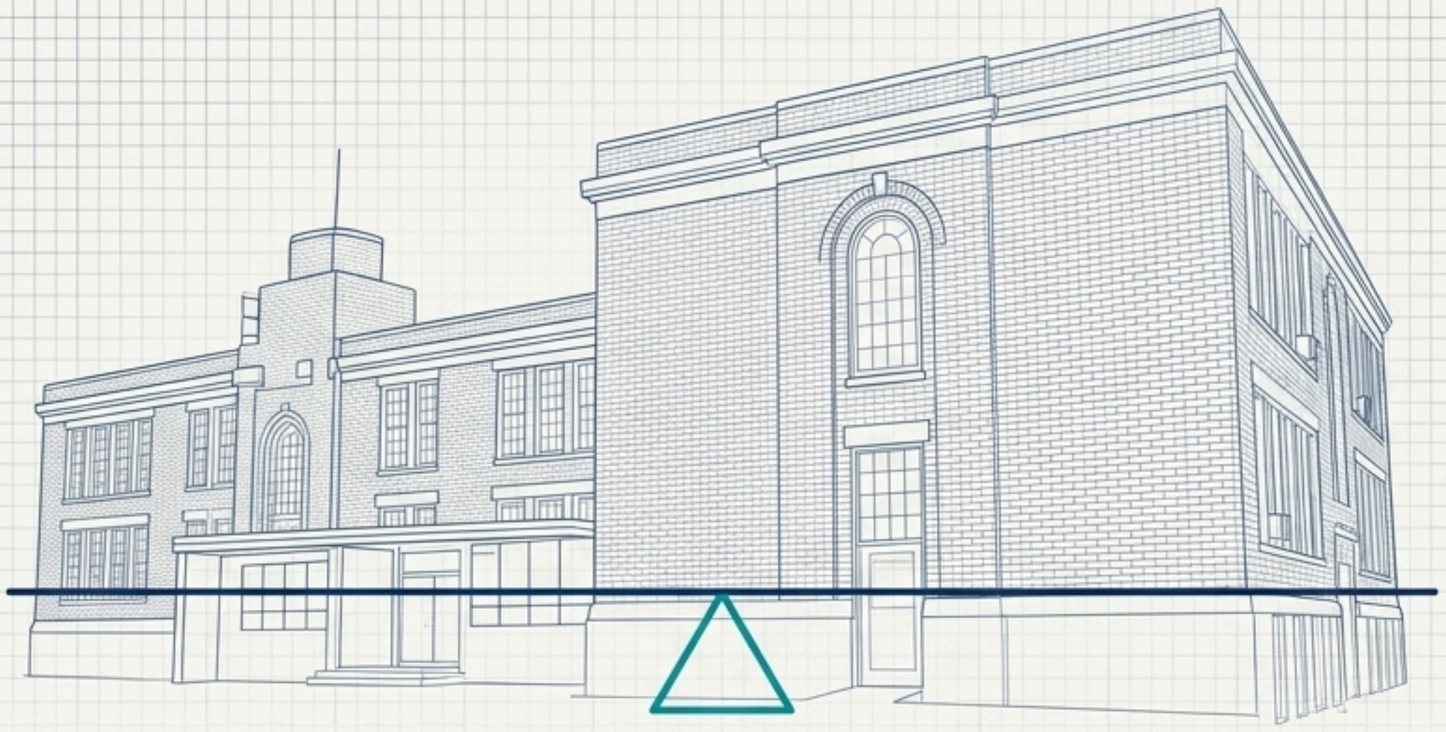


The Progression of the 2026-27 Hewlett-Woodmere Public Schools Budget

All-District PTA Meeting, Budget Presentation

April 28, 2026

Presented by Dr. Dina M. Anzalone, Superintendent &
Mr. Richard Snyder, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations

