May, 2026

West Canada Valley Highlights

Calendar

Budget Hearing:

May 11, 2026
6:00pm
Streamed live from the High School Library

Budget Vote & School Board Elections:

May 19, 2026
12:00pm - 8:00pm
High School Lobby

Absentee Ballots:

Applications for absentee ballots must be received at least 7 days prior to election, if it is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election if it is to be personally delivered and is due back in the Office of the District Clerk by 5:00pm on the date of the election.

Qualifications to Vote in School District Elections:

Must be a United States citizen who is at least 18 years of age on or before the day of the election. Must be a legal resident of the West Canada Valley Central School district for at least 30 days prior to the election.

You need not be a registered voter.



Special Budget Edition
From Your Board of Education:

Dear Community Members,

We are writing to share the proposed 2026–2027 budget and to be transparent about the financial challenges currently facing the district. Over the past several years, the district worked to minimize the tax burden on our community, including maintaining a zero percent tax levy increase over a three year period and going in under the allowed tax cap. While this approach provided short-term relief, it has contributed to a more difficult financial position today.

The district will present the proposed 2026–2027 school budget, which includes a 15% tax levy increase. Because this exceeds the state's tax levy limit, the budget will require a supermajority approval of at least 60% of voters to pass. If the proposed budget is not approved on May 19th, the district will have one additional opportunity to present a revised budget for a second vote on June 16th. Should that budget also be defeated, the district would be required to adopt a contingency budget. Under a contingency scenario, the district would need to identify approximately $835,000 in additional reductions. Given the cuts and staffing reductions already made, identifying savings of this magnitude would be extremely challenging and would have a significant impact on students. Areas that would need to be carefully evaluated include extracurricular activities and athletics, which together represent approximately $400,000 in potential reductions. The district recognizes the seriousness of these potential impacts and remains hopeful that the community will come together to support our students during this difficult time.

For the coming year, state aid is projected to increase by just 1%, which equates to approximately $84,000. This limited increase does not keep pace with rising operational costs across the district. As a result, we are in a challenging fiscal situation and must make careful, strategic decisions to continue providing the programs and opportunities our students deserve.

In addition to the budget vote, residents will elect two members to the Board of Education and consider two propositions: one for the purchase of four school buses and one to increase the levy for the Newport Free Library.

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West Canada Valley Highlights

Over the past several months, we have been working closely with Dr. Rick Timbs to develop a clear and comprehensive fiscal plan. Dr. Rick Timbs is a nationally recognized expert in school finance and a longtime advocate for fair and sustainable funding for public schools. As the founder of Statewide School Finance Consortium, he works with districts across New York to analyze budgets, project future costs, and help communities understand the financial challenges schools face. This work has helped us identify both immediate needs and long-term strategies to improve the district's fiscal stability. Our goal is to take responsible steps now that will better position West Canada Valley for the future.

The proposed budget reflects these realities. It has been developed with a focus on maintaining core instructional programs, supporting our students, and preserving the integrity of our facilities, while also beginning the process of strengthening our financial foundation. While difficult decisions have been required, every effort has been made to do the best we can with the limited resources available to us.

A proposed 15% increase to the tax levy does not mean every homeowner's school tax bill will go up by 15%. The tax levy is simply the total amount of money a school district needs to collect from all taxpayers combined. How that amount is divided among individual property owners depends on several factors, including changes in property assessments, equalization rates set by New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, and exemptions such as STAR. Some property owners may see an increase, no change, or even a decrease in their tax bill, while others may see a higher change. In short, the 15% levy increase reflects the district's overall revenue need—not a flat percentage applied to every individual tax bill.

The annual budget hearing will take place on May 11th at 6:00 p.m. in the High School Library, with both in-person and virtual attendance options. During the hearing, we will provide a detailed overview of the administrative, program, and capital components of the budget, along with opportunities for questions. The budget vote will be held on May 19, 2026.

We encourage all community members to attend the budget hearing, review the information provided, and participate in the vote on May 19th. Your understanding and involvement are critical as we work through these financial challenges together.

