



LONGWOOD

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Special Budget Edition 2025

BUDGET VOTE & BOE ELECTION

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

Poll Hours:

7:00 am - 9:00 pm

**2025-26 Proposed Budget:
\$315,000,000**

Budget Increase: 4.83%

3.09% Tax Levy Increase
Homeowners will see their
annual tax bill increase 3.09%



A Message from the Board President and Superintendent

On Thursday, April 3, the Board of Education adopted a proposed budget of \$315,000,000 for the 2025-2026 school year. This year's budget reflects our continued commitment to supporting a strong, inclusive, and well-rounded educational experience for every student here in Longwood, upholding the Board of Education's long-term goals by prioritizing rigorous academic programs, student, staff, and community empowerment, strong school-community partnerships, and fiscal responsibility to our community.

The strength of the Longwood community and partnership with our schools continue to be the driving force behind the continued success of each and every one of our students. No matter the challenge, our students, staff, and families always come together to foster an environment built upon personal growth, connection, and well-being.

We invite you to please take a few moments to review the important information included in this newsletter. Additional details can also be found on our district website at www.longwood.k12.ny.us.

The community budget vote will be held on Tuesday, May 20, from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at all of our elementary schools. In addition, three community members are running for two open seats on the Longwood Board of Education.

Your participation is vital, as every vote matters. On behalf of our Board of Education and the entire Longwood Central School District, we thank you for your continued partnership, trust, and support for our students, staff, and schools.

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

William Massian • Rhonda Stitham, Ed.D. •

Gina Pozzolanio Gebbia • Christina Jackson •

Matthew Gropper

Superintendent of Schools Lance Lohman, Ed.D.

Current Resident



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US Postage Paid
Permit No. 2
Middle Island
New York 11953

*****MANWSS***

PROPOSITION I: 2025-2026

Expenditure Category	Budget 2024-2025	Budget 2025-2026
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 220,332,999	\$ 226,707,249
Equipment	1,985,906	3,337,040
Supplies	3,651,912	3,726,034
Tuition	10,722,295	7,874,261
Contractual	32,147,907	37,982,039
BOCES	21,994,937	25,150,508
Debt Service	8,679,044	9,237,869
Transfer to Other Funds	535,000	535,000
Capital Projects	<u>450,000</u>	<u>450,000</u>
TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 300,500,000	\$ 315,000,000

Transportation: First year of a five year award for home to school totaling \$66,159,271, field trip/athletic transportation totaling \$4,250,840, and summer transportation totaling \$1,695,193.

Capital Project: Districtwide Mechanic Upgrades.

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

Revenue Category	2024-2025	2025-2026
Tax Levy	\$ 159,361,467	\$ 164,288,509
State Aid	123,313,326	132,389,535
Applied Fund Balance	6,000,000	6,000,000
Reserves	2,700,000	700,000
PILOT Payments	3,000,000	3,600,000
Other Revenue	<u>6,125,207</u>	<u>8,021,956</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 300,500,000	\$ 315,000,000

Percent of Tax Levy Increase: 3.09%

Estimated Tax Rate Per \$100 Assessed Value*: \$310.79

* Based on the assessed value for 2024-2025. The assessed value is subject to change for 2025-2026

Estimated Increase for Average Home, assessed at 2,442: \$227.61





Budget Vote

Voter Registration:

Registration is available at the **Office of the District Clerk**, 35 Yaphank Middle Island Road, Middle Island, Monday through Friday between 8:30 am - 2:30 pm, **Central Registration Office**, 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 - On the home page, click About, Budget 2025-2026, and follow the links to Voter Registration. The last day to register to vote is May 13, 2025.

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 20, 2025.

Absentee Ballots:

Applications can be found on the website under District - 2025-2026 Budget - Voting Information. Absentee Ballot and Early Mail Ballot Applications cannot be accepted prior to April 21, 2025. Applications must be received no later than May 13 if the ballot is to be mailed. Applications must be received by the day before the election, May 19, if the ballot is to be personally delivered.