Navigating the Dual Mandate

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

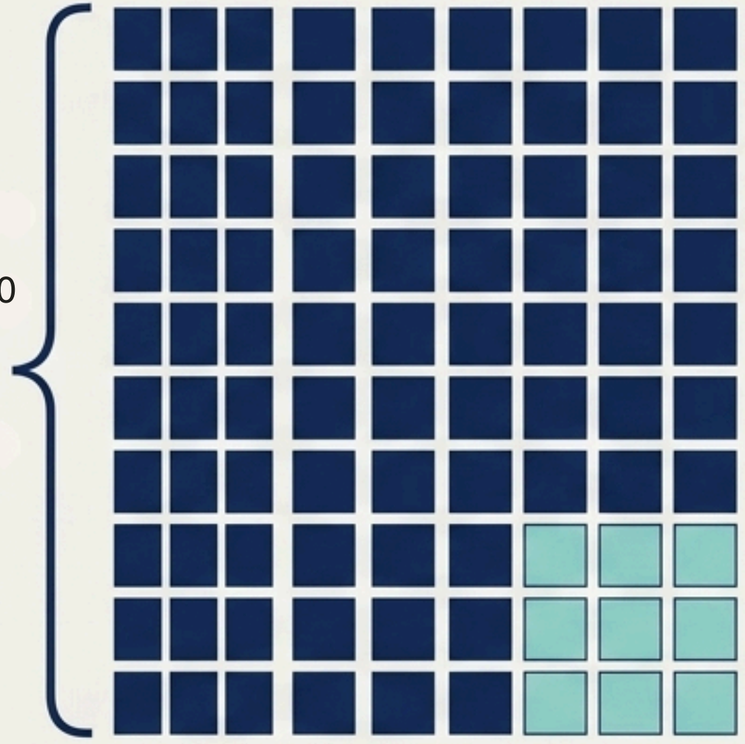


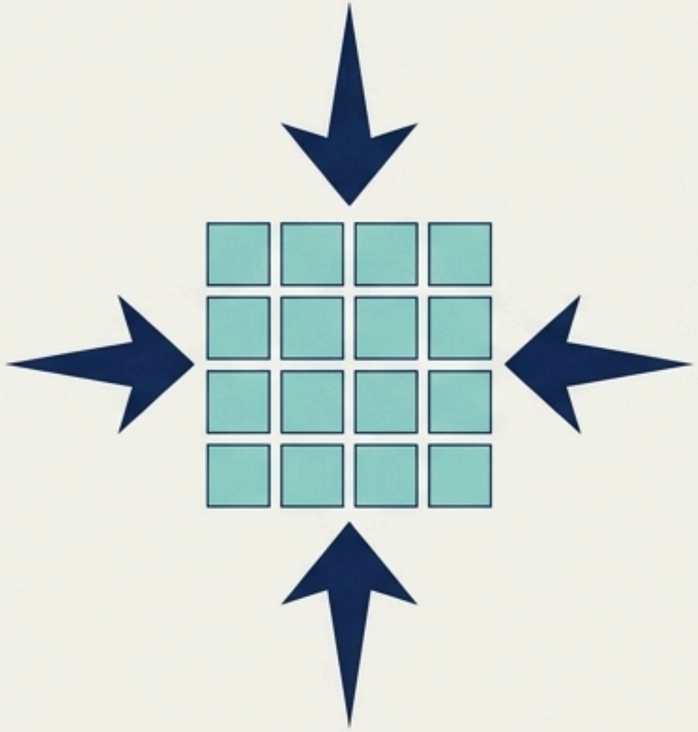
The State Aid Squeeze

$1,016,914 represents the total increase in State Aid based on the proposed executive budget.

Hewlett-Woodmere Health Insurance
Increase: $842,500

A single non-negotiable line item consumes **83%** of the total State aid increase.

