June, 2026

West Canada Valley Highlights

Calendar

Budget Hearing:

June 8, 2026
6:00pm
In person and streamed live from the High School Library

Budget Revote:

June 16, 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: Budget Revote
From Your Board of Education:

Dear Community Members,

On May 19, the first proposed 2026–2027 budget for the West Canada Valley Central School District was defeated by a vote of 392 to 306. While a majority of voters supported the proposal, state law required the district to achieve a supermajority of at least 60% approval because the proposed tax levy exceeded the state tax cap. The proposal received approximately 56% approval.

The message from our community was clear, and the district listened. Following the first vote, district leaders and the Board of Education carefully reviewed community feedback and worked diligently to reduce spending while continuing to protect educational opportunities for students. As a result, the Board of Education approved a second proposed budget on Tuesday, May 26th that lowers the tax levy increase from 15% to 9%.

In addition to district reductions, the district also benefited from an increase in state aid. The State of New York increased state aid from 1% to 2%, increasing district foundation aid from $84,006 to approximately $168,013. This additional funding helped support the district's efforts to reduce the local tax levy while continuing to preserve student opportunities and educational programming.

Since the beginning of the budget development process, the district has reduced the overall budget by $1,095,351 compared to the 2025–2026 school year. These reductions were achieved through difficult but necessary decisions aimed at preserving the core educational experience for our students.

To reduce spending, the district has eliminated positions through attrition by not replacing 10 staff positions across the district, while an additional 6 positions have been reduced through layoffs. These reductions, while difficult, have helped the district lower expenses and bring forward a revised proposal that reflects both fiscal responsibility and community feedback.

The district is now asking the community to support a 9% tax levy increase that would continue to provide students with strong educational programs while maintaining important opportunities beyond the classroom, including extracurricular activities and athletics.

Without an approved budget, the district will be required to adopt a contingency budget, reducing spending to $21,230,187. A contingency budget would require additional reductions that will include extracurricular activities, athletic opportunities, field trips, and further program and operational cuts throughout the district.

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We also strongly encourage community members to ask questions and seek information directly from the district. During important decisions such as the school budget vote, information shared on social media may not always provide complete context or accurate details. We encourage residents to attend meetings, contact district administrators, review official district communications, and ask questions so they can make informed decisions based on facts and accurate information.

This second vote represents an opportunity to balance fiscal responsibility with preserving the opportunities and experiences that make West Canada Valley a strong school community. We encourage all eligible residents to become informed, ask questions, and participate in the upcoming vote.

The second budget hearing will take place on June 8th 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 June 16, 2026 from 12:00-8:00pm in the main High School Lobby.

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

Sincerely,

The West Canada Valley Board of Education

Why Individual Tax Bills Vary: Understanding Equalization Rates

The proposed budget includes a 9.00% school tax levy increase. The tax levy is the total amount of money the school district plans to raise through taxes. The tax levy is not the same as the tax rate, which may be confusing because they sound similar. Tax rates are calculated by dividing the total amount of the levy by the total taxable assessed value in a community. The tax rate is used to calculate what each property owner actually pays in school taxes and is affected by changes in municipal assessments, which are finalized in the summer, and state equalization rates, that were finalized and published last week. Calculating tax rates for each homeowner is complicated by the fact that the district contains seven towns, located in two counties. Each year, specific tax rates vary from town to town due to the equalization rates that the New York State Office of Real Property Services (ORPS) sets. As the name suggests, equalization rates are intended to distribute the tax burden across each of the seven towns as fairly as possible. They attempt to “equalize” or compensate for differing assessment practices, for the fact that one town’s assessments may be more recent than another town’s, and for the fact that property values don’t rise equally in all towns within the district. The school district plays no role in determining what portion of the tax burden is placed on any one town or any one property owner. State ORPS sets the equalization rates. The assessor in each town calculates individual assessments that are used in the calculations that determine how much is paid by each property owner. While individuals may see that their tax bill increases a little more or less than another taxpayer living in another town within the district, the differences tend to balance out over several years.

While every property tax bill is different and depends on assessed value, equalization rates, exemptions, and how taxes are distributed, below are simple examples using a straight 9% increase for illustration purposes only.

