2026-27 Proposed Budget

Hewlett-Woodmere Public Schools

Public Budget Forum

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Superintendent

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Our Guiding Principles



Students First
Prioritizing the needs and success of all students.

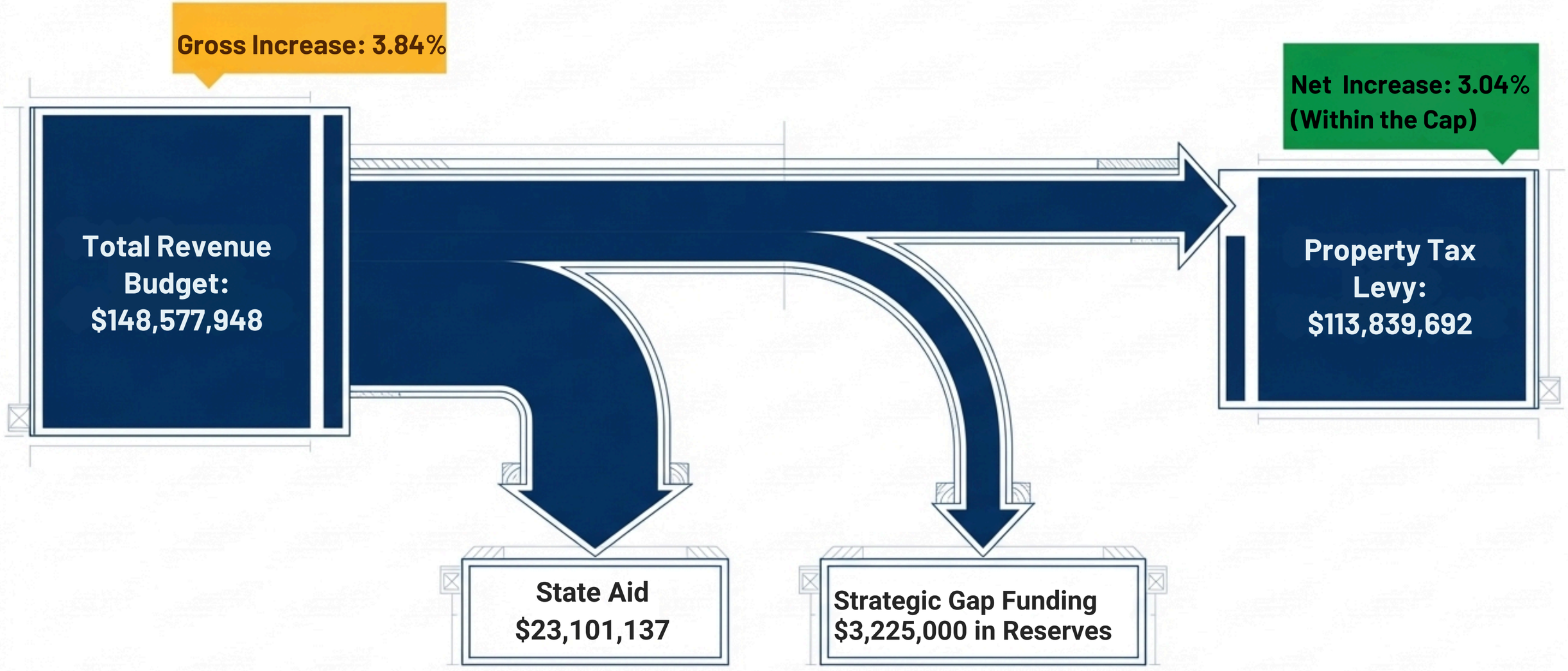
Fiscal Responsibility
Prudent and effective management of financial resources.

Community Transparency
Open and honest communication with stakeholders.

Tax Levy Cap Adherence
Managing finances responsibly within established guidelines.

Every decision in the 2026-27 budget was weighed against this dual mandate: protecting our educational standards while fiercely protecting the taxpayer.

The Bottom Line: Protecting the Taxpayer



Managing the Budget:
Sweeping Internal Solutions



Internal Restructuring

Streamlined operational processes, eliminated redundancy, and reduced administrative overhead.



Thoughtful Rightsizing

Aligned staffing levels to actual enrollment trends and program needs.

