LONGWOOD CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Special Budget Edition 2026

BUDGET VOTE & BOE ELECTION

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Poll Hours:
7:00 am - 9:00 pm

2026-27 Proposed Budget:
$326,000,000
Budget Increase: 3.49%

2.84% Tax Levy Increase
Homeowners will see their annual tax bill increase 2.84%

A Message from the Board President and Superintendent

On April 21, 2026, the Board of Education adopted a proposed budget of $326,000,000 for the 2026-2027 school year. This budget reflects our continued commitment to providing a strong, inclusive, and well-rounded educational experience for every student here in Longwood, while upholding our fiscal responsibility to each and every one of our families and taxpayers who make it possible.

From the new and improved facilities across our buildings to the near-completion of our new Career and Technical Education facility, the progress our community deserves and continues to support is truly coming to life on a daily basis. This budget keeps that momentum going, prioritizing rigorous academic programs, student and staff empowerment, and the strong school-community partnerships that define who we are here in Longwood.

The foundation and strength of this district has always and will always come from our amazing people. Our students, staff, and families continue to show up for one another, fostering an environment built on growth, connection, and shared purpose, that continues to build upon that Longwood Pride, Spirit, and Heart that we all know so well!

We invite you to take a few moments to review the information in this newsletter. Additional details are also available at www.longwood.k12.ny.us. The community budget vote will be held on Tuesday, May 19, from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at all of our elementary schools.

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

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
Rhonda Stitham, Ed.D. • William Massian • Gina Pozzolano Gebbia • Christina Jackson • Matthew Gropper
Superintendent of Schools Lance Lohman, Ed.D.

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*****MANWSS***

PROPOSITION I: 2026-2027

Expenditure Category	Budget 2025-2026	Budget 2026-2027
Salaries & Benefits	$ 226,707,249	$ 233,087,547
Equipment	3,337,040	3,122,512
Supplies	3,726,034	4,102,367
Tuition	7,874,261	7,640,832
Contractual	37,982,039	42,415,553
BOCES	25,150,508	25,113,970
Debt Service	9,237,869	9,532,219
Transfer to Other Funds	535,000	535,000
Capital Projects	450,000	450,000
TOTAL BUDGET	**$ 315,000,000**	**$ 326,000,000**

Transportation: First year of a five year award for home to school contract totaling $57,780,880, and the first of a five year award for a summer program home to school contract totaling $4,788,525.

Capital Project: Districtwide Mechanical Work and Elevator Replacements.

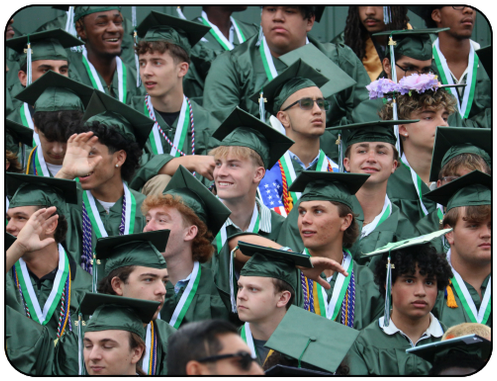
Revenue Category	2025-2026	2026-2027
Tax Levy	$ 164,288,509	$ 168,959,441
State Aid	132,389,535	137,782,881
Applied Fund Balance	6,000,000	6,000,000
Reserves	700,000	1,800,000
PILOT Payments	3,600,000	3,350,000
Other Revenue	8,021,956	8,107,678
TOTAL REVENUE	**$ 315,000,000**	**$ 326,000,000**

Percent of Tax Levy Increase: *2*.84%

Estimated Tax Rate Per $100 Assessed Value*: $318.97

*Based on the assessed value for 2025-2026.The assessed value is subject to change for 2026-2027

Estimated Increase for Average Home, assessed at 2,452: $216.22



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 2026-2027, and follow the links to Voter Registration. The last day to register to vote is May 14, 2026.

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 19, 2026.

