

**West Warwick**  
**Bond Ratings (as of February 2003)**

**Moody's: Baa1**

**Fitch: BBB**

**Standard & Poor's: -**

In order to assess a community's financial condition, credit rating agencies focus on measuring a community's available resources to meet existing and projected obligations. The following indicators have been developed to gauge these factors in order to provide an overview of a community's relative fiscal health. Taxpayers should not focus on any singular measure. Rather, they should evaluate their community's overall fiscal health using a range of the indicators discussed below.

The **General Fund balance as a percentage of the General Fund operating revenues** grew from 4.2% by the beginning of FY 2001 to 6.0% by the end of the year. One should note that some municipalities include school revenues and expenditures in a Special Revenue Fund and not in the General Fund. Therefore, this indicator doesn't include these revenues and expenditures for those communities. Hence, this indicator should only be used to evaluate if the fund balance has grown or declined during the year. It should not be used as a comparison among communities.

West Warwick has an **unfunded private municipal pension liability** in the amount of \$5,562,391 in FY 2000.

The **estimated effective tax rate**, which is a tool to compare the overall property tax burden in each community is \$28.29 as of December 31, 1999. The state median is \$22.27. The tax levy as a percentage of the estimated full value is 2.8%. The state median is 2.2%.

The **outstanding long-term debt** per capita is \$886 and \$44 per \$1,000 of Personal Income. The statewide average is \$1,912 per capita and \$88 per \$1,000 of Personal Income. The outstanding debt as a percentage of estimated full value is 2.1%, while the statewide average is 3.3%.

West Warwick's bond rating of Baa1 by Moody's and Fitch's rating of BBB is considered as medium grade obligations. The estimated effective tax rate is \$28.29, ranking the town third in the state as of December 31, 1999. The unfunded pension liability for the municipal pension plan amounts to \$5,562,391 in FY 2000. The General Fund balance as a percentage of the General Fund operating revenues grew during FY 2001. The outstanding long-term debt per capita is 53.6% below the statewide average, ranking the town 25th in the state.

All municipal audits are required to be completed no later than six months after the close of the fiscal year. The Office of the Auditor General has discretion to grant extensions of up to three months after the legal deadline. West Warwick's audit report for FY 2000 was submitted within the extension period and the audit report for FY 2001 was submitted on time.

**General Information**

Form of Government	Council-Manager
Population 2000	29,581
Personal Income Per Capita CY 2000	\$20,250

**Property Tax Data FY 2001 (Assessment as of 12/31/1999)**

Estimated Full Value	\$1,272,539,063
Property tax collection rate	98.6%
Tax Rates by Class:	
Residential RE Tax Rate	\$30.15
Homestead Provision	NA
Commercial RE Tax Rate	30.15
Inventory Tax Rate	23.54
Motor Vehicle Tax Rate	28.47
Personal Property Tax Rate	30.15
Estimated Effective Tax Rate	28.29
State Median	22.27
Tax Levy as Percentage of Full Value	2.8%
State Median	2.2%

