's Redlined History**, which featured a renowned expert from the Mapping Inequality Project to discuss redlining across the country and local context of redlining from the Worcester Black History Project. WRRB presented its report and findings on housing trends and its relation to redlining.

WRRB was also asked to present this work at the **Federal Reserve Bank of Boston's community conversation** on the Massachusetts Economic Conditions and Household Opportunity

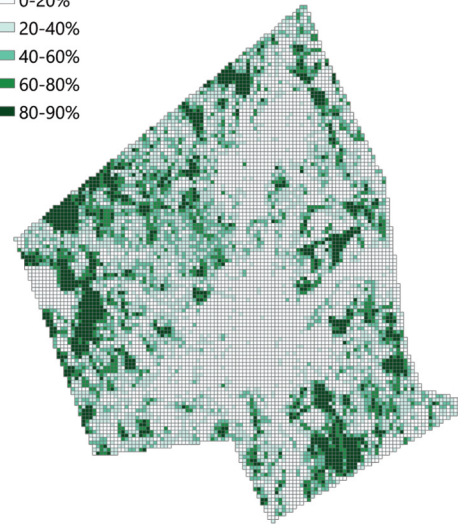
AVERAGE MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE FOR 2020 SUMMER

- 75°-79°F
- 79°-83°F
- 83°-87°F
- 87°-91°F
- 91°-96°F



PERCENTAGE OF SURFACE COVERED BY TREES

- 0-20%
- 20-40%
- 40-60%
- 60-80%
- 80-90%



SCAN FOR MORE:



Environmental (In)Justice



Energized? No, Specialized: Decoding the New Specialized Stretch Code



Bureau Brief: Worcester's Urban Forest Master Plan



Static Income, Rising Costs

ENVIRONMENT & HOUSING CONTINUED

Survey (Mass ECHOS). The Research Bureau and Worcester Community Action Council served as the Federal Reserve's Community Partners in this effort which gathered members of the public and financial institutions to discuss this survey, local conditions, wealth, and the economic conditions. The Research Bureau's work on housing has been highly respected, not only by the Federal Reserve, but amongst other research organizations. In April 2023, The Research Bureau participated in the Boston Area Research Initiative's (BARI) annual Insight-to-Impact Summit. Here, The Research Bureau moderated and facilitated a panel called "Housing in a Growing Region," which featured three research papers published by other organizations about housing in and around Boston and Massachusetts more generally.

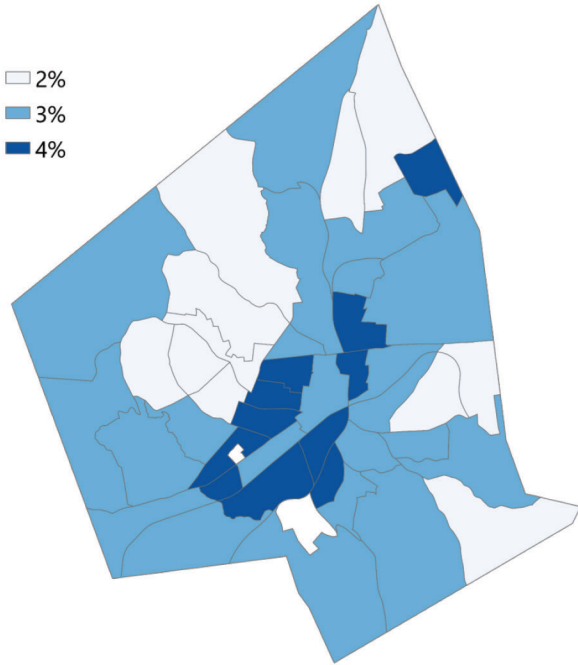
SCAN FOR MORE:



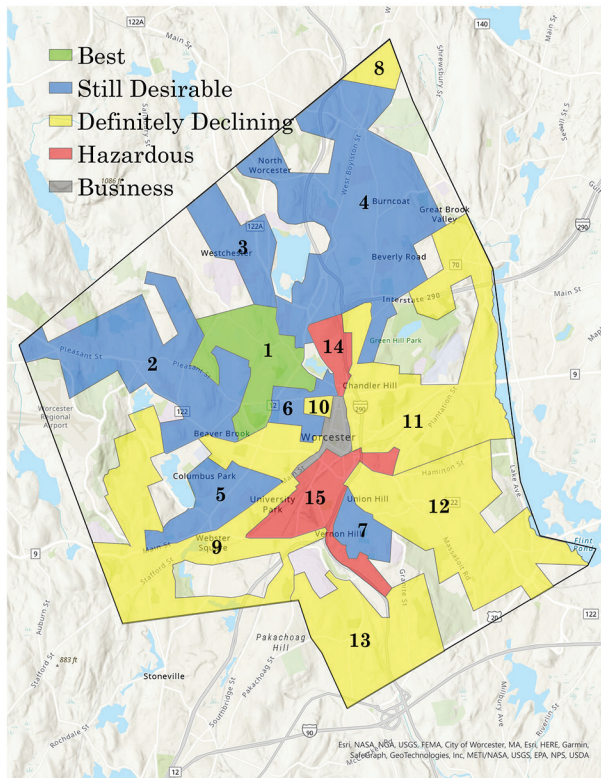
Event: Worcester's Redlined History

ENERGY BURDEN (% INCOME)

- 2%
- 3%
- 4%

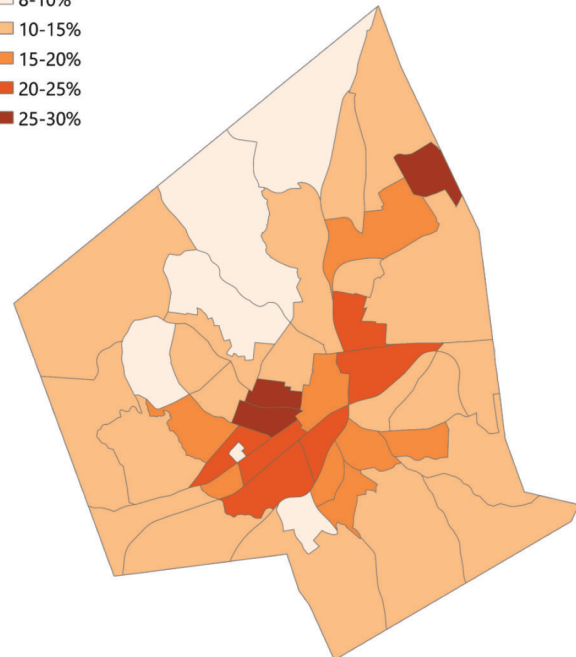


WORCESTER'S REDLINING MAP



FAIR/POOR SELF-RATED HEALTH STATUS AMONG ADULTS (≥18)

- 8-10%
- 10-15%
- 15-20%
- 20-25%
- 25-30%



THOMAS S. GREEN PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS

EACH YEAR, THE RESEARCH BUREAU RECOGNIZES THE "UNSUNG HEROES" IN MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

who are committed to making Worcester and nearby communities better places to live and work.

THE 2023 THOMAS S. GREEN PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

recipients were honored at Mechanics Hall on May 17, 2023.



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Worcester Railers
Worcester Wares

SCAN FOR MORE:

2023 Thomas S. Green Public Service Awards



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THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING
2022
wrrb.org

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RESEARCH. DATA. LEADERSHIP.
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15TH, 2022 | DCU CENTER | 4PM TO 6:30PM

FEATURED PANELISTS

"Greater Worcester's Talent Advantage for Life Sciences"



Kenneth L. Turner

President & CEO
MASSACHUSETTS LIFE
SCIENCES CENTER



Rita L. Smith

Regional Director
Business HR – Americas
Pharma (US/PR/BRA)
ABBVIE



Brian Cohen

Senior Vice President
CBRE/NEW ENGLAND
CONSULTING GROUP

SCAN FOR MORE:



WRRB's 37th
Annual Meeting

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

JUNE 27, 2023

Board Meeting AT MERCANTILE CENTER MARKETING SUITE

Guest Speaker: Eric Batista | Worcester City Manager

SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

Board Reception AT KELLEHER & SADOWSKY

OCTOBER 3, 2023

Board Meeting AT GREATER WORCESTER COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Guest Speaker: Pete Dunn | President & CEO, Greater Worcester Community Foundation



FAIRMAN C. COWAN MUNICIPAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

A SHIP REQUIRES MANY HANDS TO STEER IT THROUGH BOTH CALM AND FURY. In his tenure as **City Manager, Edward M. Augustus, Jr.** demonstrated his ability to lead those many hands of Worcester through both good times and bad. Sailing Worcester along the sunny shores of the cultural and economic “Worcester Renaissance,” through the turbulence of an unprecedented pandemic, and all the while bringing a new baseball team aboard, Ed captained the well-built ship with a clear vision. The Research Bureau presents this award in appreciation of all Ed has done for the City and its people.