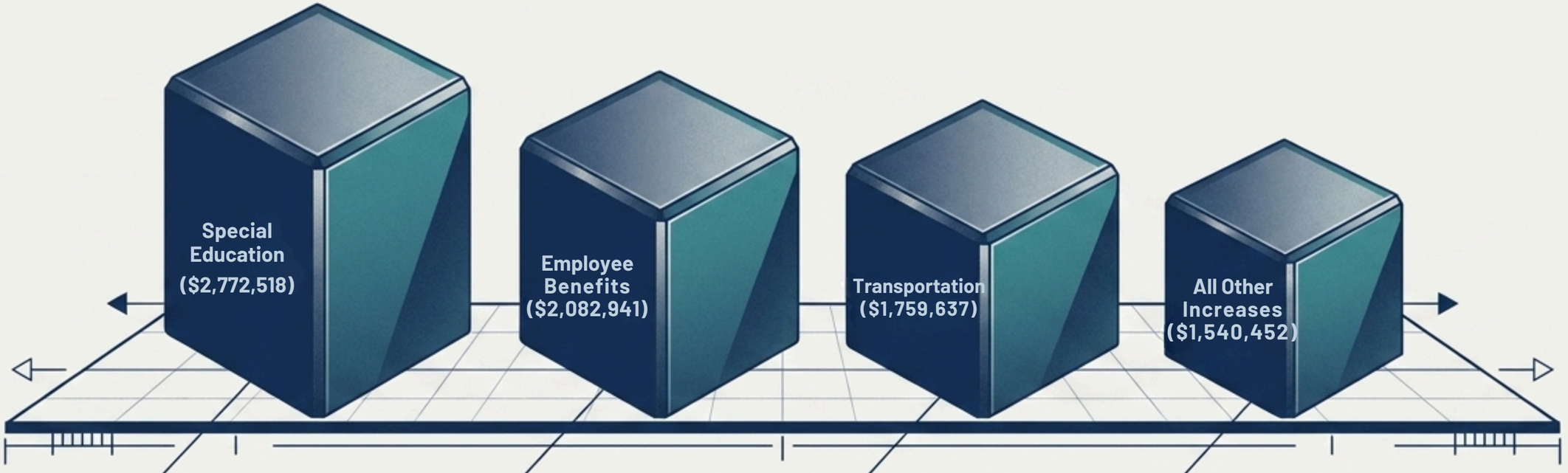




The 17% Remainder Problem

Once health insurance is covered, **only 17%** of new revenue remains to fund **Facility Utilities & Energy**, **Transportation Contracts**, **Special Education Mandates**, and **Instructional Materials**.

Unavoidable Budget Drivers



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

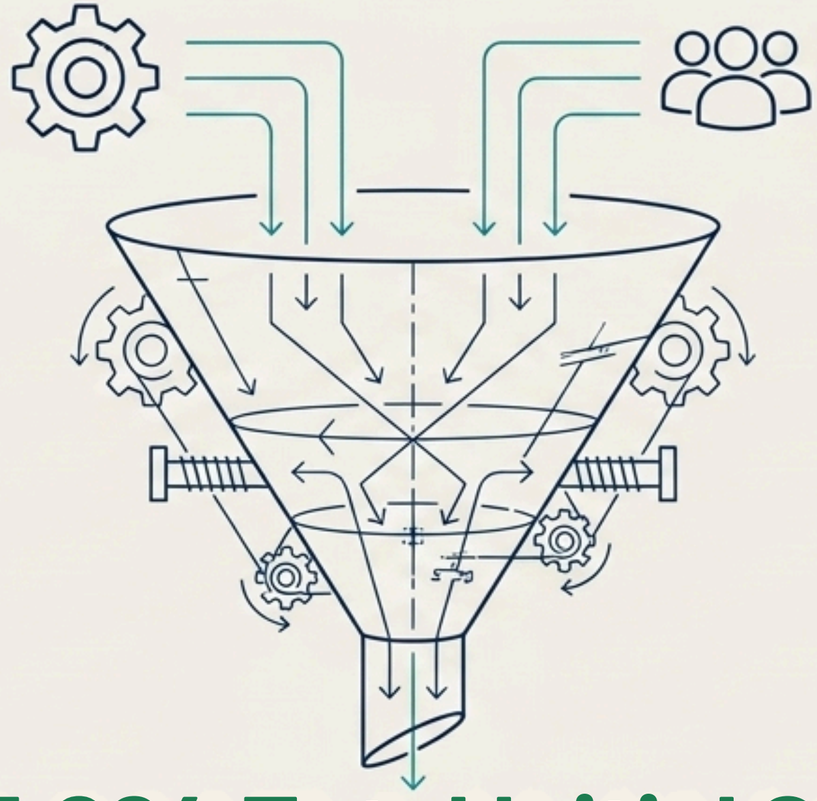
Accounts for **37.9**% of the budget increase. Non-negotiable state retirement systems and health insurance mandates.