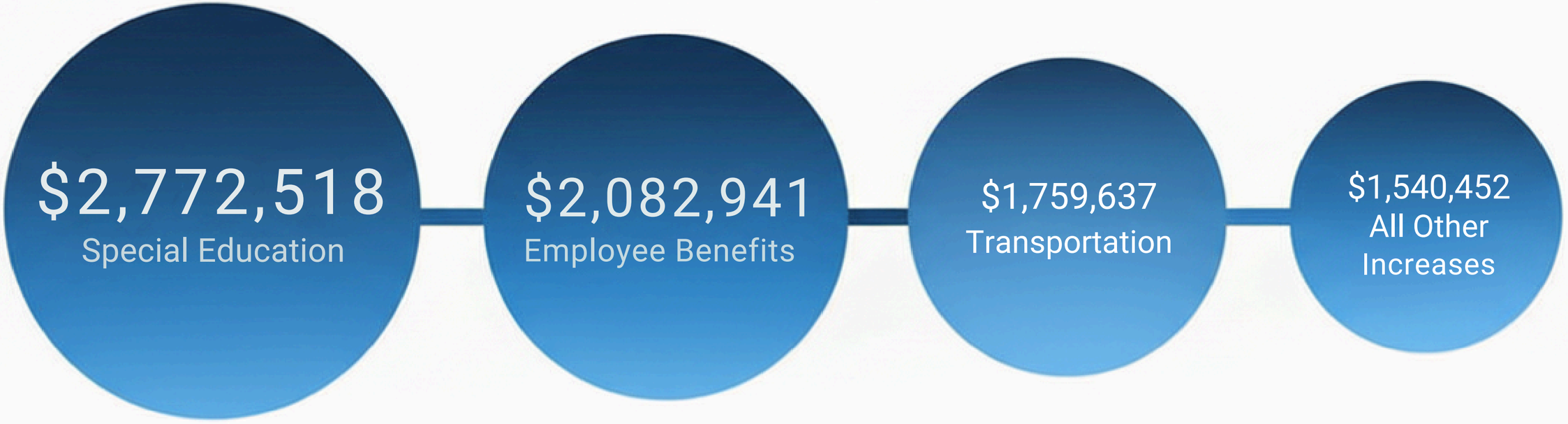
$4,223,064

Total Initial Savings

We reduced the initial rollover budget by this amount before ever asking the taxpayer for a dime.

Escaping Discretion: The Mandated Drivers of the 3.84% Increase

Cost Driver Stack



Represents 50.5% of the total budget increase. Legal mandates, out-of-district placements, and specialized staffing.

Accounts for 37.9% of the budget increase. Non-negotiable state retirement systems and health insurance mandates.

Contributes 32.0% to the budget increase. Public, non-public, and special education transportation.

