

Est. 1959



LONGWOOD

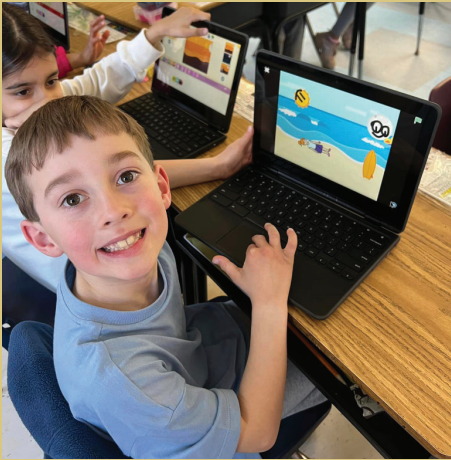
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

2024 Budget/Bond Edition

Remember to
VOTE

Tuesday,
May 21, 2024

Poll Hours:
7:00 am - 9:00 pm



A Message from the Board President and Superintendent

Dear Longwood School Community,

On Tuesday, May 21, 2024, the Longwood community will have the opportunity to vote on our annual school budget, the election of three board members, along with an exciting bond proposal designed to maintain and upgrade our school district's facilities, while we continue to expand upon opportunities and experiences for every student to reach their true potential.

What's on the ballot?

- **School District Budget:** The proposed 2024-2025 budget builds upon our continued efforts to support "Every One Every Day" through our robust educational programs and experiences for our students while continuing to uphold our fiscal responsibilities to our community. Please see pages 2 and 3 for details.
- **Bond Proposition I:** The Capital Improvement Project is designed to maintain and upgrade infrastructure districtwide, inclusive of security upgrades, roof replacements, interior door replacements, bathroom repairs, enhanced facilities for all students, and the addition of Certified Career programs (CTE). Projects are estimated to cost \$158,000,000 and will qualify for approximately 75% reimbursement through NYSED Building Aid. See pages 4 and 5 for more information.
- **Establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund:** Voters will be asked to establish a reserve to finance various future district capital projects. This can be best described as a savings account to offset the tax levy impact for specific future capital improvement expenses.
- **Bond Proposition II:** Our community will also have the opportunity to vote on completing the installation of air conditioning for each and every building throughout the district. (Proposition II is contingent on the passing of Proposition I).
- **Board Election:** Three seats for a three-year term starting July 2024. See pages 6 and 7 for details.

Our community continues to demonstrate incredible support and dedication to our schools, and we are grateful for our partnerships with our students, staff, families, and community as well as our shared vision of educational excellence.

Remember, your vote – every vote – counts! As always, we sincerely thank you for your ongoing support of our students, our schools, and the entire Longwood School community.

Sincerely,

Victoria Molloy
Board of Education, President

Lance Lohman, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



Longwood
Central School District
35 Yaphank Middle Island Road
Middle Island, NY 11953

Board of Education

Victoria Molloy, President
Daniel Tomaszewski, Vice President
Penelope J. Blizzard-McGrath, Esq.
William Massian
Rhonda Stitham, Ed.D.
Gina Pozzolano Gebbia
Christina Jackson

Superintendent of Schools
Lance Lohman, Ed.D.

Current Resident



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New York 11961
****MANWSS***

PROPOSITION I: 2024-2025 BUDGET SUMMARY

Expenditure Category	Budget 2023-2024	Budget 2024-2025
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 217,046,941	\$ 220,332,999
Equipment	1,999,409	1,985,906
Supplies	3,681,976	3,651,912
Tuition	8,394,320	10,722,295
Contractual	30,201,478	32,147,907
BOCES	19,181,834	21,994,937
Debt Service	9,059,042	8,679,044
Transfer to Other Funds	535,000	535,000
Capital Projects	<u>900,000</u>	<u>450,000</u>
TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 291,000,000	\$ 300,500,000

Transportation: Second year of a two year extension for home-to-school totaling \$18,536,819 and field trip/athletic transportation totaling \$896,022.

