

HUDSON FALLS

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

2025-26 BUDGET EDITION

School budget vote set for May 20

Proposal preserves key programming across all grade levels

On Tuesday, May 20, Hudson Falls Central School District residents will vote on a \$57,299,699 proposed budget for the 2025-26 school year.

The proposed budget, which involves an increase of \$2,745,832 or 5.03% over the current year's budget, will result in a 1.9% increase to the tax levy. The tax levy increase falls well below the New York State property tax levy limit of 4.83% for the District.

Polls will be open from noon to 8 p.m. in the Hudson Falls High School Gymnasium, 80 E LaBarge Street.

Also on the ballot is a \$760,000 bus proposition to purchase four conventional 66-passenger school buses and one conventional 30-passenger school bus. Recognizing the impending 2027 state mandate requiring all new school bus purchases to be zero-emission, the District is proposing the purchase of these diesel or gas-powered buses to ensure the continued stability of its fleet (see page three). The state will reimburse Hudson Falls Central School District for approximately 90% of the cost of the vehicle purchases.

The proposed spending plan for next year includes a \$100,000 capital outlay project. The District will receive state aid reimbursement for this project to install exterior lockdown lights to integrate with the existing emergency lockdown system.

The proposed budget focuses on sustaining the robust academic programming and extracurricular activities the district has been able to offer students in recent years. This budget proposal will also enable the district to implement a comprehensive literacy program for students in grades UPK-8, sustain existing reading programs at the elementary and middle schools, continue current graduation credit opportunities at the middle school, and preserve elective courses at both the middle and high school levels. It also includes funding for anticipated repairs.

In addition, voters will be asked to elect two community members to the board of education (see page four). These two seats are currently held by Timothy Keenan and Amanda Landsman. The term for the seats runs from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2030.



The proposed 2025-26 budget underscores the district's commitment to students by sustaining its comprehensive academic programs and diverse extracurricular activities.

Capital Project Update

In 2024, voters approved Hudson Falls Central School District's capital project proposal to fund major improvements to facilities and infrastructure. Subject to approval from the New York State Education Department this spring, the District anticipates commencing construction bidding in the fall, with construction work scheduled to begin in Summer 2026.

2025-26 BUDGET AT-A-GLANCE

TOTAL BUDGET
\$57,299,699

BUDGET INCREASE
\$2,745,832 / 5.03%

TAX LEVY INCREASE
1.9%

Also On the Ballot

Two Board of Education Seats

BUS PROPOSITION:
\$760,000

BUDGET  **Vote**

Tuesday, May 20

Polls will be open from
Noon to 8 p.m.
at the HFHS Gymnasium
80 E LaBarge Street
Hudson Falls, NY

Budget Hearing

Monday, May 12 – 6:30 p.m.

Join us for the Celebration of the Arts at HFHS on May 20 from 6 to 8 p.m.