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

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

Phase One: 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

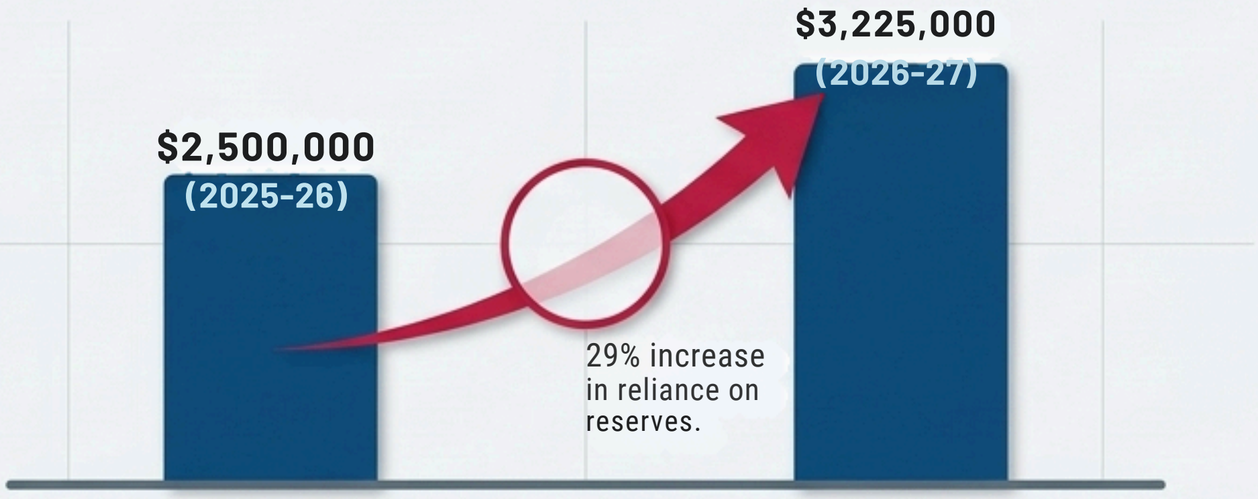
The initial rollover budget was reduced by $4.22 million internally before a single dollar was requested from the taxpayer.