Absentee Ballots:

Applications can be found on the website under District - 2026-2027 Budget - Voting Information. Absentee Ballot and Early Mail Ballot Applications cannot be accepted prior to April 20, 2026. Applications must be received no later than May 12 if the ballot is to be mailed. Applications must be received by the day before the election, May 18, if the ballot is to be personally delivered.

Board of Education

Vote

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, 2026 and expiring June 30, 2029. Candidates are listed as they appear on the ballot.

- ☐ Jawaan Sween
- ☐ Gina Pozzolano Gebbia
- ☐ Jeanne Knudsen
- ☐ Christina Jackson

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 2026-2027 proposed budget, visit our website at

www.longwood.k12.ny.us.

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

ACADEMICS

One hundred fifty-nine students from the Class of 2025 earned the Seal of Biliteracy, continuing to build upon Longwood's strong tradition of multilingual achievement.

Forty-two students earned the prestigious Seal of Civic Readiness, demonstrating their commitment to community engagement and civic responsibility.

The Class of 2025 produced 56 AP Scholars, 8 AP Scholars with Honor, and 24 AP Scholars with Distinction, with students enrolled across 21 Advanced Placement courses.

Two new CTE Endorsed Pathways in Computer Science and Automotive were added this year, expanding the career-ready opportunities available to our students through the Academies of Longwood.

Our dual enrollment program now offers 46 college-level courses. In 2025-26, 339 students enrolled, earning 2,659 college credits and saving families more than $708,000 in tuition costs.

Two hundred students participated in internships and job shadow experiences with local businesses, healthcare systems, and community organizations, gaining real-world experience in fields ranging from health sciences and education to drone pilot certification and renewable energy.

ATHLETICS

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

Our varsity girls' spring track team earned League 1 Undefeated Champions honors along with three Section XI titles, with the program's head coach named both League 1 and Section XI Coach of the Year.

The varsity girls' cross country team captured the League 1 Championship and Section XI County Championship, winning the league title for the first time in over 20 years.

Our varsity football team and girls' flag football team each earned 2025 Big 4 Championships.

Varsity boys' golf and varsity girls' swimming each produced State Qualifiers, while varsity girls' tennis players earned All State, All Division, and All Long Island in singles.

Our girls' winter track team continued its success as League 1 Champions and qualified for the Millrose Games. Both boys' and girls' bowling teams were League 1 Champions, with the girls finishing undefeated.

Varsity baseball advanced to the Suffolk County AAA Final Four.

Several of our student-athletes have earned recognition on Newsday's prestigious lists of top athletes across all three seasons.

MUSIC AND FINE ARTS

For the 18th consecutive year, the District has been named among the “Best Communities for Music Education” in the nation as designated by the NAMM Foundation.

Sixty-seven students were selected for the Suffolk County Music Educators Association's All-County festivals, and two students were selected for the prestigious NYSSMA All-State Festival.

The district annually hosts four music festivals at the Junior High School and High School, benefiting more than 2,000 students.

Student artwork has been displayed throughout the community, including at Brookhaven Town Hall, and has been recognized by the Bay Area Friends of the Fine Arts and the Suffolk County Art Leaders Association.

EVERY ONE ... EVERY DAY

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

Continued increased community and voter support.

Our School-to-Business Partnerships continue to grow, with organizations including Stony Brook University, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Suffolk County Community College, the Department of Labor, and PSEG supporting career exploration and workforce development opportunities for our students.

Through these partnerships, K-12 students participate in cutting-edge Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM) research topics, contests, and summer programs extending learning opportunities well beyond the classroom.

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

2026-2027 PRIORITIES

Strong Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Practices

- Bringing targeted BOCES programs back home to Longwood so our students can learn where they live (programs chosen based on student interest and cost efficiency)
- Officially open our fully operational CTE Programs and classrooms inclusive of Culinary, Engineering, Cosmetology, Barbering, and Medical Assistant programs
- Expanding course offerings in Business, English, Social Studies, and dual-enrollment
- Continuing to increase career exploration and internship opportunities
- Further supporting our Special Education and ELL programs
- Engaging in collaborative curriculum writing projects across subject areas

