

Elwood Union Free School District

**2026-2027
BUDGET
WORKSHOP #1**



Date: December 11, 2025

**Presenter: Lorraine Dunkel,
Assistant Superintendent for Business**

AGENDA



1

Review 2025-2026 Budget Status

2

Tax Levy Update

3

Budget Calendar for 2026-2027



DISTRICT GOALS

I. Extraordinary Student Focus

We are committed to nurturing the whole child and maximizing every student's potential. This will be achieved through diverse, data-driven instruction that uses multiple assessments to address the unique needs of each learner, preparing them to be confident and capable for the future.

II. Financial & Operational Planning for Future Stability

Through strategic short and long-term financial planning, we are dedicated to maintaining safe, secure and environmentally responsible school facilities that support our community's well-being and future growth.

III. Enhancement of School-to- Community Partnerships

We commit to strengthening communication channels with parents, staff and the broader community to foster meaningful engagement and drive measurable growth in community involvement within our school district.

IV. Commitment to the Health and Safety of Our School Community

We are dedicated to the health and safety of our school community by strengthening district structures and routines while actively leveraging ongoing training, partnerships and available resources.

2025-2026 BUDGET PROJECTION SUMMARY



Expenditures

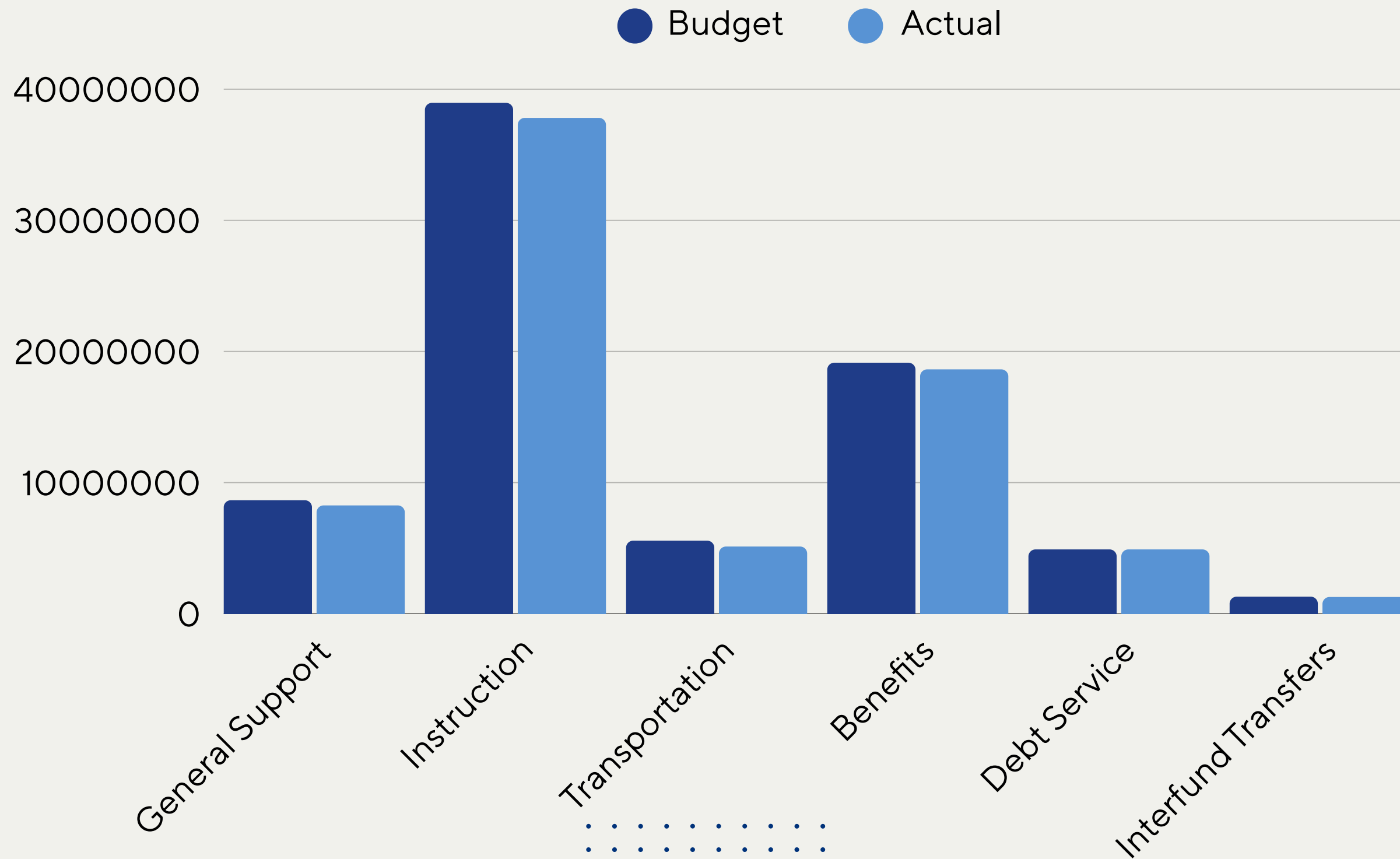


Revenue



Projected Fund Balance

2025-2026 EXPENDITURE FORECAST





MAJOR EXPENDITURES

Salaries and benefits comprise the largest portion of the annual budget. We currently support 490 active employees and 236 retirees (health insurance only).