If you have any questions regarding the budget, please contact Jeremy Siddon, Superintendent, at (315) 845-6800 or via email at jsiddon@westcanada.org. For absentee ballots, please contact Daphne Raymo, District Clerk, at (315) 845-6800, extension 3380.

Thank you for your continued support of the West Canada Valley Central School District.

Sincerely,

The West Canada Valley Board of Education







Proposed Budget: 2026-2027

General Fund Appropriations by Program				
	2025-2026 Current	**2026-2027 Proposed**	**(Decrease) Increase**	**% Change**
WCV Admin	$2,040,098	$2,042,590	$2,492	0.1%
BOCES Admin & Capital	$1,044,814	$1,246,804	$201,990	19.33%
Program	$15,636,614	$14,868,973	($767,641)	(4.9%)
Capital	$4,104,409	$3,839,306	($265,103)	(6.46%)
TOTAL	**$22,826,016**	**$21,997,673**	**($828,343)**	**(3.6%)**

General Fund Appropriations by Type				
Description	**2025-2026 Current**	**2026-2027 Proposed**	**(Decrease) Increase**	**% Change**
Payroll	$8,202,799	$7,552,848	($649,951)	(7.9%)
Benefits	$6,092,000	$6,100,458	$8,458	0.1%
BOCES Services	$4,489,797	$4,578,253	$88,456	1.97%
Equipment	$71,200	$55,467	($15,733)	(22.10%)
Contractual	$1,049,383	$1,075,061	$25,678	2.45%
Supplies	$819,415	$771,601	($37,814)	(4.61%)
Textbooks	$36,000	$33,000	($3,000)	(8.3%)
Debt Service	$2,024,822	$1,796,385	($228,437)	(11.25%)
Transfer to School Lunch, Special Aid & Capital	$40,600	$34,600	($6,000)	(14.78%)
TOTAL	**$22,826,016**	**$21,997,673**	($828,343)	(3.63%)

General Fund Revenues				
Source	**2025-2026 Current**	**2026-2027 Proposed**	**(Decrease) Increase**	**% Change**
Property Tax	$5,560,866	$6,394,996	$834,130	15%
State Aid	$13,664,771	$13,913,311	$245,540	1.8%
Other	$688,408	$719,167	$30,759	4.45%
Fund Balance	$2,911,971	$970,199		
Total	**$22,826,016**	**$21,997,673**		

Estimated Tax on True	$10.93	$12.56

Proposed Budget: 2026-2027

I. Administration

The administrative budget includes those expenses directly related to the functions of the Board of Education, the District Clerk, the Superintendent's Office, Business Office, attorneys, auditors, BOCES Administration and Capital charges, Supervision and training

	2025-2026	2026-2027	(Decrease) Increase	% Change
Board of Education	$11,550	$12,945	$1,395	12.08%
Central Administration	$211,791	$218,539	$6,748	3.19%
Finance	$598,954	$615,243	$16,289	2.7%
Staff	$44,537	$45,271	$734	1.6%
Special Items	$1,053,625	$1,257,137	$203,512	19.32%
Administration and Improvement	$551,261	$518,729	($32,532)	(5.9%)
Fringe Benefits	$613,194	$621,530	$8,336	1.4%
Administration Total	**$3,084,912**	**$3,289,394**		

II. Program

The program budget includes those expenses directly related to the teaching of students. Those include teachers, instructional aides and other professional salaries, BOCES charges, supplies, textbooks, special education costs, health and guidance services, co-curricular activities and interscholastic athletics. The program area also includes transportation expenses directly related to the functioning of the bus garage and operations of the bus fleet.

	2025-2026	2026-2027	(Decrease) Increase	% Change
Legal	$5,000	$5,000	0	0
In-service Training	0	0	0	0
Teaching, Regular School	$4,911,960	$4,104,345	($807,615)	(16.44%)
Program for Students with Disabilities	$2,247,335	$2,206,227	($41,108)	(1.8%)
Occupational Education	$682,000	$741,664	$59,664	8.75%
Special Schools	$16,000	$16,000	0	0
Instructional Media	$585,073	$617,209	$32,136	5.5%
Pupil Services	$908,979	$911,869	$2,890	0.3%
District Transportation Services	$1,314,289	$1,263,886	($50,403)	(3.8%)
Fringe Benefits	$4,931,378	$4,968,173	$36,795	0.75%
Interfund Transfer	$34,600	$34,600	0	
Program Total	**$15,636,614**	**$14,868,973**		

Proposed Budget: 2026-2027

III. Capital

The Capital budget includes Operations and Maintenance expenses including salaries, fringe benefits, utilities, and supplies directly related to the cleaning and maintenance of the District's buildings and grounds. Also included in this section of the budget are principal and interest costs related to the borrowing for our capital improvement projects and bus purchases.