Phase Two: Strategic Use of Reserves



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

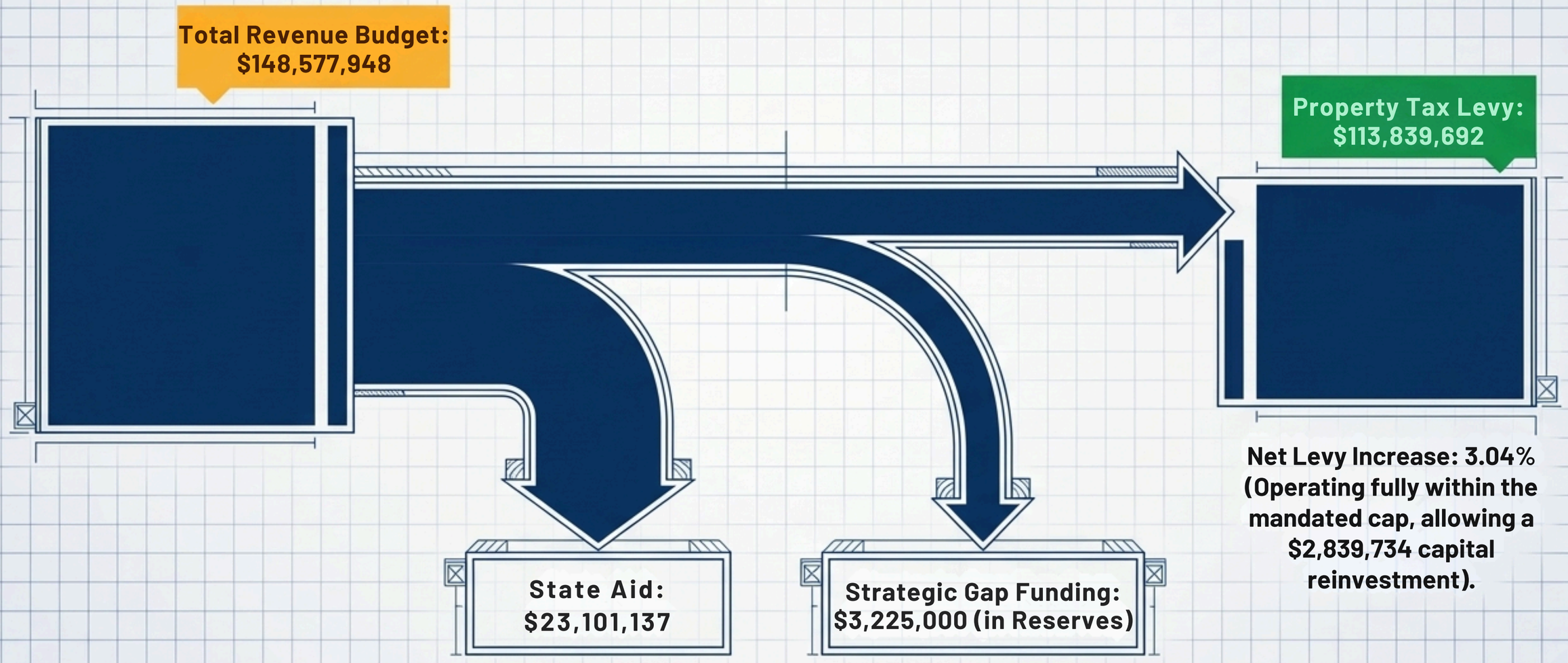
The Breakdown: $2,725,000 from the ERS (Retirement) Reserve + **$500,000** from the Workers' Compensation Reserve.



The Caveat: Use of reserves are finite. Reserves are one-time buffers.