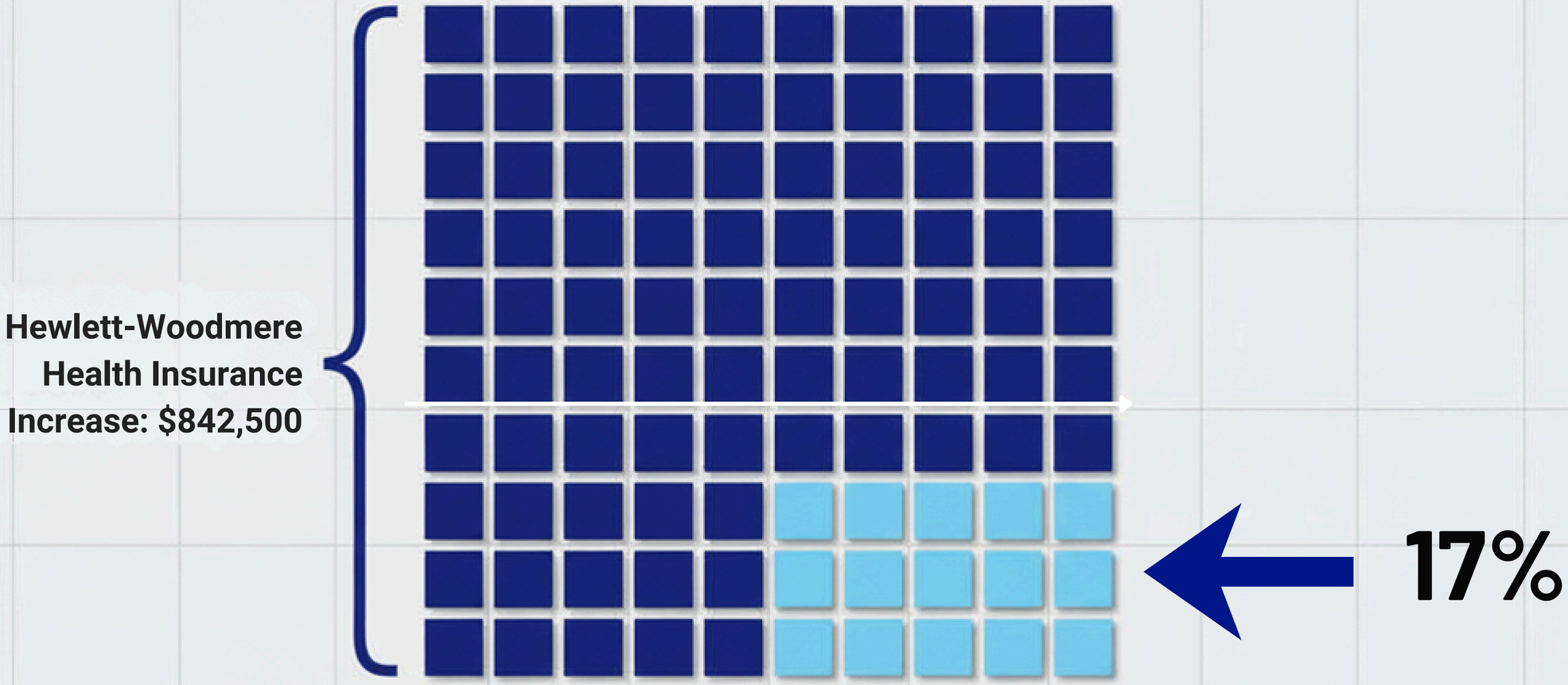
Comprising 28.0% of the increase, includes contractual salary, BOCES, and liability insurance.

The Increase of State Aid from 2025-26 to 2026-27



This figure represents the total increase in State aid based on the proposed executive budget.

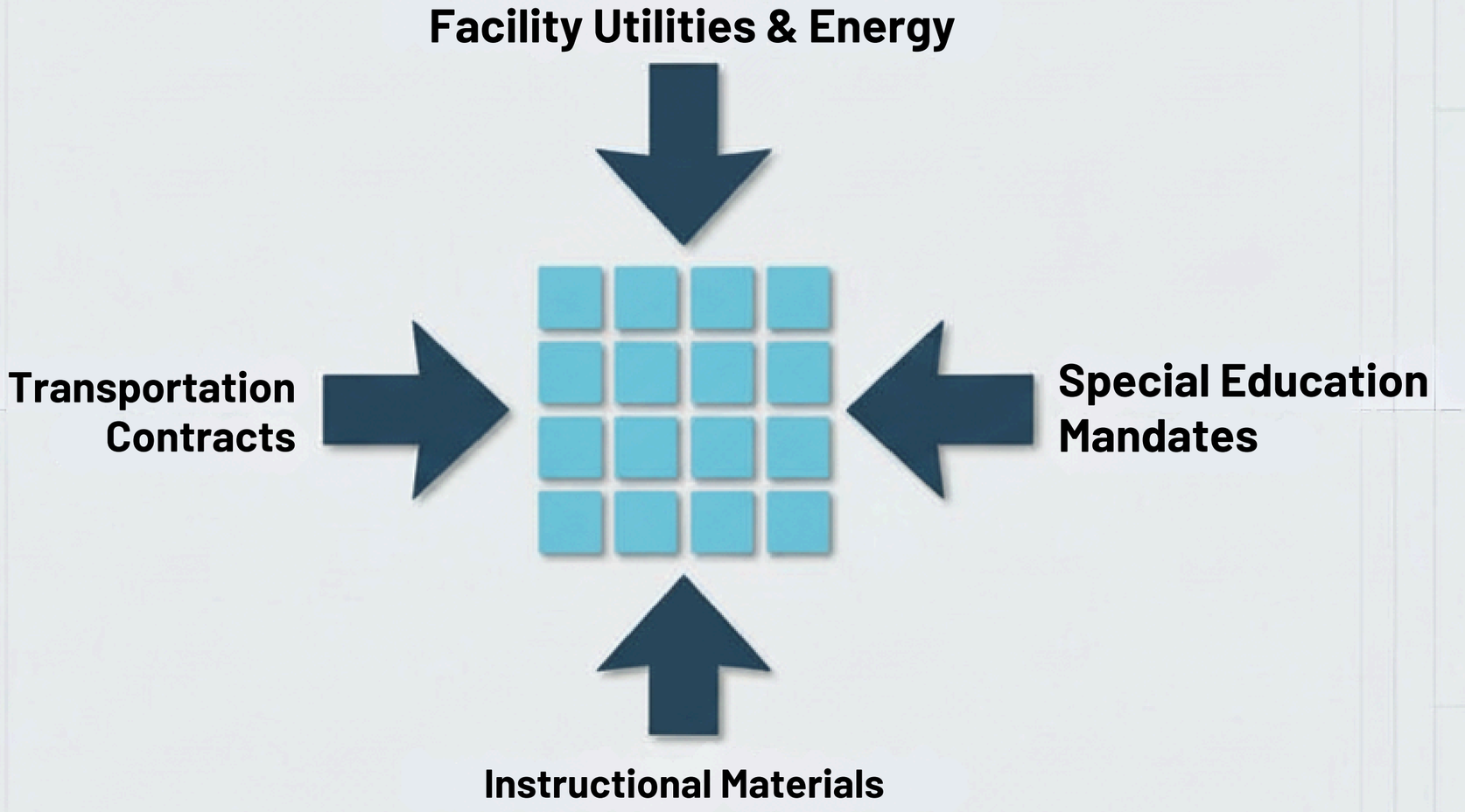
The Disproportionate Weight of Health Insurance