Other large expenditure areas include transportation and debt.

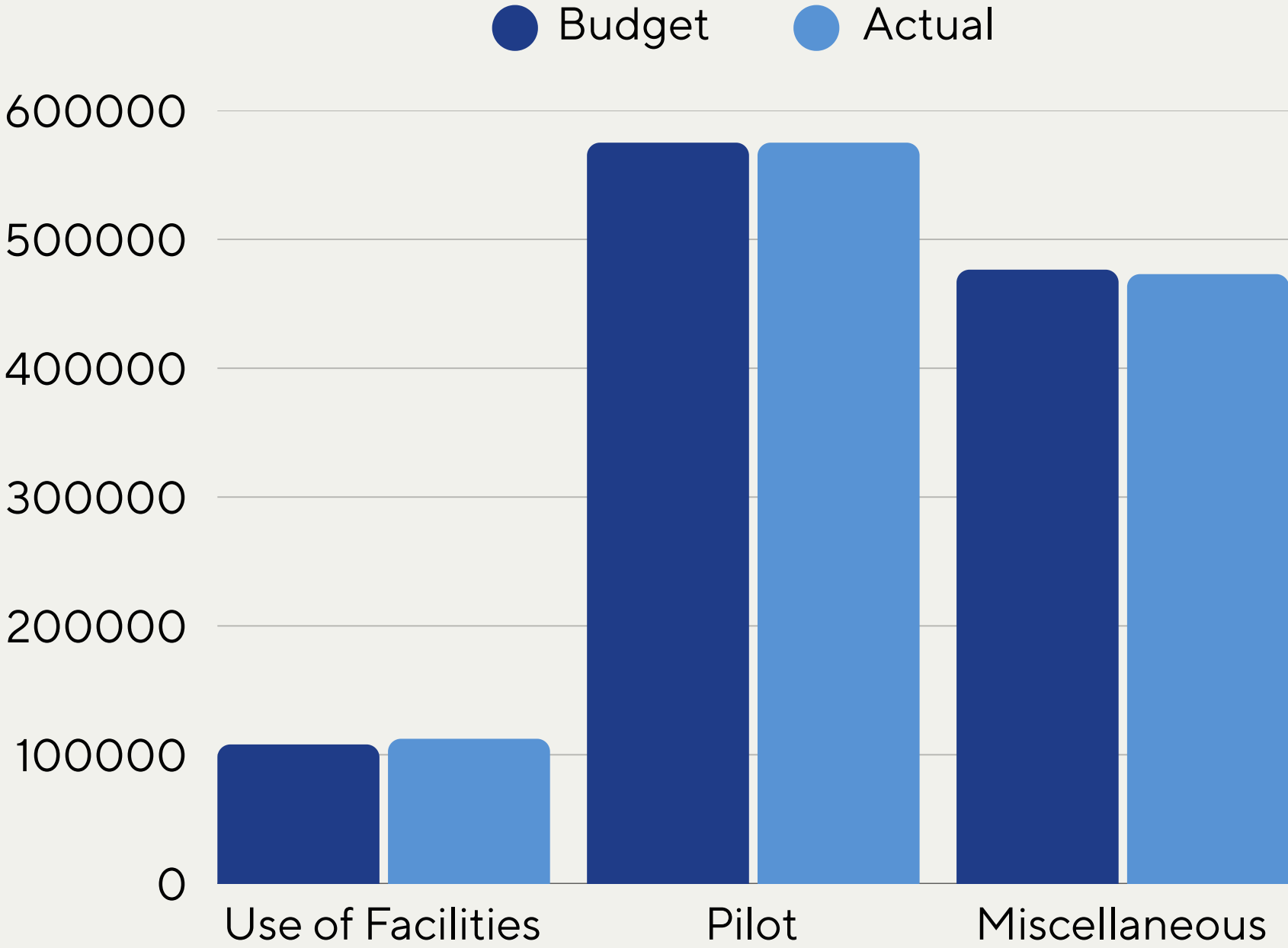