Board of Education



In addition to voting on the proposed budget, you will also be asked to vote for TWO board members for a term of three years commencing July 1, 2025 and expiring June 30, 2028. Candidates are listed as they appear on the ballot.

- ☐ Danielle Pouletsos
- ☐ Rhonda Stitham, Ed.D.
- ☐ William Massian

Polling Locations

11727 Coram, 11763 Medford, and
11766 Mt. Sinai
**CORAM ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**
Intermediate Building
Multi-Purpose Room
61 Coram Mt. Sinai Rd.
Coram, NY
Election District 1

11953 Middle Island and
11764 Miller Place
**WEST MIDDLE ISLAND
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**
Intermediate Building
Multi-Purpose Room
30 Swezey Lane
Middle Island, NY
Election District 2

11961 Ridge and
11786 Shoreham
**RIDGE ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**
Intermediate Building
Multi-Purpose Room
105 Ridge Rd.
Ridge, NY
Election District 3

11980 Yaphank, 11973 Upton and
11967 Shirley/E. Yaphank
**CHARLES E. WALTERS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**
Primary Building
Cafeteria
15 Everett Dr.
Yaphank, NY
Election District 4

For additional details on the 2025-2026 proposed budget, visit our website at
www.longwood.k12.ny.us

Our Students Continue to Excel in Academics, Athletics, Music and Fine Art, and Community Leadership

Academics

Nearly 140 students from the Class of 2024 earned the Seal of Biliteracy, leading our High School to achieve the Silver Milestone Badge from the New York State Department of Education.

Over 320 students are actively engaged in the Seal of Civics Readiness program, contributing to over 1400 hours of community service, fostering connections with local organizations, and forming partnerships with our local legislators and all levels of government agencies.

Students receiving Advanced Regents Diplomas have increased by 70% since 2013.

Our dual enrollment program has been designated number one in New York State, with our seniors receiving more than 250 credits through the Early College Entrance Partnership Program.

The Junior High School maintains its position as one of only 30 New York State Schools designated as an Essential Elements School-to-Watch.

Our High School Robotics team won the Regional Championship at the FIRST Long Island Regional competition at Hofstra University and also earned the prestigious Impact Award, which qualifies the team to compete at the world championships in Houston, Texas.

The High School partnered with Stony Brook University's Office of Workforce Development to launch the Taste of the Trade initiative, enriching our College and Career offerings.

Athletics

Ninety percent of our high school student-athletes were named NYSPHSAA Scholar Athletes for maintaining a GPA of 90 or above.

Boys' spring track earned the Suffolk County League 1 Champions title with an undefeated season.

Our girls' winter track team qualified for the Millrose Games, running a season-best with the team's fastest time since 2017.

Our girls' bowling team was League 1 champions, and two athletes were named state champions on the composite team.

A varsity baseball player clinched the League Title with his third no-hitter of the season, marking the first perfect game in Longwood history.



The varsity girls' soccer team was named League 1 Champions, with their head coach earning Coach of the Year.

The JV baseball coach was named League 1 Coach of the Year, and the varsity football coach was designated Division 1 Coach of the Year.

A female wrestler became the first-ever state qualifier and took second place in the county championships.

Several of our student-athletes have earned recognition on Newsday's prestigious lists of top athletes for the spring season across multiple sports.

Music and Fine Arts

For the 16th consecutive year, the District has been named among the "Best Communities for Music Education" in the nation as designated by the NAMM Foundation.

Seventy-three students were selected for the Suffolk County Music Educators Association's All-County ensembles in band, chorus, and orchestra.

Four students were selected for the New York State School Music Association's All-State Festival in Rochester, NY.

Our students' artwork was submitted for exhibit through the NYS Art Teachers Association, Bay Area Friends of the Fine Arts and Suffolk County Art Leaders Association.

Community Leadership

The District maintains an outstanding financial credit rating of AA+.

Continued increased in community and voter support.

