

Participation in Public Meetings



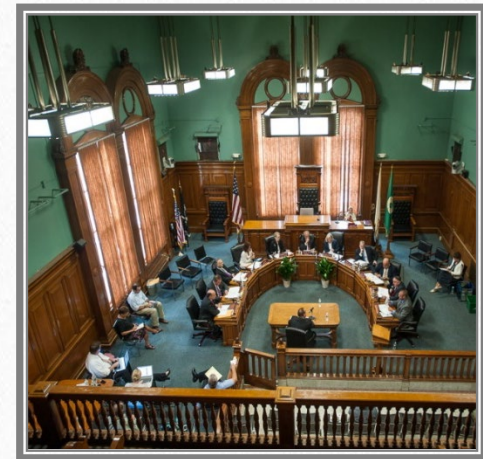
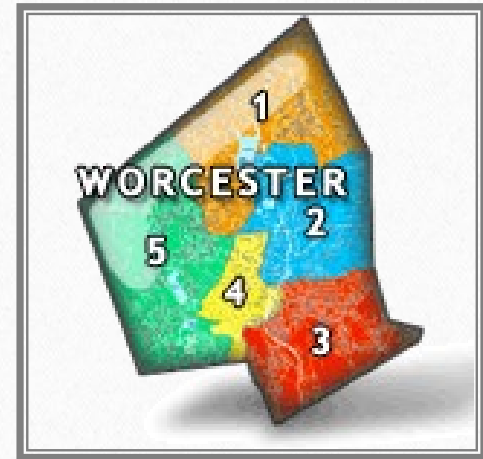
Public Meetings

City Council, School Committee and City of Worcester Boards and Commission meetings are generally all open to the public and interested individuals are encouraged to attend.



City Council

- Worcester is governed by a Council-manager form of government with a popularly elected mayor.
- A city council acts as the legislative body, and the council-appointed manager handles the traditional day-to-day chief executive functions.

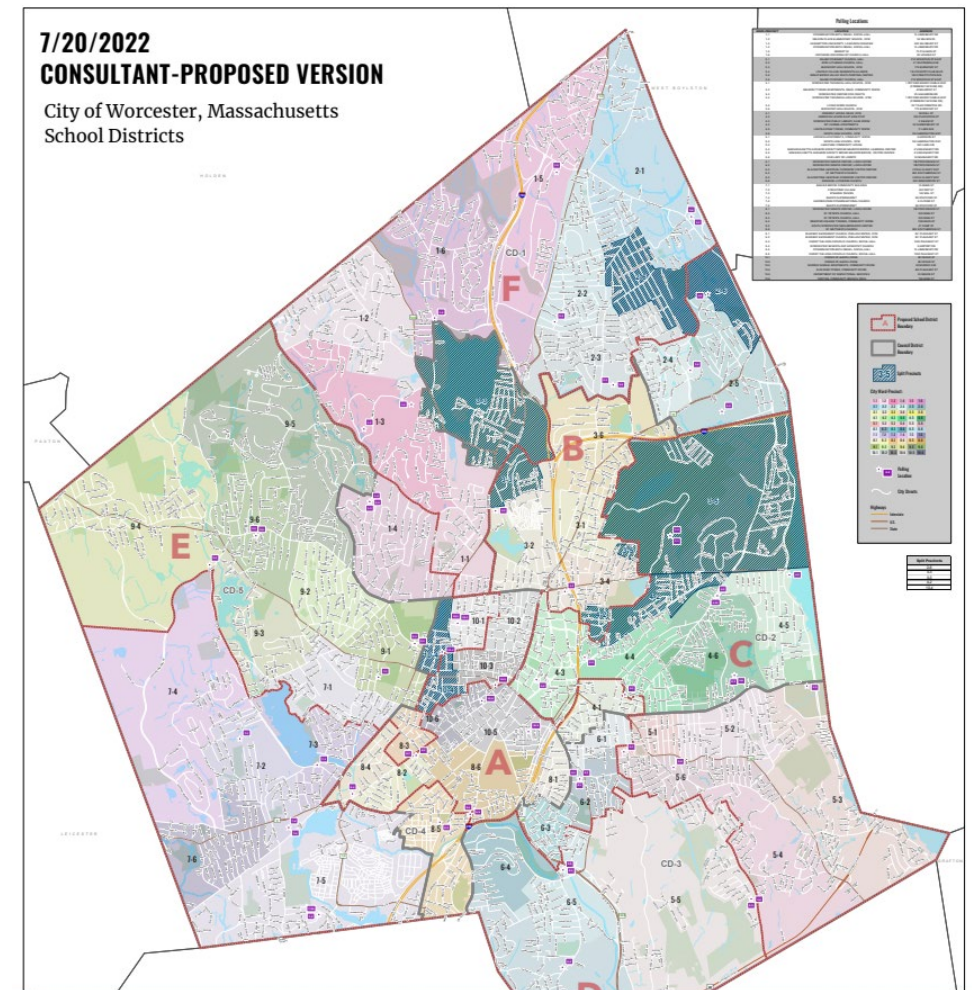


School Committee



- The Worcester School Committee is the legislative and policy-making body that deals with supervision of the Worcester Public School System.
- The School Committee selects and terminates the superintendent, approves public education budgets in the district and sets educational policies and goals for each school in the district consistent with the laws, goals and standards set by the MA Board of Education.

school-districts.pdf





City of Worcester Boards & Commissions

- Worcester residents serve as volunteers on thirty municipal boards, commissions, and advisory committees.
- Meeting locations, days and times vary; check the online city calendar.

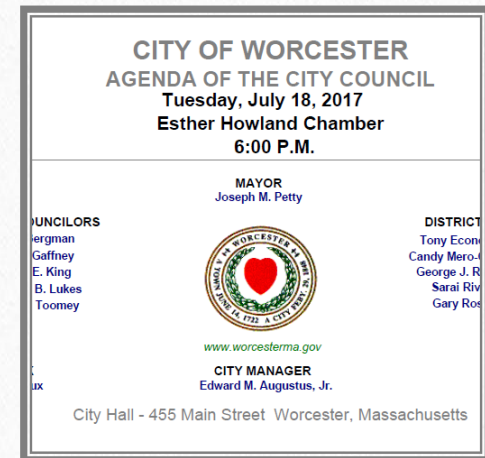
Why attend?

- By attending public meetings, you can become informed about different issues in the City as well as comment on problems or solutions.
- Local government is responsible for parks, libraries, public schools, public streets and sidewalks, voter registration and polling locations, business licenses, commercial and residential zoning and permitting for construction, ensuring there are adequate numbers of police and firefighters on duty to respond when you need them and much more.



How will I know what is going on?

- The laws governing public meetings mandate that an agenda must be publicly posted 48 hours ahead of time that outlines what will be discussed.
- Printed copies of the agenda are also available to the public during meetings.
- [City Clerk | City of Worcester, MA](#)
[\(worcesterma.gov\)](http://worcesterma.gov)



Can I ask a question or comment?



- A public comment period is generally provided during each meeting.
- Once called upon to speak by the Chairperson, the member of the public should begin by announcing their name and city/town of residence and reference which agenda item they wish to address.

Suggestions for advocating your case

Attending public meetings helps keep you informed of issues and is a forum to express your comments and suggestions. Be sure to review the board description and meeting minutes from past meetings so you are informed about the issue as well as the jurisdiction and/or authority of each board for the decision you seek.

Helpful pointers:

- Do your research- Collect information that strengthens your position
- Assess if there is community support or opposition
- Write out your position and support it with references
- Speak loud, clear and respectful to all.



City Council Rules / Terminology

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