The March 1 DRAFT: Establishing the Baseline

Gross Increase: 3.84%

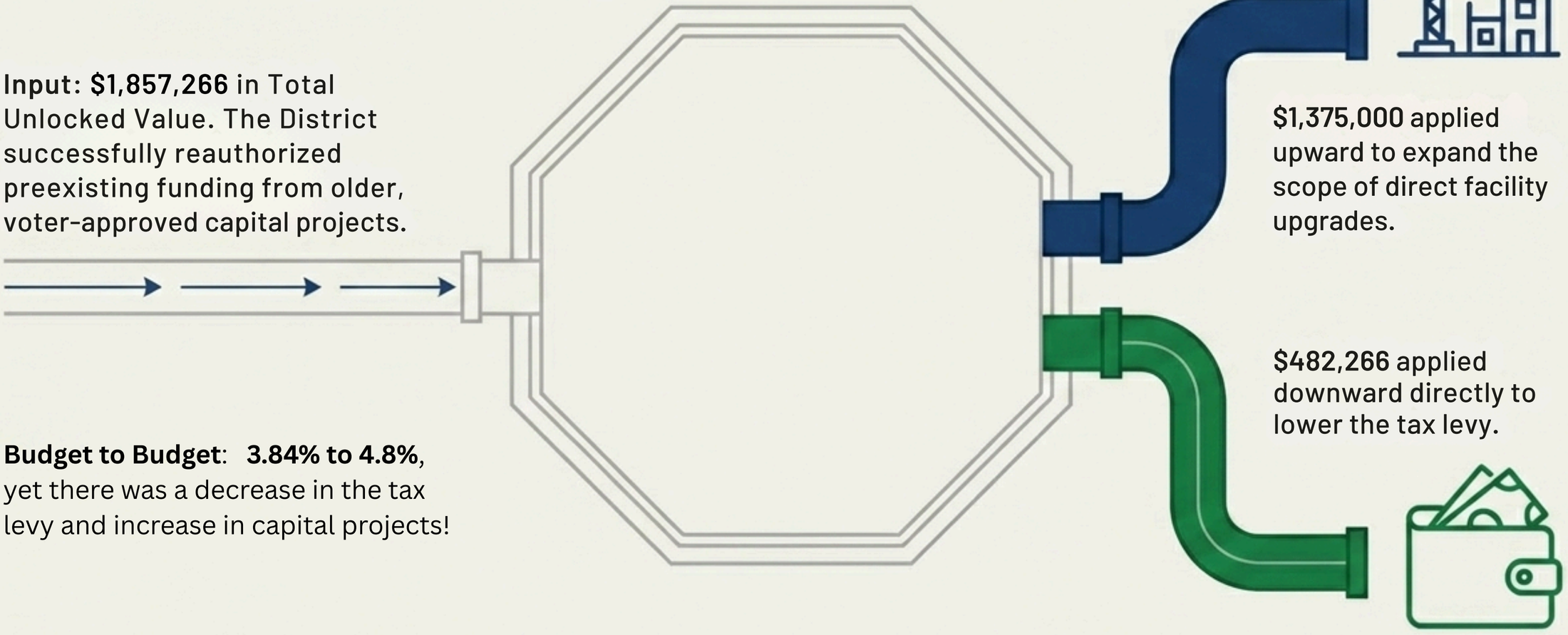


Net Levy Increase: 3.04%
(Operating fully within the mandated cap, allowing a $2,839,734 capital reinvestment).

The April Breakthrough: Reauthorizing Preexisting Funds

Input: $1,857,266 in Total Unlocked Value. The District successfully reauthorized preexisting funding from older, voter-approved capital projects.

Budget to Budget: **3.84% to 4.8%**, yet there was a decrease in the tax levy and increase in capital projects!