For more information about the 2025-26 proposed budget, visit

www.hfcsd.org

or call the District Office at

(518) 747-2121

Budget Breakdown – Revenue & Expenditure Summary

3-PART EXPENSE SUMMARY

ADMINISTRATIVE	9.8%
2025-2026	\$5,623,345
2024-2025	\$5,385,562

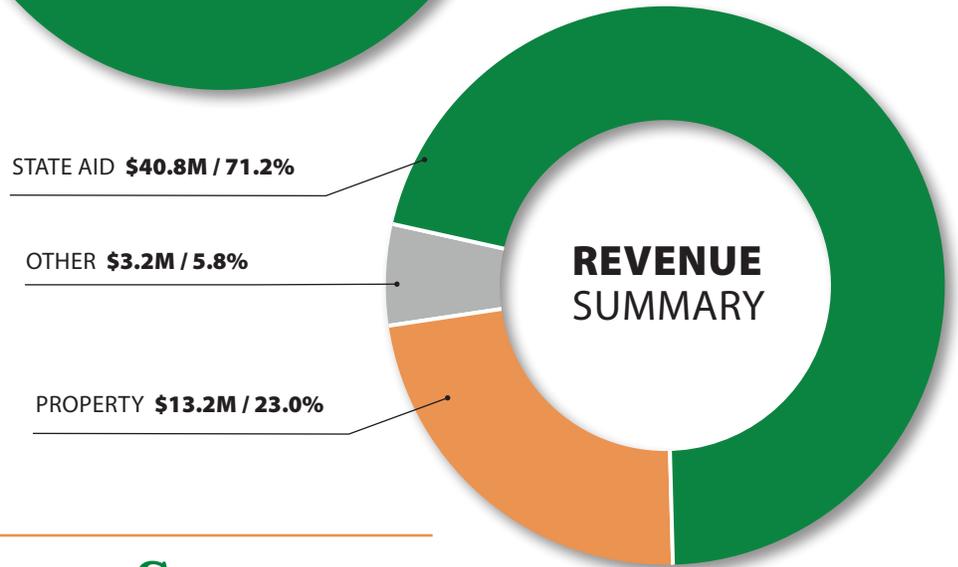
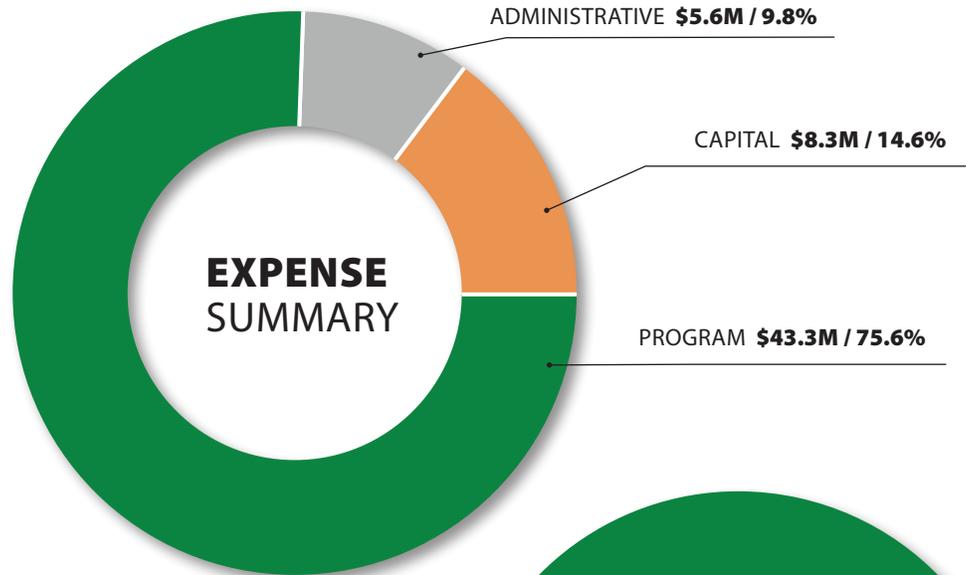
Administrative Expenditures cover expenses related to district management.

CAPITAL	14.6%
2025-2026	\$8,338,218
2024-2025	\$7,462,523

Capital Expenditures include the cost of maintenance, operation, utilities, transportation, and debt service.

PROGRAM	75.6%
2025-2026	\$43,338,136
2024-2025	\$41,705,782

Program Expenditures include items directly related to instruction. These include salaries, benefits, and transportation.



2025-26 BUDGET PRIORITIES

The proposed budget focuses on funding in these key areas:

- Enhances student safety.
- Integration of a comprehensive literacy program for UPK-8.
- Preserves phonics-based reading at elementary schools.
- Maintains focus on reading at the middle school.
- Sustains electives and graduation credit opportunities at the middle school.
- Maintains electives at the high school.

(See page one for more details.)

Revenue Summary

REVENUES	2024-25	Proposed 2025-26	Change
State Aid	\$38,637,592	\$40,792,473	\$2,154,881
Property Tax Levy	\$12,944,775	\$13,190,726	\$245,951
Payment in Lieu of Taxes	\$85,000	\$80,000	(\$5,000)
Interest Earnings	\$150,000	\$200,000	\$50,000
Medicaid Reimbursement	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$0
Summer School Tuition	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$0
Miscellaneous	\$1,100,000	\$1,100,000	\$0
Gifts & Donations	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$650,000	\$950,000	\$300,000
Appropriated Reserves	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$0
Employee Benefit Reserve	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0
Transfer from Debt Service	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$0
TOTAL REVENUES	\$54,553,867	\$57,299,699	\$2,745,832

REQUIRED SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2024-25 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2025-26 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$54,553,867	\$57,299,699	\$56,984,699
Increase for the 2025-26 School Year		\$2,745,832	\$2,430,832
Percentage Increase in Proposed Budget		5.03 %	4.46%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.95%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$12,944,775	\$13,190,726	
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)	\$12,944,775	\$13,190,726	\$12,944,775
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$0	\$0	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$13,295,020	\$13,570,553	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$12,944,775	\$13,190,726	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)	\$350,245	\$379,827	
Administrative Component	\$5,385,562	\$5,623,345	\$5,573,345
Program Component	\$41,705,782	\$43,338,136	\$43,316,136
Capital Component	\$7,462,523	\$8,338,218	\$8,095,218

* Pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law, should the proposed budget be defeated, certain equipment in the capital and administrative components would be reduced.

