



CITY OF WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL

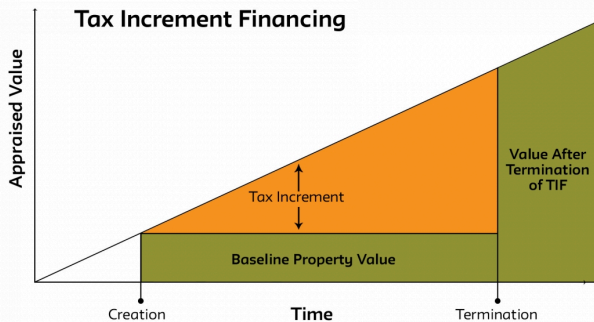
WEEKLY SUMMARY

9/8/2025 - 9/14/2025



CITY COUNCIL MEETING - 9/9/2025

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE FULL AGENDA & MINUTES!](#) [CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE MEETING!](#)



ITEM 11.4A

INFORMATIONAL COMMUNICATION RELATIVE TO THE SEMI-ANNUAL TAX INCREMENT FINANCING AND TAX INCREMENT EXEMPTION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 2025.

THE WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL HEARD INFORMATIONAL COMMUNICATION RELATIVE TO THE CITY SEMI-ANNUAL TAX INCREMENT FINANCING (TIF) AND TAX INCREMENT EXEMPTION (TIE) REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 2025. THE TERM TAX INCREMENT FINANCING (TIF) IS USED FOR COMMERCIAL PROJECTS UNDER THE STATE'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM, WHILE THE TERM TAX INCREMENT EXEMPTION (TIE) IS USED FOR RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS UNDER THE STATE'S HOUSING DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM. THERE ARE CURRENTLY 13 ACTIVE, POST-CONSTRUCTION TIF PROJECTS THAT COLLECTIVELY REPRESENT

APPROXIMATELY \$332.8 MILLION IN PRIVATE INVESTMENT, WHICH HAS LED TO THE CREATION OF 911 NEW FULL-TIME JOBS AND THE RETENTION OF 362 FULL-TIME JOBS. THERE ARE CURRENTLY EIGHT ACTIVE, POST-CONSTRUCTION TIE PROJECTS RESPONSIBLE FOR CREATING 842 UNITS OF HOUSING AND TOTALING APPROXIMATELY \$303 MILLION IN PRIVATE INVESTMENT.



ITEM 11.15A

RECOMMENDING ADOPTION OF PROPOSED HOME RULE PETITION AUTHORIZING THE MUNICIPALITY TO ADOPT A ZONING ORDINANCE REQUIRING INSTITUTIONAL MASTER PLANS.

THE WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL HEARD INFORMATIONAL COMMUNICATION RELATIVE TO A PROPOSED HOME RULE PETITION AUTHORIZING THE MUNICIPALITY TO ADOPT A ZONING ORDINANCE REQUIRING INSTITUTIONAL MASTER PLANS. THE LEGISLATION WOULD AUTHORIZE THE MUNICIPALITY TO ADOPT REGULATIONS REQUIRING LARGE-SCALE INSTITUTIONS TO SUBMIT AND RECEIVE APPROVAL OF AN INSTITUTIONAL MASTER PLAN TO THE PLANNING BOARD. THESE INSTITUTIONAL MASTER PLANS ARE ALREADY A COMMON PRACTICE IN THE COMMONWEALTH IN CITIES LIKE BOSTON AND CAMBRIDGE.

THE SPECIAL PERMIT WOULD REQUIRE SUBMITTAL OF A MASTER PLAN IDENTIFYING FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND ADDRESSING FACTORS SUCH AS PROPOSED BUILDING EXPANSIONS, PARKING PLANS, SITE IMPROVEMENTS, TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES.