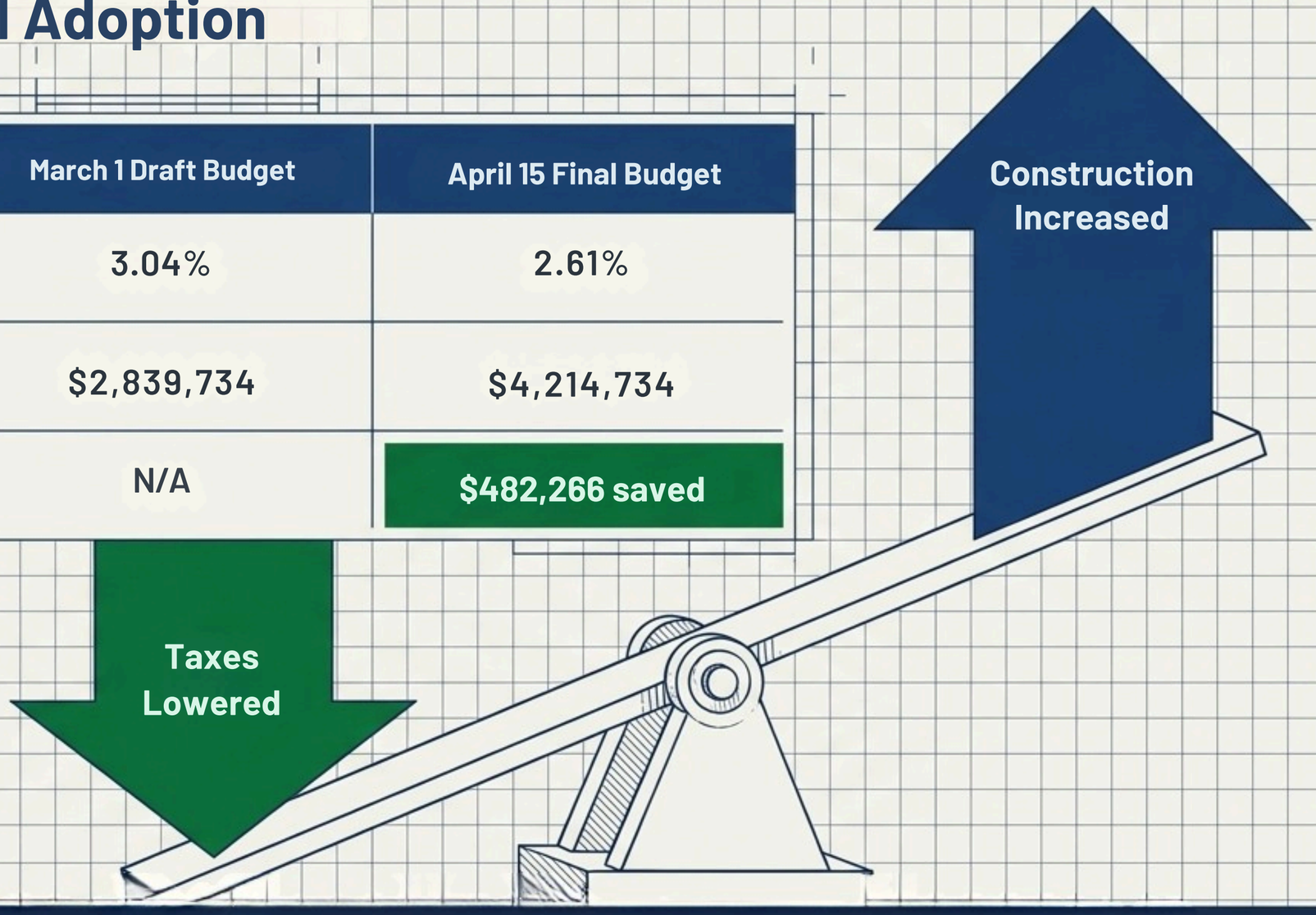


$1,375,000 applied upward to expand the scope of direct facility upgrades.

$482,266 applied downward directly to lower the tax levy.

From Draft to Final Adoption

	March 1 Draft Budget	April 15 Final Budget
Tax Levy Increase	3.04%	2.61%
Total Construction Scope	$2,839,734	$4,214,734
Tax Levy Reduction	N/A	$482,266 saved