Empowered Students, Staff, and School Community

- Completing major state-of-the-art renovation projects across district:
  - Middle School Music Suite and Activity Court
  - 5 High School CTE Spaces
  - Air Conditioning K-4
  - Flooring and paint districtwide
- Continuing to promote student, staff, and community voice and recognition
- Expanding restorative and mental health training initiatives
- Expanding opportunities for peer-to-peer connections
- Continuing to support targeted and job-embedded professional development

Collaborative School and Community Partnerships

- Maintaining community support and outreach service partnerships
- Continuing to partner with leadership from our Civics, Fire Departments, Unions, community organizations, local officials and municipalities to lead our community forward
- Further develop our partnerships with local businesses and community service organizations to support student internships and service opportunities
- Expanding community connections and outcomes across Longwood School programs

Efficient and Effective Operations

- Sustaining the staff and programs that define the Longwood experience
- Deepening our pipeline for staff recruitment, onboarding, and professional growth
- Expanding instructional support for Special Education and English Language Learners
- Advancing capital improvement projects that significantly enhance our learning environments along with the student and staff experience
- Elevating school safety systems and protocols districtwide
- Strengthening the frameworks that guide our long-range planning efforts
- Preserving our exceptional AA+ financial credit rating

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 3 deadline. Each candidate has submitted a Candidate Nominating Petition to the District Clerk and is listed as appearing on the ballot. School board members serve three-year terms and receive no pay or benefits for their services.

Jawaan Sween

Current Occupation/Professional and Business Experience:
I am a dedicated public servant, youth leader, and community advocate committed to creating stronger opportunities for young people in the Longwood community. I currently work for the Suffolk County Board of Elections and am pursuing a degree in Business Administration at Suffolk County Community College. My leadership experience includes serving as Youth President of Long Island Breakthrough Chapel and Youth Director of Long Island Breakthrough Center CDC, where I lead mentorship, financial literacy, and youth development programs.

Longwood Schools/Community Involvement and Number of Years Served:
I have also served as a junior mentor with the Suffolk County Youth Council, Youth Director for the Greater Gordon Heights Civic Association, and interned with Legislator Jason Richberg's Office and the Suffolk County Executive's Office of Minority Affairs. In the community, I coach a free youth basketball clinic in partnership with the Suffolk County Police Athletic League and organize programs that empower youth through education, discipline, and leadership.

Why are you running for the Longwood BOE?
I am running for the Longwood Board of Education because I believe our students deserve not only a quality education, but real preparation for life. My top priority is expanding youth development and real-world readiness, including financial literacy, mentorship, and career pathways.

If you could focus your efforts and advocacy on only one issue, what would it be?
As a Board member, I will advocate for stronger community partnerships, increased student support programs, and opportunities that equip every student with the tools to succeed both inside and outside the classroom.

Gina Pozzolano Gebbia

Children Attending/Attended Longwood Schools: No Children

Education:
Bucknell University 1988 BS Education
Dowling College 1991 MA Diagnosis of Reading Disabilities

Current Occupation/Professional and Business Experience:
I am currently retired from the Longwood Central School District. My career began at CEW with stops at West Middle Island and the Longwood Middle School.

Longwood Schools/Community Involvement and Number of Years Served:
- Served on CEW and Middle School Shared Decision Making Teams
- Girls Lacrosse coach from 2002
- Athletic Supervisor for Junior High sports teams from 2005
- Teacher and Administrative interview committees
- Longwood Safety Committee member from 2018 Co-Chair since 2022
- MITA Representative 2010 - 2018
- MITA Treasurer 2018 - 2022

Why are you running for the Longwood BOE?
After working in the LCSD for over thirty years as a teacher and a coach, it has been such an honor to continue to serve the students and community of Longwood. Board service has been incredibly rewarding. I would like to continue to give back to the district that has given me so much. Ensuring students are on route to the stage as well as being educationally and emotionally equipped to lead a successful life is my goal.

If you could focus your efforts and advocacy on only one issue, what would it be?
Our children's safety is a top priority. For students to achieve their full potential they must feel secure and valued within their learning environment. This combines both physical measures and robust mental health resources. By integrating physical safeguards as well as essential social-emotional support with comprehensive resources for our entire school community, we ensure that students, faculty, and staff have the tools they need to succeed together.