Capital Project: Districtwide Mechanic Upgrades.

Copiers: Third year of a four year installment purchase agreement totaling \$148,359.

Revenue Category	2023-2024	2024-2025
Tax Levy	\$ 156,552,750	\$ 159,361,467
State Aid	119,442,311	123,313,326
Applied Fund Balance	6,000,000	6,000,000
Reserves	700,000	2,700,000
PILOT Payments	2,500,000	3,000,000
Other Revenue	<u>5,804,939</u>	<u>6,125,207</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 291,000,000	\$ 300,500,000

Percent of Tax Levy Increase: 1.79%

Estimated Tax Rate Per \$100 Assessed Value:* \$301.19

* Based on the assessed value for 2023-2024. The assessed value is subject to change for 2024-2025.

Estimated Increase for Average Home (assessed at \$2,442): \$129.63

Strong Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Practices

- Continuing to expand certified Career and Technical (CTE) programs
- Maintaining and building upon our dual enrollment course offerings
- Expanding career exploration and internship opportunities

Empowered Students, Staff, and School Community

- Continuing to support student, staff, and community voice
- Increasing collaborative school/community events
- Advancing our campus branding and beautification projects

Collaborative School and Community Partnerships

- Building upon our strong community connections
- Strengthening our partnerships with community organizations and leaders
- Continuing to engage alumni

Efficient and Effective Operations

- Enhancing our recruitment plan to hire, train, and retain the very best
- Implementing additional school security measures
- Maintaining an outstanding financial credit rating of AA+



REMEMBER TO VOTE - TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024 FROM 7:00 AM - 9:00 PM

A copy of the full budget is available on the district website at www.longwood.k12.ny.us.

ON THE BALLOT: ESTABLISH A CAPITAL RESERVE FUND



In addition to voting on the 2024-2025 school district budget, our community will be asked to vote on establishing a Capital Reserve Fund (CRF). A CRF is a savings account set up by the district to finance future building renovations and potential infrastructure needs. The CRF seeks taxpayer authorization, and the district can only use the funds with another vote authorizing their use for a specific purpose.

The establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund comes at no additional cost to our taxpayers.

POINTS OF PRIDE

- Graduation rates reached 91% in 2023, up from 83% in 2013.
- Our music program was awarded the prestigious New York State School Music Association Award of Excellence, which designates our program as the best in New York State.
- Our High School received the Silver Milestone Badge from the NYSED for our Seal of Biliteracy Program. 139 students in the Class of 2023 graduated with the distinguished Seal of Biliteracy, making Longwood fourth in all of New York State.
- More than 90% of our student-athletes earned the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Scholar Athletic Team Award.
- Many High School students are participating in our Seal of Civic Readiness Program.
- Fully operational and successful Longwood Career Center.
- Two Longwood seniors designated “Extraordinary Seniors to Watch” by Newsday.
- Hundreds of our students participate annually in NYSSMA festivals and contests.
- Continued growth and development of our Career Academies and Pathways.
- The district maintains a strong financial credit rating of AA+.



BUDGET/BOND VOTER INFORMATION

Voter Registration:

Registration is available at the Office of the District Clerk, 35 Yaphank Middle Island Road in Middle Island, Monday through Friday between 8:30 am - 2:30 pm; Central Registration, 21 Everett Drive, Yaphank, Monday through Friday between 8:00 am and 2:30 pm, or at any one of our schools during school hours. Registration is also available through our website at www.longwood.k12.ny.us. From the home page, click About, Budget/Bond 2024-2025, and follow the links to Voter Registration. The last day to register to vote is May 16, 2024.

Voter Eligibility:

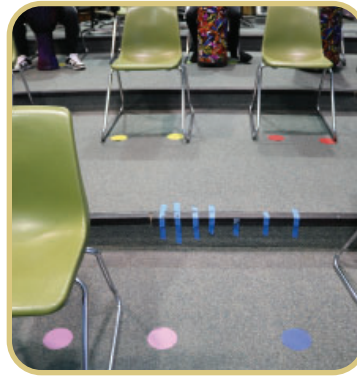
You must be a citizen of the United States, 18 years of age or older on the day of the vote, and a resident of the Longwood School District for at least 30 days prior to May 21, 2024.