ANNUAL MEETING SPEAKERS

- 2023** **RENÉE CUMMINGS**, Professor of Practice in Data Science and first Data Activist-in-Residence University of Virginia
- 2022** **KENNETH L. TURNER**, President & CEO, Massachusetts Life Sciences Center
RITA L. SMITH, Regional Director of Business HR – Americas Pharma, AbbVie
BRIAN COHEN, Senior Vice President CBRE/New England Consulting Group
- 2021** **DR. LAURIE LESHIN**, President, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- 2020** **DR. ROSABETH MOSS KANTER**, Ernest L. Arbuckle Professor of Business Administration, Harvard Business School
- 2019** **DR. FRANCIS COLLINS**, Director, National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- 2018** **DR. KERRY HEALEY**, President, Babson College, and former Lieutenant Governor
- 2017** **JAMES A. PEYSER**, Secretary of Education, Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- 2016** **JOHN H. SUNUNU**, Former Governor, State of New Hampshire, and White House Chief of Staff
- 2015** **JONATHAN KRAFT**, President, The Kraft Group
- 2014** **JAY ASH**, City Manager of Chelsea
BERNARD F. LYNCH, Founder, Community Paradigm Associates, LLC
MICHAEL V. O'BRIEN, Executive Vice President, Winn Development
- 2013** **EDWARD GLAESER**, Fred and Eleanor Glimp Professor of Economics, Harvard University
- 2012** **ERIC S. ROSENGREN**, President & CEO, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston
- 2011** **SENATOR SCOTT BROWN**
- 2010** **LISA A. MANCINI**, Senior Vice President, CSX Corporation
- 2009** **AMITY SHLAES**, Bloomberg News Columnist, Political Economist
- 2008** **JOHN W. ROWE**, Chairman, President & CEO, Exelon Corporation
- 2007** **DR. THOMAS PAYZANT**, former Superintendent of the Boston Public Schools and senior lecturer at the Harvard Graduate School of Education
- 2006** **DR. DAVID DRISCOLL**, Commissioner of Education, Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- 2005** **TAMAR JACOBY**, Author and Senior Fellow at the Manhattan Institute