83%

A single line item consumes 83% of the total State aid increase

The 17% Remainder Problem



Once health insurance is covered, only 17% of new revenue remains to address all other inflationary increases across the entire District.

A Structural Shift in Fiscal Management

Paradigm Shift Matrix

Historical Practice (The Past)	Current Reality (2026-27)
Reserves: Acted as cushions absorbing financial fluctuations.	**Reserves**: District is more reliant on reserves which are “one-shot” revenue sources.
Capital: High, regular contributions to capital reserves for future needs.	**Capital**: Contributions significantly reduced to offset current costs.
Tax Levy: Has been consistently lower than the NYS allowable tax cap formula permits.	**Tax Levy**: Must now accurately reflect real-time funding increases and mandates.

Managing the Budget:
Strategic Use of Reserves



THE ACTION

Deploying $3,225,000 from designated reserves directly into the revenue stream to lower the tax burden.

THE BREAKDOWN

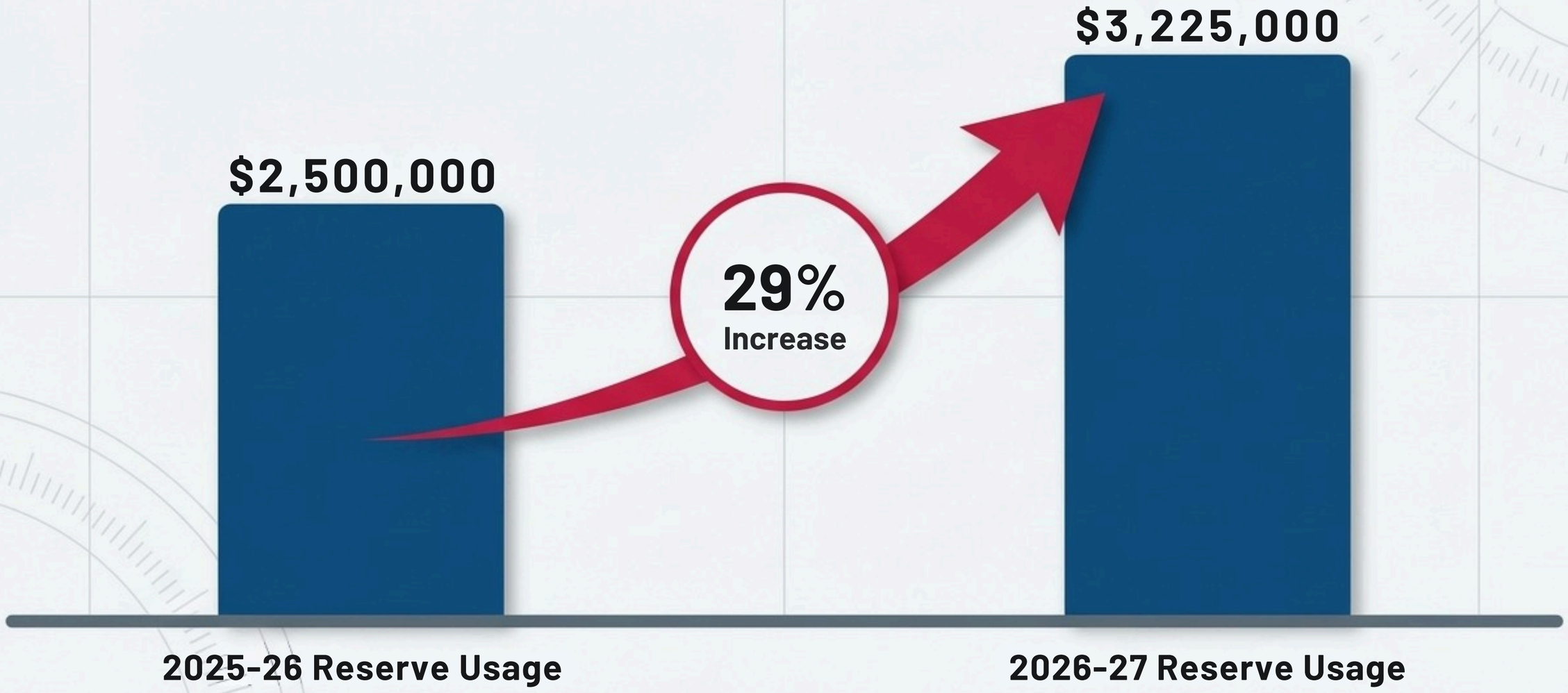
$2,725,000
from the ERS (Retirement) Reserve