	2025-2026	2026-2027	(Decrease) Increase	% Change
Central Services	$1,523,240	$1,529,166	$5,826	0.38%
Refund of Real Property Taxes	$3,000	$3,000	0	
Fringe Benefits	$547,428	$510,755	($36,673)	(6.7%)
Debt Service	$2,024,822	$1,796,385	($228,437)	(11.28%)
Transfer to Capital Fund	$6,000	0	($6,000)	(100%)
Capital Total	**$4,104,490**	**$3,839,306**		

Estimated Revenue: 2026-2027

Source	2025-2026	2026-2027	(Decrease) Increase	% Change
Real Property Taxes	$5,560,866	$6,394,996	$834,130	15%
Other Payments in Lieu of Taxes	$329,560	$360,319	$30,759	9.3%
Interest and Penalties on Real Property Taxes	$25,000	$25,000	0	0
Charges for Services	$69,500	$69,500	0	0
Use of Money and Property	$26,848	$26,848	0	0
Sale of Property	$4,500	$4,500	0	0
Miscellaneous	$170,000	$170,000	0	0
State Aid	$12,238,391	$12,651,402	$413,011	3.37%
State Aid—Building Aid	$1,426,380	$1,261,909	($164,471)	(11.53%)
Federal Aid	$55,000	$55,000	0	0
Interfund Transfers	$8,000	$8,000	0	0
TOTAL REVENUE ITEMS	$19,914,045	$21,027,474	$1,113,429	5.6%
Projected Appropriation of Fund Balance	$2,911,971	$907,199		
TOTAL	**$22,826,016**	**$21,997,673**		

Budget Summary

General Fund Budget:
Percentage Over Prior Year

School Year	General Fund Budget	% Over Prior Year
22-23	$19,671,986	3.6%
23-24	$21,212,431	7.83%
24-25	$21,898,238	3.2%
25-26	$22,826,016	4.24%
26-27	$21,997,673	-3.6%

Tax on True:
Percentage over Prior Year

School Year	Tax (True)	% Over Prior Year
22-23	$14.19	-4.85%
23-24	$12.04	-11.67%
24-25	$11.59	-15.19%
25-26	$10.93	-5.67%
26-27	$12.56 *	15.00%

Budget Questions and Answers

Q: Why is the district proposing a 15% tax levy increase?

A: The district is facing rising costs in areas such as health insurance, transportation, utilities, and contractual obligations. For several years, the district worked to keep tax increases at or near 0%, but those cost pressures have continued to grow. This proposal is intended to maintain current programs, staffing, and opportunities for students.

Q: Does a 15% tax levy increase mean my taxes will go up 15%?

A: No. The tax levy is the total amount the district collects from all taxpayers combined. Individual tax bills vary based on property assessments, equalization rates, and exemptions. Many residents will see a different percentage change than 15%.

Q: What happens if the budget is not approved by voters?

A: Because the proposed levy exceeds the state's tax cap, it requires at least 60% voter approval to pass. If it is not approved, the district can present a revised budget for a second vote. If that is also not approved, the district must adopt a contingency budget, which would result in cuts to programs and services.

Q: What is a contingency budget and how would it impact our schools?

A: A contingency budget requires the district to operate with a 0% tax levy increase. This would likely mean further reduction in staff, programs, extracurricular activities, athletics, and other student opportunities, along with limits on equipment and capital purchases.

Q: Will there be any additional propositions?

A: Yes, there is a proposition for the purchase of 4 new buses as part of the district's five-year bus replacement plan.

Q: Are there any Board seats available for the upcoming school year?