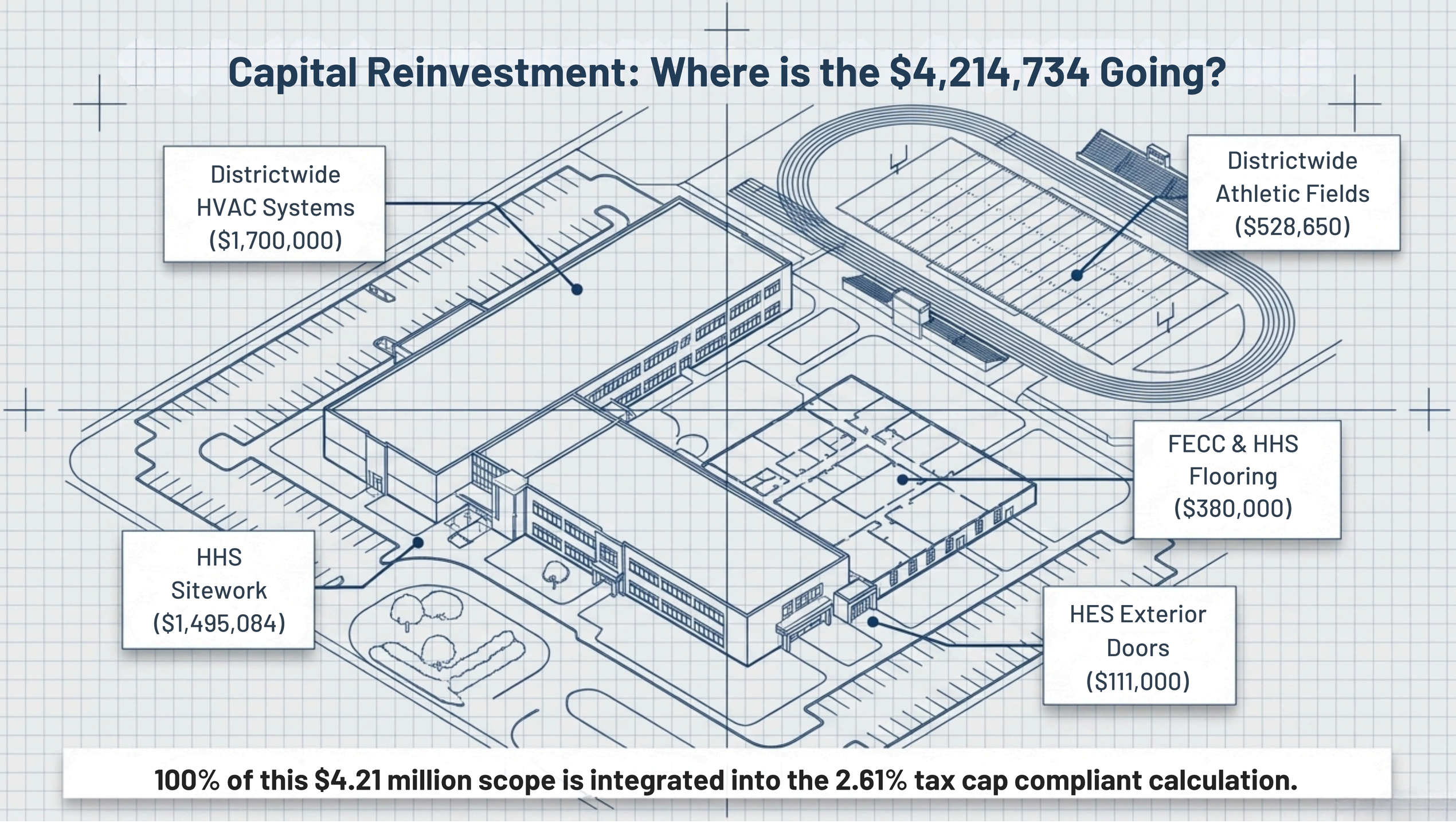


Creative, efficient budgeting turns into a proactive taxpayer benefit.

2026-2027 Revenue Budget

Revenue Type	2025-26 Budget	2026-27 Budget	Dollar Difference
Tax Levy Including STAR	$110,477,087	$113,357,426 (2.61%)	$2,880,339
Projected State Aid	$22,084,223	$23,101,137	$1,016,914
PILOT (Including LIPA)	$2,521,355	$2,912,119	$390,764
Other Revenue	$5,500,000	$7,357,266	$1,857,266
Sub Total	**$140,582,665**	**$146,727,948**	**$6,145,283**
Funding the Gap			
Transfer from Reserves			
ERS	$2,000,000	$2,725,000	$725,000
Workers' Compensation	$500,000	$500,000	-
Total Gap Funding	**$2,500,000**	**$3,225,000**	**$725,000**
Total Revenue Budget	**$143,082,665**	**$149,952,948**	**$6,870,283 (4.8%)**

Capital Reinvestment: Where is the $4,214,734 Going?



100% of this $4.21 million scope is integrated into the 2.61% tax cap compliant calculation.

Protecting the Core:
How We Achieved the 2.61% Levy

The Protected Core: 76.7% of the total budget is dedicated directly to the Instructional Program

Action 1: $4.2M	Action 2: $3.2M	Action 3: $1.85M
Internal operational cuts	Strategic deployment of reserves	Unlocked from older capital projects

Takeaway: Careful examination of past budgets helped to lower the tax burden to 2.61% without compromising the standard of excellence in the classroom.

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 (2.61% increase).	÷	 Assessed Property Value	=	 Tax Rate (Property Taxes): The county determines how much of the tax levy an individual pays based on your assessed property value. Calculated in August.

[Tax Levy Total] [Assessed Property Value] = [Tax Rate]

Impact on the Average Taxpayer in Hewlett-Woodmere

Description	Amount
School Taxes Paid, 2025-26	$15,392
Percent Change	2.61%
Estimated School Taxes, 2026-27	$15,793.74
$ Change annually	$401.74
$ Change Monthly	$33.48

Your Voice Matters:

May 19 Voting Information

Proposition #1:
Hewlett-Woodmere Public Schools Budget Vote & Board of Education Trustee Elections.

Proposition #2:
Hewlett-Woodmere Public Library Budget Vote & Library Board Trustee Elections.

Two distinct propositions, one unified commitment to community excellence.

Date:
Tuesday, May 19, 2026
(7:00 AM - 10:00 PM)

Location:
Woodmere Education Center (One Johnson Place, Woodmere, NY)

Registration:
Last day to register is May 14, 2026, at the Office of the District Clerk.