$500,000
from the Workers' Compensation Reserve

THE CAVEAT

Use of reserves are finite to lower the tax levy. This is a one-time structural buffer to protect taxpayers this year; future structural **gaps must continue to be actively managed.**

The Accelerated Reliance on Reserves



Demystifying Taxes: Levy vs. Rate



Tax Levy (The Whole Pie)

The total dollars the District needs to collect to fund the budget. This is what the community votes on.



Tax Rate (Property Taxes)

The county determines how much of the tax levy (the whole pie) an individual pays based on your assessed property value. This is calculated later in August by the county.

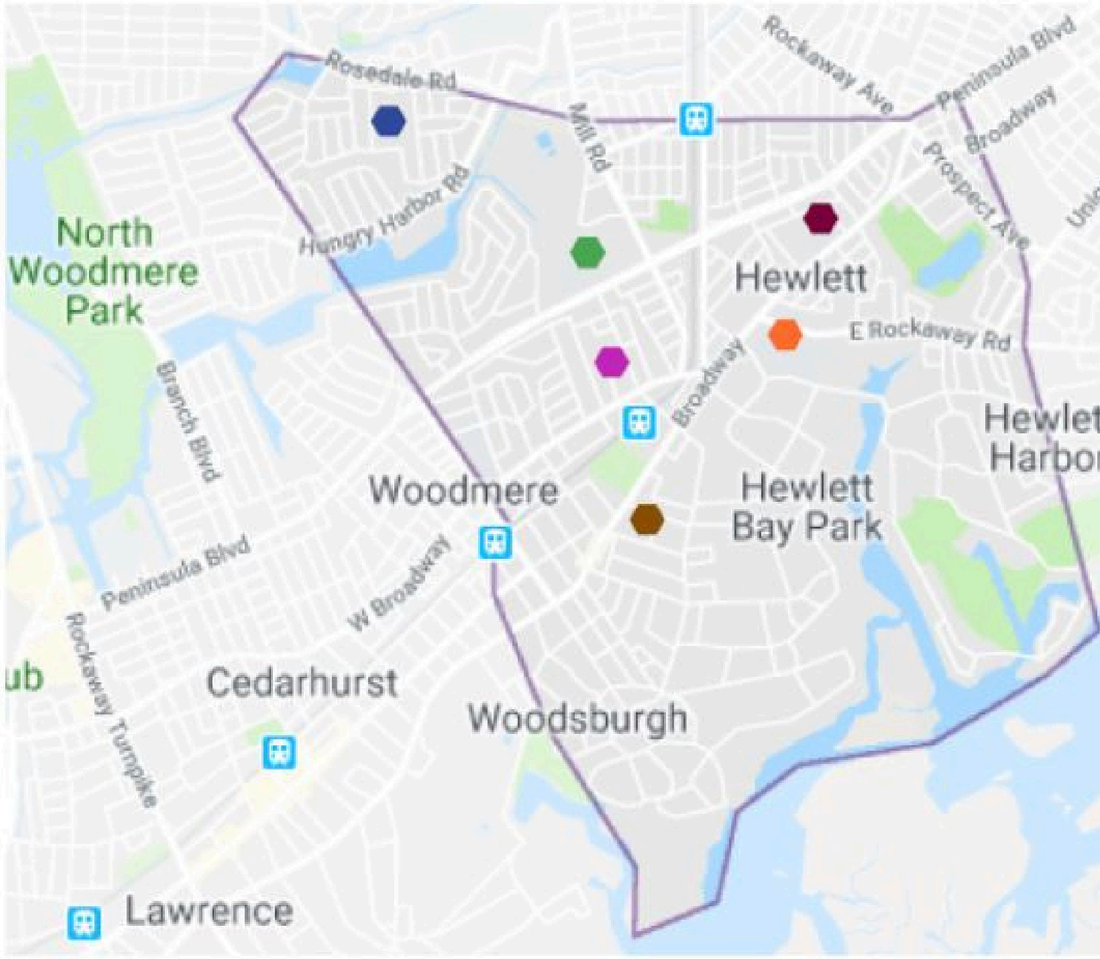
Tax Levy	÷	**Total Assessed Property Value**	=	**Tax Rate**