- 2004** **JOHN GANNON**, Staff Director, U.S. House of Representatives, Select Committee on Homeland Security
- 2003** **GOVERNOR MITT ROMNEY**, Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- 2002** **FRED SIEGEL**, Professor of History, The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art, New York City, and Senior Fellow Progressive Policy Institute
- 2001** **HEATHER MACDONALD**, Senior Fellow, The Manhattan Institute
- 2000** **REV. DR. FLOYD H. FLAKE**, Senior Pastor, Allen African Methodist Episcopal Church and former U.S. Representative to Congress
- 1999** **HOWARD HUSOCK**, Director of Case Studies in Public Policy and Management Kennedy School, Harvard University
- 1998** **MYRON MAGNET**, Editor, City Journal
- 1997** **THOMAS BIRMINGHAM**, Senate President, Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- 1996** **GLENN C. LOURY**, Professor of Economics, Boston University
- 1995** **PETER HARKNESS**, Editor and Publisher of Governing
- 1994** **JAMES Q. WILSON**, Author and Professor of Political Science, UCLA
- 1993** **ROBERT POOLE**, President, Reason Foundation
- 1992** **WILLIAM HUDNUT**, former Mayor of Indianapolis
- 1991** **DAVID P. FORSBERG**, Secretary, Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- 1990** **BRUCE CARNES**, Director of Budget Planning, Office of National Drug Control Policy
- 1989** **EDWARD J. LOGUE**, CEO, Logue Boston, former Director of the Boston Redevelopment Authority
- 1988** **RAYMOND FLYNN**, Mayor of Boston
- 1987** **WILLIAM BULGER**, Senate President, Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- 1986** **IRA JACKSON**, Commissioner, Department of Revenue, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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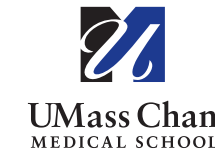
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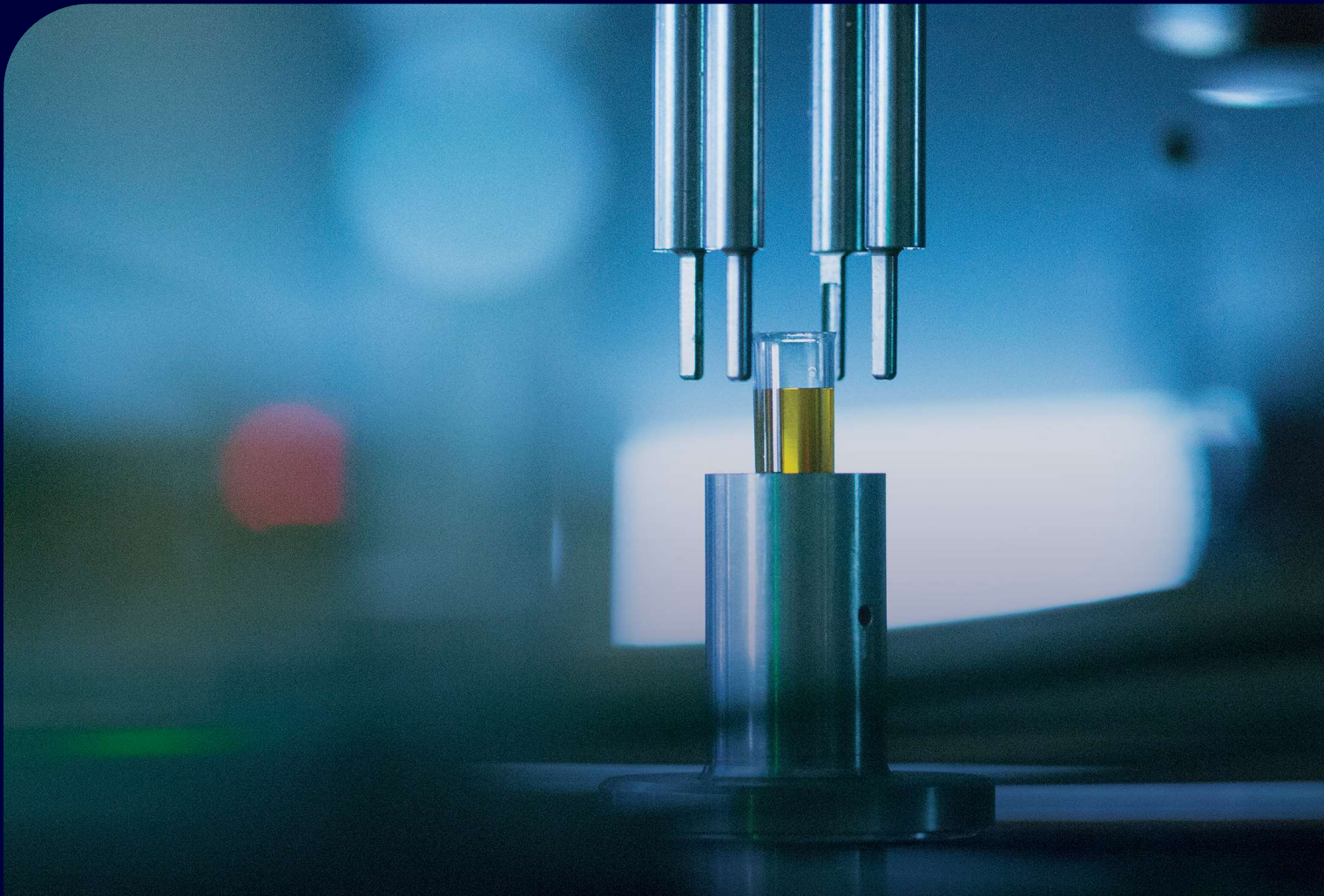



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