Absentee Ballots and Early Mail Ballots:

Applications can be found on the website under District - 2024-2025 Budget - Voting Information. Absentee Ballot and Early Mail Ballot Applications cannot be accepted prior to April 22, 2024. Applications must be received no later than May 14 if the ballot is to be mailed. Applications must be received by the day before the election, May 20, if the ballot is to be personally delivered.



BOND PROPOSITION I: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT



SCOPE OF WORK HIGHLIGHTS

For a complete list of Capital Improvement Projects, visit www.longwood.k12.ny.us

Infrastructure, Health, Safety and Security

- Replacement of aging bathrooms districtwide
- Hardening and replacement of classroom interior doors
- Cafeteria flooring and modernization
- Replacement of damaged ceiling and flooring districtwide
- Districtwide roof replacement (437,255 square feet)
- Districtwide parking lot replacements/additions
- Middle School interior security upgrades
- Redesign of High School Visitor's Entrance for enhanced security

Curriculum and Instructional Enhancement

- Expansion of NYS-Certified Career Academy and Pathway opportunities, including auto, cosmetology and barbering, culinary, medical assistant, engineering technology, and media production
- Redesign and renovations of all Elementary School and Middle School stages
- Update and modernization of the Middle School Music Suite

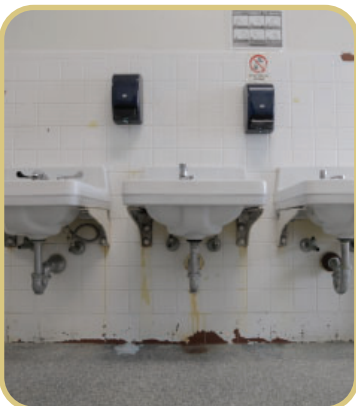
- Modernization of High School Library
- STEAM labs in all Elementary School
- Complete redesign/modernization of Middle School Activity Court

Athletics/Physical Education

- New High School fitness center
- Multi-Sport courts at all Elementary Schools
- Tennis court and track and field resurfacing
- New multi-purpose field and softball field upgrade at the Junior High School
- High School field house repairs and modernization
- Dedicated High School wrestling room
- Replacement of aging bleachers in the High School's main gym

Community Opportunities

- Restoration of the original schoolhouse that will serve as a community resource center
- New concession stands with bathroom access at the Middle School and Junior High School



BOND PROPOSITION II: HVAC

In addition to voting on Proposition I: Capital Improvement Project, our community will have the opportunity to vote on Proposition II, a bond to complete air conditioning installation in all our school buildings. This initiative aims to provide comfortable and conducive learning spaces, ensuring optimal learning conditions, especially during warmer months. It is important to note that this bond's approval (Proposition II) is contingent upon Proposition I's approval.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

BOND PROPOSITION I

Total Project Costs	\$158,000,000
State Aid (74.9%)	\$118,342,000
Reserves (10.89%)	\$ 17,205,525
Taxpayers (14.21%)	\$ 22,452,475

BOND PROPOSITION II

Total Project Costs	\$35,000,000
State Aid (74.9%)	\$26,215,000
Taxpayers (25.1%)	\$ 8,785,000

DID YOU KNOW?

**NEW YORK STATE WILL PAY LONGWOOD
APPROXIMATELY 75 CENTS FOR
EVERY DOLLAR SPENT!**



ADDITIONAL WAYS TO ACCESS SCHOOL BUDGET AND BOND INFORMATION

Our website contains details and information about the school budget and bond. By scanning the QR code, you will be able to:

- Review all budget and bond presentations.
- Confirm that you are registered to vote and find your voting location by clicking "Voter Information."
- Download absentee ballots.