CITY OF WORCESTER

CITY COUNCIL

WEEKLY SUMMARY

Standing Committee Meetings



PUBLIC SAFETY:

MET ON TUESDAY, 9/9/2025

- CHAIRPERSON - **KATHLEEN M. TOOMEY - CITY COUNCILOR-AT-LARGE**
- VICE CHAIRPERSON - **MORRIS A. BERGMAN - CITY COUNCILOR-AT-LARGE**
- COMMITTEE MEMBER - **LUIS A. OJEDA - DISTRICT 4 CITY COUNCILOR**
- [CLICK HERE TO VIEW FULL AGENDA!](#)
- [CLICK HERE TO VIEW MEETING!](#)



PUBLIC SERVICE & TRANSPORTATION:

MET ON MONDAY, 9/8/2025

- CHAIRPERSON - **DONNA M. COLORIO - CITY COUNCILOR-AT-LARGE**
- VICE CHAIRPERSON - **GEORGE J. RUSSELL - DISTRICT 3 CITY COUNCILOR**
- COMMITTEE MEMBER - **JENNY PACILLO - DISTRICT 1 CITY COUNCILOR**
- [CLICK HERE TO VIEW FULL AGENDA!](#)
- [CLICK HERE TO VIEW MEETING!](#)



Events in the Community



COUNCILOR RUSSELL HONORARY HOLY CROSS CAPTAIN - 9/13

AFTER ALMOST TWO DECADES OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO THE WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL, DISTRICT 3 CITY COUNCILOR GEORGE J. RUSSELL WAS MADE AN HONORARY CAPTAIN AND CONDUCTED THE COIN TOSS FOR THE HOLY CROSS FOOTBALL HOME OPENER AGAINST RHODE ISLAND ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH. THE SATURDAY HOLY CROSS GAME ALSO FEATURED 'FIRST RESPONDER DAY' IN RECOGNITION OF WORCESTER'S FIRE, POLICE, AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS. OTHER HONORABLE CAPTAINS INCLUDED DEPUTY POLICE CHIEF MATTHEW D'ANDREA, DEPUTY TIM MCDONALD OF WORCESTER EMS, AND DISTRICT CHIEF OF FIRE PREVENTION SCOTT ARMSTRONG. THE FIRST HOME GAME WAS A DAY FILLED WITH FESTIVITIES AND CELEBRATIONS AS STUDENTS, FANS, AND FAMILIES CAME TOGETHER TO CHEER ON THE HOMETOWN CRUSADERS.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- **TUESDAY, 9/16/2025**

- @ 6:30 P.M. - **CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

- @ City Hall, Esther Howland Chamber
- [CLICK HERE FOR THE FULL AGENDA](#)
- [CLICK HERE TO CALL IN THE DAY OF](#)
- City Council Zoom Phone Number: +1 646 828 7666
- ZOOM ACCESS CODE: 161 363 1913

- **WEDNESDAY, 9/17/2025**

- @ 5:00 P.M. - **TRAFFIC AND PARKING COMMITTEE**

- @ CITY HALL, ESTHER HOWLAND CHAMBER
- [CLICK HERE FOR THE FULL AGENDA](#)
- [CLICK HERE TO CALL IN THE DAY OF](#)
- ZOOM PHONE # : +1 646 828 7666
- ZOOM ACCESS CODE: 161 411 9888



UPCOMING *COMMUNITY* *MEETINGS*

- **WEDNESDAY - SEPTEMBER 17 -**
 - **GRAFTON HILL NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING**
 - TIME: 6:00 P.M.
 - WHERE: MA AUDUBON BROOK CONSERVATION CENTER, 414 MASSASOIT RD
 - **INDIAN LAKE NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING**
 - TIME: 6:00 P.M.
 - WHERE: WORCESTER BUSINESS CENTER, 67 MILLBROOK ST
 - **BROWN SQUARE NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING**
 - TIME: 7:00 P.M.
 - WHERE: BROWN SQUARE CIVIC CLUB, 639 FRANKLIN ST
- **THURSDAY - SEPTEMBER 18 -**
 - **MILL STREET NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING**
 - TIME: 6:00 P.M.
 - WHERE: STEARNS TAVERN, 72 COES ST
 - **UNION HILL NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING**
 - TIME: 6:00 P.M.
 - WHERE: WORCESTER ACADEMY, 81 PROVIDENCE ST
- **WEDNESDAY - SEPTEMBER 24 -**
 - **WHITTIER TERRACE APARTMENTS NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING**
 - TIME: 4:00 P.M.
 - WHERE: WHITTIER TERRACE, 86 AUSTIN ST
 - **QUINSIGAMOND VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING**
 - TIME: 6:00 P.M.
 - WHERE: JOURNEY COMMUNITY CHURCH, 46 GREENWOOD ST