A: Yes, two seats are available for the upcoming school year.

Q: What if I have more questions before the budget vote?

A: View the live stream budget hearing on May 11th through the website and/or contact Mr. Siddon, Superintendent of Schools at 315-8645-6800.

Thank You!

WCV Bus Purchase Proposition

PUBLIC HEARING:
May 11, 2026, 6:00pm Streamed Live from the High School Library

VOTE DATE:
May 19, 2026, 12:00-8:00pm High School Lobby

Public Support is Critical...

The Background: Since the inception of the West Canada Valley School District, the community has continually shown its' support for the programs offered and the budgets that support them. We are once again asking for your support in replenishing our bus fleet. The average annual mileage on a WCV bus is 13,714. With 21 buses in our fleet, this equates to a combined average of 288,000 miles. If we did not replace a portion of our fleet each year, it would be impossible to keep the buses on the road due to high mileage and subsequent mechanical failures.

The Purchase: This proposition calls for purchasing three (3) 66 passenger buses, and one (1) 30-passenger bus, with a wheelchair lift.

The Cost of a 66 passenger bus:

66 Passenger	$167,492
Trade in value (5 years)	40,000
Balance	$127,492
State Aid return (approx.)	$112,193
Final Cost per bus	**$ 15,299**

The Cost of a 30 passenger bus:

30 Passenger—wheelchair	$138,062
Trade in value	$20,950
Balance	$117,112
State Aid return (approx.)	$103,059
Final Cost	**$ 11,098**

Total Cost to taxpayers over 5 years *$56,995*

Total annual cost of purchase to taxpayers = *$11,399*

Q: ***What exactly are we voting on?***

A: You are voting to authorize the District to borrow the money at a total not to exceed $500,337.

Q: ***How does the District pay for buses?***

A: Buses are paid for over a five-year period.

Q: ***What does the timeline look like for purchasing buses?***

A: First, voters are asked to approved the financing. Then, the buses are ordered and delivered. At this point, money is borrowed to pay for the buses. The following year, the loan comes due and payments begin for a five (5) year period. Each year thereafter, state aid payments are received on the principal and interest paid.

Q: How can I get more information on the proposition and bus replacement plan?

A: Attend the public hearing or watch the live stream on Monday, May 11, 2026.

5-year plan benefits:

- Reduction of our out-of-service rate (saves money!)
- Maintain full compliance with Department of Transportation regulations
- Having enough "road ready" buses to service all of our runs
- Reduction of repair costs
- More time for preventive maintenance
- Guaranteed trade in value of purchased buses
- Predictable costs!

Miscellaneous Facts:

Transportation Aid Ratio	**88%+/-**
Number of buses	**21**
Number of buses out of service at any given time	**2**
Average annual bus miles (approx.)	**13,714**
Number of full-time bus garage staff	**3**
Number of full time bus drivers	**16**
Current student population	**671**



West Canada Valley
Central School
5447 State Route 28
PO Box 360
Newport, NY 13416



Non-Profit
Organization

U.S. Postage

PAID

Newport, NY
Permit #5

District Office
Mr. Jeremy Siddon
Superintendent

District Clerk
Mrs. Daphne Raymo
315-845-6800
Ext. 3380

Business Office
Ms. Kelley Crossett
Business Manager
315-845-6800

Elementary School
Ms. Christine Nofri
Principal

Middle/High School
Mr. Glenn Broadbent
Principal

*****ECRWSS**B001

Occupant

Newport, NY 13416

REMINDER

PUBLIC HEARING:
May 11, 2026,
6:00pm
Streamed Live from the High School Library

VOTE DATE:
May 19, 2026
12:00-8:00pm
High School Lobby

Board of Education Candidates

The District is seeking to fill two (2) vacancies on the Board of Education, each with 3-year terms. These positions were previously held by Alisa Brewer and Edwin Schatzel. The candidates are listed below as they will appear on the 2026-2027 ballot. The names were randomly chosen in a ballot draw on April 22, 2026, as per the requirements:

Edwin J. Schatzel

David J. Amendolare

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OUR BOARD CANDIDATES
WWW.WESTCANADA.ORG