We encourage you to take advantage of this easy-to-use resource to remain informed about the budget and bond.

Please remember to vote on Tuesday, May 21, 2024!

FAQs

Why a bond referendum?

A bond is a mechanism for communities utilized to fund large capital projects. The costs of the capital projects required are too large to include in any one or even a series of operating budgets without significant tax implications for our school community. A bond not only permits the district to spread out project costs over a longer period of time but also to maximize reimbursement through State Aid (currently 74.9 % for Longwood).

Why does the district require so much infrastructure work?

Why does the district require so much infrastructure work? The last large-scale infrastructure project was completed in the early 2000s (over 20 years ago). The bulk of this current project includes both large-scale repairs and upgrades to core infrastructure districtwide, along with new programs that will ensure that our students are first choice ready! For a complete listing of projects, please visit our website at www.longwood.k12.ny.us.

Why is this an ideal time to propose a capital improvement project?

When coupled with the district's current 74.9% NYS Building Aid, this proposal would allow the district to complete these much-needed renovations at a fraction of the total cost.

How are projects selected?

The Board of Education and the administrative team engaged in a long-range master capital planning project, including a districtwide Building Conditions Survey, individual building-level planning sessions, meetings with architects, and districtwide facilities tours in order to address a list of projects needed throughout the districts to ensure that our facilities and programs continue to provide the best opportunities for all of our students.

Additional questions can be found on our website at www.longwood.k12.ny.us.

Candidates for Board of Education:The PTA Council submitted the following questions to board candidates to provide information and goals. The profiles were submitted before the April 5 deadline and were printed without editing. Each candidate has submitted a Candidate Nominating Petition to the District Clerk and is listed as appearing on the ballot. School board members serve three-year terms and receive no pay or benefits for their services.

Matthew Gropper



Children Attending/Attended Longwood Schools:

2 Children attending Longwood Ages 7 and 11

Education:

Longwood HS 2001
Suffolk Community College 2002-2005

Current Occupation/Professional and Business Experience:

Account executive for a global fortune 500 company specializing in technology, infrastructure and life safety systems

Longwood Schools/Community Involvement and Number of Years Served:

Longwood Safety Committee 2003-Present
WMI PTA 6 years
Middle Island Civic Association/Longwood Alliance 15+ Years
Middle Island FD 23 years
MI neighborhood Watch 8 Years (Founder)

Why are you running for the Longwood BOE?

I have been dedicated to our Longwood community for my entire life, growing up as a child here to raising a family and keeping my roots in the Longwood community. I believe my civic involvement combined with my professional career will allow me to support the children, staff, and taxpayers to continue moving our Longwood family forward into the future.

If you could focus your efforts and advocacy on only one issue, what would it be, why, and how would you approach?

Every student finds their way into the workforce by different paths – some via college and others who may pursue career/vocational training. Strengthening Longwood’s commitment to the concept of “not every graduate goes to college” is important as the workforce, and paths to it, have fundamentally changed over the years. Looking for new opportunities and championing programs to ensure that every student can pursue a path that meets their needs is something that I believe I can help strengthen through my professional business experience as well as my 20+ years in the public safety arena.

Victoria Molloy



Children Attending/Attended Longwood Schools: 2 children- Longwood HS Graduate 2021 and a current HS Senior

Current Occupation/Professional and Business Experience:

Chief of Staff, Brookhaven Town Councilman Michael A. Loguercio Jr.
20 years in Healthcare- Nurse

Longwood Schools/Community Involvement and number of years served:

Current Board of Education President, Trustee since 2017
Executive PTA Boards 2008-2018 (Ridge Pres & VP, LMS Treasurer, PTA Council Record. Sec.)
BOE Committees: Legislative, Safety, Policy, Budget
Suffolk County Women’s Advisory Commission Member
Eastern Suffolk BOCES STEM HS Advisory Board, Career and Technical Task Force
Volunteer: Numerous community and civic organizations throughout the district

Ridge Civic Association Exec Board Trustee
Longwood Alliance Committee member

Why are you running for the BOE?