**REMEMBER,
YOU CAN ALWAYS
LOOK BACK
TO REVIEW OUR
PREVIOUS ISSUES!**





Worcester Arts Council's FY26 Grant Applications Open

The Worcester Arts Council (WAC) is now accepting grant applications for its FY26 funding cycle. The deadline to apply is Oct. 16, 2025.

As part of a statewide network of Local Cultural Councils (LCCs), WAC receives funding through Mass Cultural Council (MCC) annually. For FY26, WAC will once again award thousands for local arts and cultural programs in Worcester to individuals, nonprofits, associations with an established nonprofit objective, schools, libraries, and other public agencies.

This year, MCC is awarding WAC \$236,500 for its grants. The Greater Worcester Community Foundation (GWCF) has also renewed its support for an additional \$10,000 toward WAC Fellowship Grants.

"At a time when arts and humanities funding faces freezes and cutbacks at the national level, we are deeply grateful that our state and local partners remain steadfast in their commitment to Worcester's cultural life," said Cultural Development Officer Fabian Barracks. "The Massachusetts Cultural Council and the Greater Worcester Community Foundation continue to champion the arts, providing crucial support that uplifts creative voices, strengthens community connections, and ensures our city remains a vibrant hub of innovation, diversity, and inclusivity."

WAC offers two types of grants: Project Grants and Fellowship Grants. Project Grants support individuals and organizations from Worcester County in developing projects and programs within the city that are innovative, collaborative, provide a public benefit, reach underserved populations, and demonstrate creative excellence. Fellowship Grants help Worcester artists of all trades in developing and exploring their work outside the structure of a specific project.

"The Worcester Arts Council is thrilled to launch our FY26 grant cycle, and we're eager to see the incredible projects and creative visions our community will bring to life," said WAC Chair Chris Michelotti. "This year's funding supports WAC's commitment to nurturing Worcester's vibrant cultural landscape. We believe that every idea, big or small, has the power to transform our city. Whether you're an artist, an educator, or a cultural organization, this is your opportunity to make a lasting impact and help shape the arts in Worcester."

While all projects within the realm of arts, sciences, and humanities will be considered, based on the feedback received from the Worcester community through its annual Funding Priorities Survey, WAC will give preference to grant applicants and projects that align with the following priorities for FY26:

- Projects that focus on Arts Education & Instruction, Public Art, Musical Performances, and programs for all age groups from children to seniors.
- Projects that elevate the voices and experiences of historically marginalized groups to highlight the current and historical diversity of Worcester. Projects should create opportunities for artists and community members through a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility lens.
- Projects that take place in/or benefit areas of Worcester that are historically underserved.

WAC's FY26 Grant Guidelines and instructions on how to apply can be found at: [Arts & Culture Grants | City of Worcester, MA \(worcesterma.gov\)](#).

All applications must be submitted online by Oct. 16, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. Late applications will not be accepted. WAC will review all grant applications from November through December 2025. Applicants will be notified of funding decisions by late January 2026. There will be a virtual grantee workshop hosted by MCC on Sept. 9, 2025, at 6 p.m. Register here: [MCC Registration](#)

WAC will also host a virtual Grant Workshop on Zoom for potential applicants. WAC encourages anyone who may be interested in learning more or applying, especially first-time applicants, to attend. Follow [@worcesterartscouncil](#) on Instagram for announcement details.