Our School-to-Business Partnerships with local businesses continue to enrich our Career Academies and Pathways.

Through our partnership with Brookhaven National Laboratories, K-12 students participate in cutting-edge Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM), research topics, contests, and summer programs.

Districtwide parent workshops focus on growing awareness and support for mental health in our youth.

2025-2026 Priorities

Strong Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Practices

- Building upon the success of the Alternative to Home Instruction Program (AHI)
- Expanding course offerings in Business, English, Social Studies, and dual-enrollment
- Increasing career exploration and internship opportunities
- Furthering professional development opportunities in the science of reading and vocabulary
- Continuing to bridge pre-k and K curriculum and instructional practices
- Engaging in collaborative curriculum writing projects across subject areas
- Supporting our Special Education and ELL programs

Empowered Students, Staff, and School Community

- Promoting student, staff, and community voice
- Re-imagining school and community events
- Expanding mental health and ACES training initiatives
- Expanding opportunities for peer-to-peer connections
- Supporting the campus branding and beautification projects
- Continuing to support targeted and job-embedded professional development
- Building upon opportunities for student and staff recognition

Collaborative School and Community Partnerships

- Building upon our strong community connections
- Maintaining community support and outreach services
- Reaffirming relationships with our Civics, Fire Departments, community organizations, local officials and municipalities
- Continuing to develop partnerships with local businesses and community service organizations
- Furthering our long standing efforts to connect our school programs to the greater Longwood community

Efficient and Effective Operations

- Maintaining district-wide staff and programs
- Furthering district-wide capital improvement projects
- Continuing to enhance school safety measures
- Providing additional instructional support for Special Education and ELL services
- Strengthening our systems of recruitment, induction, and career ladder pathways
- Building upon systems for long-range planning
- Maintaining outstanding financial credit rating of AA+



Candidates for Board of Education: The PTA Council submitted the following questions to school board candidates to provide information and goals. The profiles are printed as submitted, without editing, when submitted before the April 4 deadline. Each candidate has submitted a Candidate Nominating Petition to the District Clerk and are listed as appearing on the ballot. School board members serve three-year terms and receive no pay or benefits for their services.

Danielle Pouletsos



Number of children attending/attended Longwood Schools: One, current Sophomore

Education:

- Patchogue-Medford alumna, 2001
- BS, Health Science, Stony Brook University, 2005
- MPH, University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health, 2009

Current Occupation/Professional & Business experience: I have been a stay-at-home mom since 2014. I hold a Master of Public Health (MPH), which has equipped me with the ability to apply evidence-based strategies to complex challenges. In 2022, I served as a Substitute Monitor at CEW. My professional background includes being published by John Snow Labs (2016), coordinating training at Maryhaven Center of Hope (2006–2013), and supporting prenatal care and HIV/AIDS services at the MLK Jr. Community Health Center (2005–2006).

School/Community Involvement and number of years served:

I am a current member of the Coram Civic Association. I chaired the Junior High School Shared Decision-Making Team (2021–2022), where I established the LJHS PRIDE Student Recognition Award. I also volunteered for DCIP/ SCEP initiatives (2019). Since 2014, I've been a PTA member, and supported classroom activities as a Class Parent and Assistant. My efforts also include donating clothing to Coram Elementary's Nurse's Office and a violin to support music education.

Why are you running for the Longwood BOE?

I believe education is the foundation of a thriving community. My vision is to create safe, inspiring schools where every child excels academically, emotionally, socially, and physically. I am dedicated to fostering critical thinking, literacy, and fiscal responsibility to maximize the impact of our resources for the benefit of all students.

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

Enhancing critical thinking and reading skills will provide lifelong benefits, including confidence, informed decision-making, and expanded opportunities beyond schooling. By fostering open dialogue, evidence-based policies, and collaboration among educators, parents, and community members, I aim to empower students with the tools they need to thrive. Visit www.daniellep4boe.com for more!

Rhonda Stitham, Ed.D.