As current BOE President and Longwood Alum, I want to continue to give back to my district and community. It is important that Longwood always continues advancing forward for our future generations. Every child deserves a quality education, endless opportunities, and support to be the best they can.

If you could focus your efforts and advocacy on only one issue, what would it be, why, and how would you approach?

Educational and career opportunities for our students. I will continue to support our Career and Technical Educational programs. Creating more CTE programs gives our students the ability to achieve a license/certificate in a career field they select. Our students being highly skilled will be prepared to enter the work force, attain various professional jobs that are in demand and be successful in their career.

Daniel Tomaszewski



Children Attending/Attended Longwood Schools:

4 Children Graduates
3 Grandchildren Attending

Education:

Longwood High School
BA, MS, SAS, Long Island University.

Current Occupation/Professional & Business Experience:

34 years Longwood Retired
Social Studies Teacher/Chairman
Alternative HS Director
Varsity Football, Wrestling Coach
Student Advisor
Summer School AP
Hampton Bays Alternative High School Principal
NYS School Boards Consultant Trainer
ES BOCES Education Committee Service

Longwood Schools/Community Involvement and Number of Years Served:

21 Years BOE, 7 President, 5 Vice President
13 Years Ridge Fire Department
34 Years Yaphank Fire Department
4 Years Community Council Coordinator
Partnered with town, county, state, and federal officials to acquire resources for Longwood families.

Why are you running for the Longwood BOE?

One of the most important factors in knowing where you need to go is where you have been. Few have more Longwood School District institutional knowledge than I do.

If you could focus your efforts and advocacy on only one issues, what would it be, why, and how would you approach?

Overall safety of students and staff is a primary concern as our society faces challenges in this area that are growing. This includes infrastructure needs as well as social media and other social emotional issues that can be challenging for families alone to manage. It is important that school board members, along with administrative leadership, stay up to date regarding these challenges and partner with elected officials to acquire resources necessary to help ensure a safe environment for our students to learn and grow while keeping cost at levels that are reasonable and sustainable.

School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2023-24 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2024-25 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 291,000,000	\$ 300,500,000	\$ 297,691,283
Increase/Decrease for the 2024-25 School Year		\$ 9,500,000	\$ 6,691,283
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.26 %	2.30 %
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.12 %	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 156,552,750	\$ 159,361,467	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$ -	\$ -	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$ -	\$ -	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$ -	\$ -	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$ 156,552,750	\$ 159,361,467	\$ 156,552,750
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 2,707,070	\$ 2,377,885	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 153,845,680	\$ 156,983,582	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$ 153,845,680	\$ 156,983,582	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ -	\$ -	
Administrative Component	\$ 32,696,125	\$ 34,671,283	\$ 33,447,943
Program Component	\$ 227,223,433	\$ 233,280,786	\$ 232,448,231
Capital Component	\$ 31,080,442	\$ 32,547,931	\$ 31,795,109

* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2024-25 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law .

Eliminate staff: administrators, teachers and support staff; increase class sizes at all grade levels; reduce electives on the secondary level; curtail co-curricular activities; curtail interscholastic athletic program; reduce after-school transportation; cut field trips; limit use of buildings and grounds by community organizations and impose usage fees as required by law; eliminate capital projects and reduce building repairs; and eliminate all equipment purchases.

** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)

Description	Amount
Capital Reserve 2024	
Bond Proposition 1	
Bond Proposition 2 - HVAC	

*NOTE TO SCHOOL DISTRICT BUSINESS OFFICIALS: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: emscmgts@nysed.gov

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year
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Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$ 1,063
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The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2024-25 by the qualified voters of the Longwood Central School District, Suffolk County, New York, will be held at Charles E. Walters, Coram, Ridge, and West Middle Island Elementary School(s) in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 between the hours of 7:00 am and 9:00 pm, prevailing time in the Longwood Central School District, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

Districts should include information according to Executive Orders and as advised by legal counsel.

1. The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law .