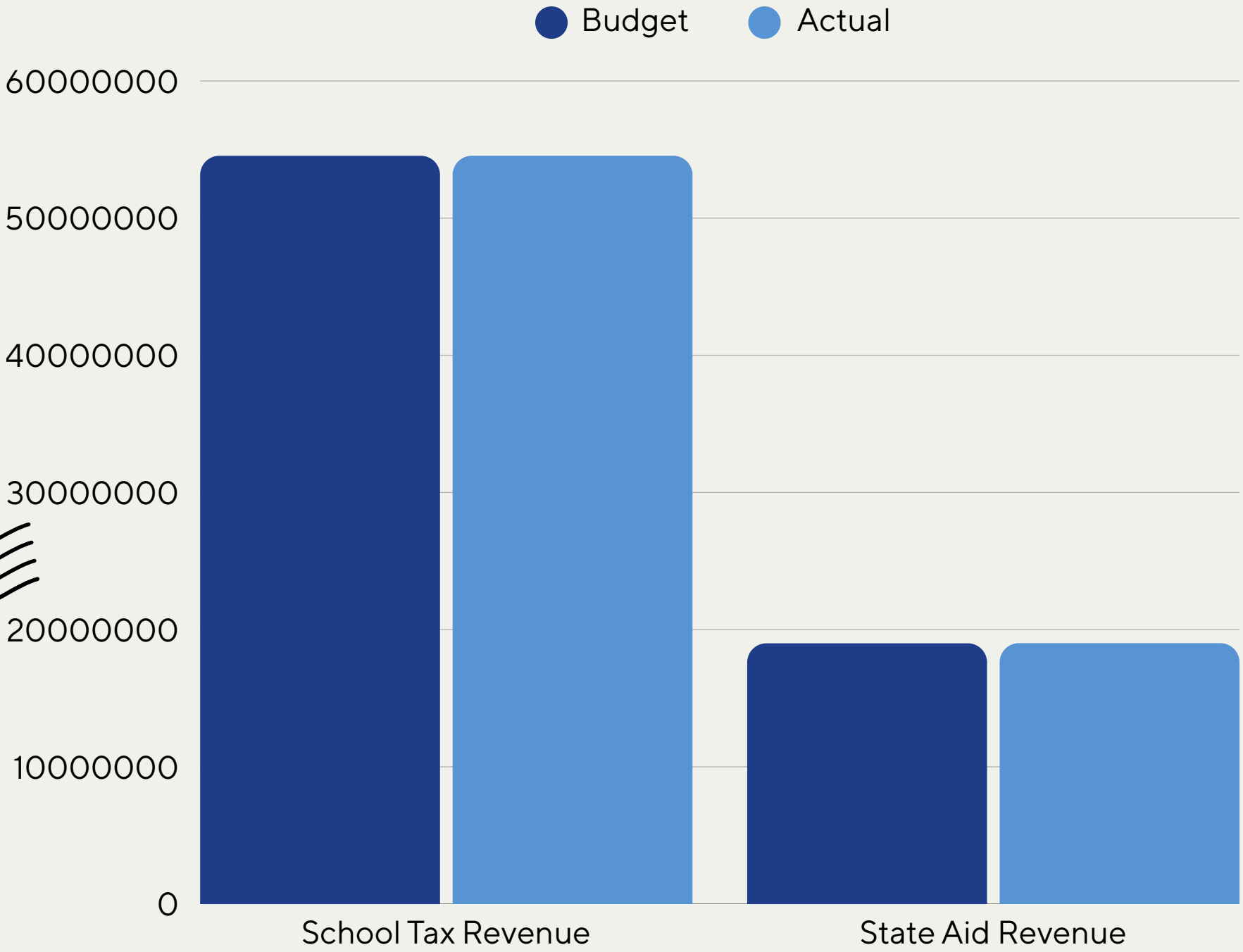
● **\$35,169,730**
Salaries