- A homeowner with a **2025–2026 school tax bill of $2,500** could see an estimated increase of approximately **$225 annually**, for a projected school tax bill of **$2,725**. This equals about **$18.75 more per month**.
- A homeowner with a **2025–2026 school tax bill of $3,000** could see an estimated increase of approximately **$270 annually**, for a projected school tax bill of **$3,270**. This equals about **$22.50 more per month**.

It is important to understand that a **9% tax levy increase does not automatically equal a 9% increase in an individual tax bill. Actual impacts vary based on property assessments, equalization rates, STAR exemptions, and how taxes are distributed among municipalities in the district.

REVISED Proposed Budget: 2026-2027

District residents will be voting on the **"2026-2027 Proposed"** budget in the highlighted column.

The column labelled **"2026-2027 Contingent"** is the budget that must be enacted if the proposed budget is not approved by 60% of the residents voting.

General Fund Appropriations Summary

	2025-2026 Current	2026-2027 Proposed	2026-2027 Contingent
WCV Admin	$2,040,098	$1,982,093	$1,982,093
BOCES Admin & Capital	$1,044,814	$1,246,804	$1,246,804
Program	$15,636,614	$14,680,780	$14,180,302
Capital	$4,104,409	$3,820,988	$3,820,988
TOTAL	**$22,826,016**	**$21,730,665**	**$21,230,187**

I. Administration

	2025-2026	2026-2027 Proposed	2026-2027 Contingent
Board of Education Expenses incurred by Board members for travel and conferences: by the District Clerk and by the District for advertising meetings, the Annual Meeting and elections.	$11,550	$12,445	$12,445
Central Administration Salaries, travel, conferences, equipment and materials and supplies for the Superintendent and Secretary.	$211,791	$214,173	$214,173
Finance Salaries, travel, conferences, equipment, postage, computer services and materials and supplies for the Business Official/Treasurer and staff, auditing, tax collection and contractual expenditures.	$598,954	$588,179	$588,179
Staff Legal services, BOCES personnel services and public information costs.	$44,537	$45,271	$45,271
Special Items Unallocated insurance and BOCES administrative & capital expenses.	$1,053,625	$1,257,137	$1,257,137
Administration and Improvement Salaries, travel, conferences, equipment maintenance, curriculum development and materials and supplies for the school principals and school building clerical staff.	$551,261	$499,018	$499,018
Fringe Benefits State Employee and Teacher Retirement System costs, social security, workers compensation, hospital and medical insurance and unemployment insurance for all employees in the administrative section of the budget.	$613,194	$612,674	$612,674
Administration Total	**$3,084,912**	**$3,228,897**	**$3,228,897**

REVISED Proposed Budget: 2026-2027

II. Program

	2025-2026	2026-2027 Proposed	2026-2027 Contingent
Legal Services related to students with disabilities.	$5,000	$5,000	$5,000
In-service Training Professional development for instructional personnel.	0	0	0
Teaching, Regular School Salaries and other expenses including materials and supplies related to teachers, substitute teachers, teacher assistants, teacher aides and monitors.	$4,911,960	$3,958,446	$3,958,446
Program for Students with Disabilities Expenses related to services of students with disabilities including instructional salaries, speech, occupational therapy, resource room, BOCES and other public and private school placements.	$2,247,335	$2,192,367	$2,253,173
Occupational Education Expenses for students at Herkimer BOCES Career Tech Education Program.	$682,000	$741,664	$741,664
Special Schools Expenses related to instruction other than regular school (BOCES Summer School).	$16,000	$16,000	$16,000
Instructional Media Salaries and expenses for operating the school libraries, audiovisual equipment, materials and supplies, and the school's computer assisted instruction program.	$585,073	$617,209	$617,209
Pupil Services Expenses related to guidance, counseling, health services, testing, equipment maintenance and scoring services. Also included are co-curricular and interscholastic athletics (sports).	$908,979	$895,181	$517,932
District Transportation Services Expenses incurred for the student transportation program including salaries, repairs, fuel and operation and maintenance of the garage building.	$1,314,289	$1,267,740	$1,114,640
Fringe Benefits State Employee and Teacher Retirement System costs, social security, workers compensation, hospital and medical insurance and unemployment insurance for all employees in the program section of the budget.	$4,931,378	$4,952,573	$4,921,638
Interfund Transfer Transfers to the Special Aid and School Lunch Funds.	$34,600	$34,600	$34,600
Program Total	**$15,636,614**	**$14,680,780**	**$14,180,302**