Jeanne Knudsen

Children Attending/Attended Longwood Schools:
My sons attended Longwood schools (graduated in 2006, 2009, 2011, and 2014)

Education:
Bachelor of Arts, Manhattan University 1983
Masters of Arts in Education, University of New York at Stony Brook 1997

Current Occupation/Professional and Business Experience:

- Social Studies Teacher, LHS, 2004-2026
- IBM, Legal and Marketing 1983-1991
- Mother of four sons, promoted to 'Nana' in 2018

Schools/Community Involvement and Number of Years Served:

- Legislative and Safety Committees for Board of Education
- Longwood PTAs including Ridge PTA President
- Parish Council at Saint Mark RC Church
- Ridge Civic Association

Why are you running for the Longwood BOE?
My husband and I moved to Longwood in 1986 and raised our four sons here because of the welcoming community and the district's focus on student success. My concerns and goals are simple: every student in our district deserves to be academically prepared — whether their path leads to college, a career, or military service. Strong curriculum, quality instruction, and community support are the foundation of student success. As a steward of your tax dollars, I am also committed to accountability — efficient operations, responsible spending, and full transparency so that our community always knows how its money is being used.

If you could focus your efforts and advocacy on only one issue, what would it be?
The safety of our students and staff is my highest priority. While teaching and learning, they deserve to feel secure, supported, and protected. As a board member, I will proactively pursue every available resource to make that a reality — building relationships with elected officials and aggressively seeking grants to ensure our schools are equipped with the most current prevention and intervention strategies available.

Christina Jackson

Children Attending/Attended Longwood Schools:
Generational roots in the Longwood community started in 1997, raising 4 children, expanding to 7 young grandchildren. Longwood has and continues to provide my children quality education and a diverse environment for the family, stability, educational opportunities, school teams and programs, LYSA athletics and friendships. My children have followed both the collegiate and trade school paths, and my youngest is in 10th grade.

Education:
My education includes a BSN from Stony Brook University, and an MBA from Benedictine University**.**

Current Occupation/Professional & Business Experience:
I have been an RN since 1995, currently in leadership in the Nursing Administration. Responded to the tragedy of 9/11, which led me to become American Red Cross Volunteer Nurse.

School/Community Involvement and Number of Years Served:
Current community service includes Longwood Board of Education 2023-current, Advisory, Policy & Procedure & Budget Committee. Current member of the Coram Civic Association.

Why are you running for the Longwood BOE?
My candidacy is to continue to promote our District Goals and Beliefs

- Everyone...Every Day everyone deserves respect and connection
- Learn and Grow- for children to reach their highest ability, whether their curriculum path includes college, career trade, or life skills
- Own It - Taxpayer accountability within budget
- Be Human- unity because we all have more in common than we realize.
- Parental choice is a fundamental right.
- Parental participation is encouraged,
- Balanced support for administration, faculty & staff, parents, and community
- As a BOE team member supported the Capitol Improvement Project Bond of 2024

The impact of decisions to be made at this level affects us all. I appreciate your consideration for continuing to serve you on this Board, as it has been a great honor.

2026-27 School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2025-26 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2026-27 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	$ 315,000,000	$ 326,000,000	$ 321,329,068
Increase/Decrease for the 2026-27 School Year		$ 11,000,000	$ 6,329,068
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.49 %	2.01 %
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.63 %	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	$ 164,288,509	$ 168,959,441	
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)	$ 164,288,509	$ 168,959,441	$ 164,288,509
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	$ 3,827,147	$ 4,430,614	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	$ 160,461,362	$ 164,528,827	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	$ 160,461,362	$ 164,528,827	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	$ 0	$ 0	
Administrative Component	$ 36,130,701	$ 37,519,035	$ 36,981,462
Program Component	$ 245,367,993	$ 253,216,448	$ 249,588,359
Capital Component	$ 33,501,306	$ 35,264,517	$ 34,759,247

* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2026-27 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

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.

Description	Amount
N/A	$
	$
	$
	$

** 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)

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings[1]	$ 898

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2026-27 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 19, 2026 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.

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