● **\$19,142,327**
Benefits

● **\$5,509,291**
Transportation

● **\$4,904,166**
Debt

2025-2026 REVENUE FORECAST



CONCLUSION

The 2025-2026 budget is anticipated to end positively allowing for an overall fund balance of 3.80% which is below the maximum of 4.00%.

Next Steps

The 2026-2027 budget development is already in process .

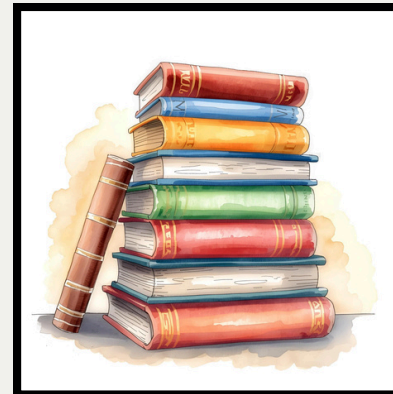


2026-2027 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT



- The budget development process is a lengthy, collaborative process involving many stakeholders.
- The goal of the Board and Administration is to create a balanced budget that aligns with student needs throughout their Elwood journey.
- This must be done while also being sensitive to our residents and understanding the reality of the current economy of our State.

2026-2027 BUDGET PRIORITIES



Maintain current program



Propose a budget that is educationally sound and fiscally responsible



Continue developing long-term sustainability by reducing reliance on fund balance and reserves

TAX LEVY

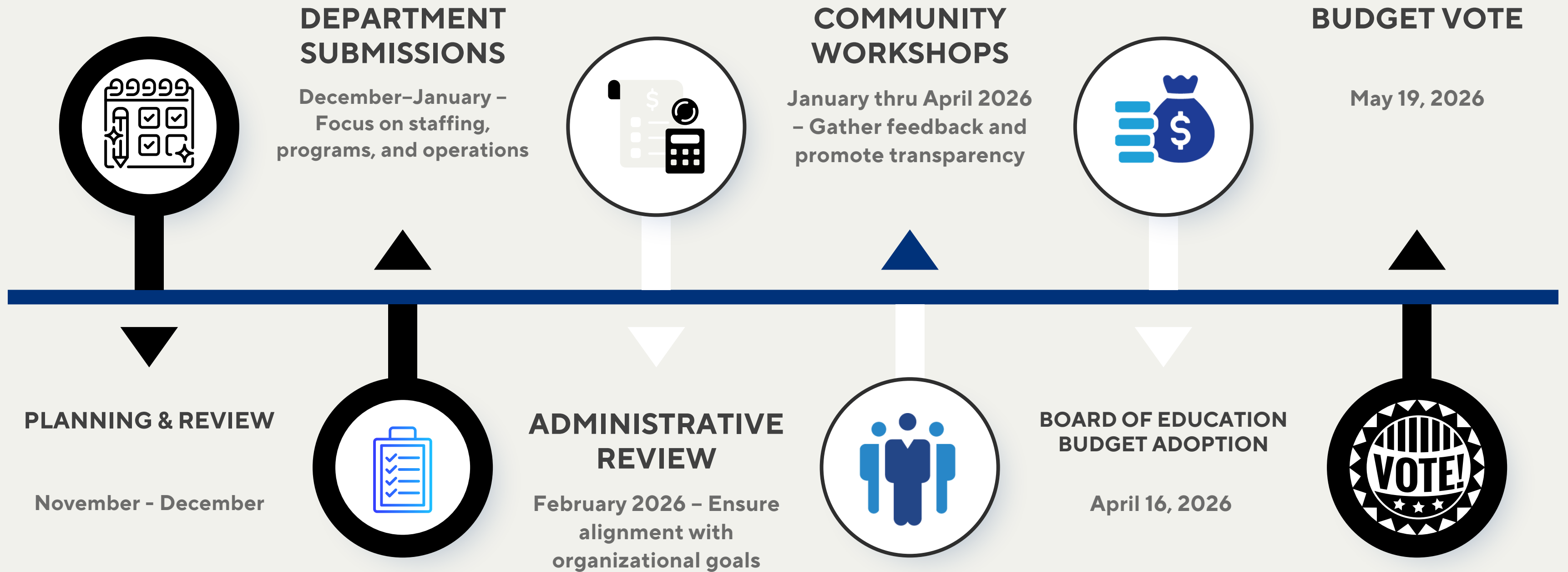
The final tax levy for the 2025-2026 school year was approved at 2.64%.

The estimated tax cap for 2026-2027 is currently 3.03%. We are waiting for final numbers from NYS before proposing a levy to the Board of Education.





BUDGET DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE



BUDGET PRESENTATION & MEETING DATES

Meeting Date	Presentation
Thursday, December 11, 2025	Budget Workshop #1
Thursday, January 15, 2026	Budget Workshop #2
Wednesday, January 21, 2026	Citizens Finance & Budget Committee Meeting (CFBC)
Thursday, February 12, 2026	Budget Workshop #3
Thursday, March 26, 2026	Budget Workshop #4
Thursday, April 16, 2026	Budget Workshop #5 & Budget Adoption
Thursday, May 7, 2026	Budget Hearing
Tuesday, May 19, 2026	Annual Budget Vote & School Board Election

BUDGET RESOURCES



All current budget-related information is available on the Elwood School District website.

Prior years' budget information is also available on the [Archived Budget Information](#) page.

Legal notices and budget newsletters will be distributed to the community and posted to the website throughout the budget process.

NEXT BUDGET WORKSHOP

BUDGET WORKSHOP #2
JANUARY 15, 2026



QUESTIONS / COMMENTS

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