CITY OF WORCESTER

CITY COUNCIL WEEKLY SUMMARY

YOUR City Councilors

WORCESTER'S CITY COUNCIL CONSISTS OF ELEVEN COUNCIL MEMBERS, INCLUDING THE MAYOR & COUNCILOR-AT-LARGE, JOSEPH M. PETTY. THESE ELEVEN ELECTED OFFICIALS SERVE AS THE LEGISLATIVE BODY OF THE CITY. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR REPRESENTING THE INTERESTS AND NEEDS OF THEIR CITY AND COMMUNITY.

THERE ARE SIX COUNCILORS-AT-LARGE AND FIVE COUNCILORS THAT EACH REPRESENT A SPECIFIC DISTRICT IN WORCESTER (DISTRICTS 1-5).

IF YOU ARE UNSURE OF WHO YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILOR IS, [CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT!](#)

AT-LARGE CITY COUNCILORS



MAYOR
JOSEPH M. PETTY



VICE CHAIRMAN
KHRYSTIAN E. KING



MORRIS A.
BERGMAN



THU
NGUYEN



KATHLEEN M.
TOOMEY



DONNA M.
COLORIO

DISTRICT CITY COUNCILORS



DISTRICT 1
JENNY PACILLO



DISTRICT 2
CANDY MERO-CARLSON



DISTRICT 3
GEORGE J. RUSSELL



DISTRICT 4
LUIS A. OJEDA, SR.



DISTRICT 5
ETEL HAXHIAJ



WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL
MEETING SCHEDULE – 2025

January

January 7 – **Joint Agenda**
January 14 – **City Council Agenda**
January 21 – **City Manager Agenda**
January 28 – **City Council Agenda – Finance**

February

February 4 – **City Manager Agenda**
February 11 – **City Council Agenda**
February 18 – **No Meeting – School Break**
February 25 – **Joint Agenda – Finance**

March

March 4 – **City Manager Agenda / Econ. Dev.**
March 11 – **City Council Agenda**
March 18 – **City Manager Agenda**
March 25 – **City Council Agenda – Finance**

April

April 1 – **City Manager Agenda**
April 8 – **City Council Agenda**
April 15 – **City Manager Agenda**
April 22 – **No Meeting – School Break**
April 29 – **Joint Agenda – Finance**

May

May 6 – **City Council Agenda**
May 13 – **City Manager Agenda**
May 20 – **No Meeting – Budget Hearings**
May 27 – **No Meeting – Budget Hearings**

June

June 3 – **No Meeting – Shavuot**
June 10 – **Joint Agenda**
June 17 – **City Council Agenda**
June 24 – **City Manager Evaluation**

July

July 1 – **No Meeting**
July 8 – **No Meeting**
July 15 – **Joint Agenda**
July 22 – **No Meeting**
July 29 – **No Meeting**

August

August 5 – **No Meeting**
August 12 – **No Meeting**
August 19 – **Joint Agenda**
August 26 – **No Meeting**

September

September 2 – **No Meeting – Mun. Prelim.**
September 9 – **Joint Agenda / Econ. Dev.**
September 16 – **City Manager Agenda**
September 23 – **No Meeting – Rosh Hashanah**
September 30 – **Joint Agenda – Finance**

October

October 7 – **No Meeting – Sukkot**
October 14 – **No Meeting –
Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah**
October 21 – **Joint Agenda – Finance**
October 28 – **No Meeting – Early Voting**

November

November 4 – **No Meeting – Mun. Election**
November 11 – **Joint Agenda**
November 18 – **City Council Agenda – Fin.**
November 25 – **City Manager Agenda**

December

December 2 – **No Meeting – Holiday**
December 9 – **Joint Agenda**
December 16 – **City Council Agenda – Fin.**
December 23 – **City Manager Agenda**
December 30 – **No Meeting – School Break**

Each Meeting convenes at 6:30 p.m. in the Esther Howland (South) Chamber on the Third Floor of City Hall, 455 Main Street. The only exceptions are in the months of July and August, when meetings convene at 6:00 p.m.