Children Attending/Attended Longwood Schools: (2) Longwood Junior High School

Education:

Concordia University, Ed.D, 2018
Liberty University, Education Specialist 2014
Dowling College, M.A Education, 2000
Lynchburg College, BA in Education, 1994

Current Occupation/Professional and Business Experience:

Teaching over 28 years with a background in STEM, ELL, Leveled Literacy Instruction and Elementary Education. Curriculum a Reading Instructor for grades K-5.

Longwood Schools/Community Involvement and Number of Years Served:

- Longwood Board of Education President-2 years- all committees
- Longwood Board of Education-6 years

- Longwood School District Policy Committee-6 years
- Civil Air Patrol-2 years
- NY State PTA /Longwood PTA

Explain what makes you the most qualified candidate:

Being in the education field over 28 years, I am an advocator for children and well versed in upcoming and current educational issues. My career has been focused on meeting the needs of children and helping them succeed. A voice for all children and use my knowledge of education to strengthen schools and community. It is imperative we listen to teachers, students and community members to succeed as a district. I will continue using my voice to reach out to stakeholders such as students, community, parents, MITA and CSEA members to gain ideas and collaborate for what is best for Longwood moving forward. I am proud of what Longwood has accomplished.

I have been on the Board of Education for 6 years and have been a part of ensuring the district is fiscally responsible for taxpayers in the community. The District has passed budgets that have allowed for school improvements, curriculum additions, upgrades to facilities and CTE programs. I am proud to be a part of those decisions while working with fellow Board members. I look forward to continuing serving the students and community in Longwood.

William Massian



NUMBER OF CHILDREN ATTENDING SCHOOLS: 2

EDUCATION:

Longwood High School Graduate

Continued Education within my Industries through Certification Programs and in field and hands on Training Opportunities

Professional Business Experience

Self Employed Local Business Owner (Facility & Property Solutions)

Past Union Heavy Road and Construction worker with Local 1298

Nationally and locally certified in my field

Longwood School District Community/Involvement

-Lifetime resident

-Chair of the BOE Safety Committee past 6 years

-Suffolk County Police Community Ambassador

-Co-Chair for the 6th Precinct Police advisory Board

-This publication is limited so please visit my Facebook page for further community involvement and qualifications. Look for my letter to the community and you should find many answers to your questions there.

Why I am running for the Longwood BOE

The Community voted for CHANGE 6 years ago and I helped deliver it and will continue to deliver on my promises and fulfilling the needs of our students and community.

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

I will continue to help set up and enact a new vision for the entire Longwood School District & Community. We as a community desire a better quality of life both inside and out of our school. The school is the one bonding agent in our 53 square miles and the key element in every solution. It is important that we continue to restore the Longwood Brand that kept alumni here to raise their families and will continue to work with all stakeholders.



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www.longwood.k12.ny.us

2025-26 School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2024-25 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2025-26 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 300,500,000	\$ 315,000,000	\$ 310,072,958
Increase/Decrease for the 2025-26 School Year		\$ 14,500,000	\$ 9,572,958
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		4.83 %	3.19 %
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.95 %	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 159,361,467	\$ 164,288,509	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$ 0	\$ 0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$ 0	\$ 0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$ 0	\$ 0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$ 159,361,467	\$ 164,288,509	\$ 159,361,467
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 2,377,885	\$ 3,827,147	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 156,983,582	\$ 160,461,362	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$ 156,983,582	\$ 160,461,362	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Administrative Component	\$ 34,671,283	\$ 36,130,701	\$ 35,565,566
Program Component	\$ 233,280,786	\$ 245,367,993	\$ 241,530,094
Capital Component	\$ 32,547,931	\$ 33,501,306	\$ 32,977,298
<p>* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2025-26 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.</p> <p>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.</p>			
<p>** 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)</p>	Description		Amount
	N/A		\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹		\$ 963	

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2025-26 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 20, 2025 between the hours of 7:00 am - 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.

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