Key Takeaway: When we say a 3.04% levy increase, the total pie grows by 3.04%.
What happens to your specific tax bill depends on county property assessments.

What this Means for District 14 Residents:

School Tax Example: Average Assessed Value Home*

School Taxes Paid 2025-26:	$15,392
Estimated School Taxes 2026-27:	$15,861
Percent Change:	3.04%
$ Change (per year):	$468.49
$ Change (per month):	$39.04



*Estimate is based on Current Assessed Value information

Capital Reinvestment: Protecting Our Assets

The ‘Transfer to Capital’ fund was strategically reduced this year to save money, but we are still maintaining vital infrastructure with a $2,839,734 reinvestment.

Districtwide HVAC Systems
$1,700,000

Districtwide Flooring
$365,700

Districtwide Athletic Fields
$528,650

HHS Sitework
$134,384

HES Exterior Doors
$111,000

Hewlett Woodmere Public Schools: *Proposed* 2026-27 Budget At-A-Glance

$148,577,948 TOTAL BUDGET

Represents a 3.84% increase in both revenue and expenditures for the 2026-27 year.

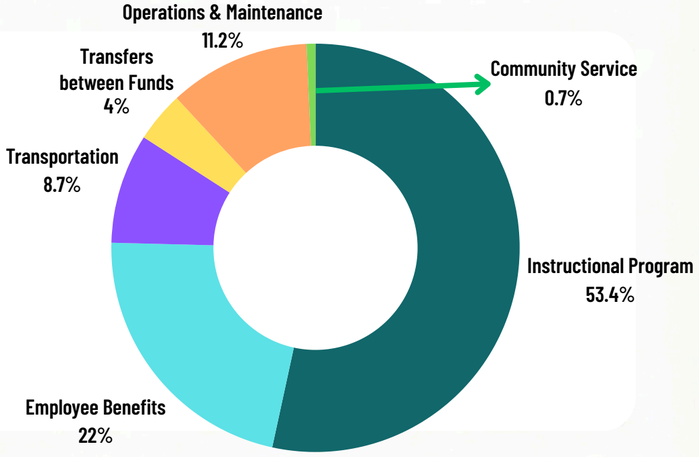
3.04% Property Tax Levy

The Property Tax Levy remains the largest revenue source at $113,839,692.

Budget Drivers

- Special Education: 50.5%
- Employee Benefits: 37.9%
- Transportation: 32.0%
- All Other Increases: 28.0%

Where Does the Money Go?



MAY 19, 2026

Budget Vote: May 19, 2026
Polls are open from 7:00 AM to 10:00 PM at the Woodmere Education Center.

What's On the Ballot?
Residents will vote on two propositions covering school/library budgets and trustee elections.

Your Voice Matters: Voter Information

✓		**Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2026** (7:00 AM – 10:00 PM)
✓		**Location:** Woodmere Education Center (One Johnson Place, Woodmere)
✓		**Registration:** Last day to register is **May 14, 2026**, at the Office of the District Clerk.