REVISED Proposed Budget: 2026-2027

III. Capital			
	2025-2026	**2026-2027 Proposed**	**2026-2027 Contingent**
Central Services Operation and maintenance of plant including heating fuel & utilities, salaries, contractual expenditures, material and supplies and BOCES services.	$1,523,240	$1,510,848	$1,510,848
Refund of Real Property Taxes	$3,000	$3,000	$3,000
Fringe Benefits State Employee and Teacher Retirement System costs, social security, workers compensation, hospital and medical insurance and unemployment insurance for all employees in the capital section of the budget.	$547,428	$510,755	$510,755
Debt Service Expenditures for Principle and Interest on bonds for school construction projects, Statutory Installment Bonds for school bus purchases and Revenue Anticipation Notes that have been issued.	$2,024,822	$1,796,385	$1,796,385
Transfer to Capital Fund	$6,000	0	0
Capital Total	**$4,104,490**	**$3,820,988**	**$3,820,988**









ESTIMATED REVENUES

Source	2025-2026	2026-2027	2026-2027 Contingent
Real Property Taxes This estimated amount is determined after all other sources are accounted for.	$5,560,866	$6,061,344	$5,560,866
Other Payments in Lieu of Taxes This is the estimated amount to be received for the PILOTS that are currently in effect: Atlantic Wind Project.	$329,560	$360,319	$360,319
Interest and Penalties on Real Property Taxes This is the estimated amount to be received for late payment of Property Taxes.	$25,000	$25,000	$25,000
Charges for Services This is the estimated amount to be received for Student Fees and Charges and Services for BOCES.	$69,500	$69,500	$69,500
Use of Money and Property This is the estimated amount to be received for interest earning and rental of real property.	$26,848	$26,848	$26,848
Sale of Property This is the estimated amount to be received from the sale of scrap and excess materials.	$4,500	$4,500	$4,500
Miscellaneous Estimated reimbursement for Medicare Part D and refunds for prior years BOCES Expenditures.	$170,000	$170,000	$170,000
State Aid Basic Formula Foundation Aid, Transportation Aid, Excess Cost Aid, BOCES, Textbook, Computer Software & Hardware Aid and Library Aid. Also included, aid on the BOCES capital project.	$12,238,391	$12,735,409	$12,735,409
State Aid—Building Aid Aid received on District capital projects.	$1,426,380	$1,261,909	$1,261,909
Federal Aid Medicaid reimbursement for Special Ed expenditures and E-Rate.	$55,000	$55,000	$55,000
Interfund Transfers This is a transfer of other funds from the Special Aid Fund for summer special education transportation expenses and transfer from Debt Service Fund of interest received on Capital Funds to offset capital project debt service.	$8,000	$8,000	$8,000
TOTAL REVENUE ITEMS	$19,914,045	$20,777,829	$20,277,351
Projected Appropriation of Fund Balance	$2,911,971	$952,836	$952,836
TOTAL	**$22,826,016**	**$21,730,665**	**$21,230,187**

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	$21,730,665	-4.8%

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	$11.91* estimated	9.00%

Budget Questions and Answers

Q: Why is the district proposing a 9% 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 9% tax levy increase mean my taxes will go up 9%?

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 9%. Please look on page two of this Budget Newsletter.

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 must adopt a contingency budget, which would result in deeper cuts such as extracurricular opportunities, athletics, field trips, and additional staffing across the district.

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 mean further reduction in staff, programs, extracurricular activities, athletics, and other student opportunities, along with limits on equipment and capital purchases.

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

A: View the live stream budget hearing on June 8th through the website and/or contact Mr. Siddon, Superintendent of Schools at 315-845-6800.

Thank You!

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

REMINDER

PUBLIC HEARING:
June 8, 2026,
6:00pm
Streamed Live from the High School Library

REVOTE DATE:
June 16, 2026
12:00-8:00pm
High School Lobby