Description	Amount
School Bus Proposition	\$760,000

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$323
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The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2025-26 by the qualified voters of the Hudson Falls Central School District, Washington County, New York, will be held at the High School in said district on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, between the hours of noon and 8 p.m., prevailing time, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot.

School districts are required by New York State law to mail this information to all households within the district. If you would like more information about the budget, please call the superintendent's office at (518) 747-2121 or visit the district website at www.hfcsd.org.

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

VOTER INFORMATION

Voter eligibility

To be eligible to vote, residents must live in the school district for at least 30 days prior to the May 20 election, be at least 18 years of age, and be a citizen of the United States.

Voter registration

Residents may register to vote on the budget vote day, May 20, in the Hudson Falls High School Gymnasium.

Voting location

The school budget vote will take place from 12 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 20, in Hudson Falls High School Gymnasium located at 80 E LaBarge Street in Hudson Falls.

Absentee and early mail ballot information

- ✔ The district will provide mail-in and absentee ballots if requested.
- ✔ The district will provide absentee ballots for those previously identified on the county list.
- ✔ The New York Early Mail Voter Act allows registered voters to request a mail-in ballot. You can request an early voter ballot in person up to the day of the election.
- ✔ Absentee and Early Mail Voter ballots must be returned to the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on May 20.

For information on how to get an absentee ballot, call District Clerk Kelli Henzel at (518) 681-4124.

Questions & Answers

Q: How would the proposed budget affect my taxes? Is it within the cap?

The District's proposed 2025-26 budget includes a 1.9% tax levy increase, which is within the tax levy "cap." The New York State property tax levy limit formula for Hudson Falls Central School District allows for a maximum tax levy increase or "cap" of 4.83% in 2025-26. The 1.9% tax levy increase in the proposed budget plan aims to respond to the community's needs while preserving and investing in current student programming.

Q: What is included in the proposed budget?

The proposed budget maintains all programming, and in many cases enhances programs for students at Hudson Falls Central School District.

Q: What does the school bus proposition entail?

The district is proposing a \$760,000 proposition to purchase four conventional 66-passenger and one conventional 30-passenger school bus to ensure fleet stability and replace older buses that have become costly to run due to frequent maintenance needs. All school buses are required to pass state-mandated inspections before they can carry students.

In addition, this purchase of diesel or gas-powered buses addresses the impending 2027 state mandate requiring all new school bus purchases to be zero-emission and the 2035 mandate for fully electric fleets. New York State will reimburse approximately 90% of the vehicle purchase costs.





Hudson Falls

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

80 East LaBarge Street
Hudson Falls, NY 12839

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID

Permit No. 940
Albany, NY

BOARD OF EDUCATION

- Jeffrey Gaulin, President
- Amanda Landsman, Vice President
- Heidi Andrejkovics
- Megan Borlang
- Vince Canini
- Mike Fitzgerald
- Crystal Grimaldi
- Timothy Keenan
- Bryan Steele

SUPERINTENDENT

Daniel Ward

EDITOR

Zach Ribert

Produced in cooperation with Capital Region BOCES Engagement & Development Services.

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Hudson Falls 2025-26 BUDGET EDITION

ON THE BALLOT

PROPOSITION I	PROPOSITION II
<p>2025-26 BUDGET</p> <p>RESOLVED, the Board of Education of the Hudson Falls Central School District is authorized to expend the sums set forth in the budget in the total amount of \$57,299,699 during the school year 2025-26, and to levy the necessary tax therefore.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> YES NO <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> </p>	<p>PURCHASE OF SCHOOL BUSES</p> <p>RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Hudson Falls Central School District is hereby authorized to purchase four 66-passenger school buses and one 30-passenger school bus, at a total cost not to exceed \$760,000 and that the sum of \$760,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of said School District and collected in annual installments as provided by the Education Law and the Local Finance Law, and in anticipation of such tax, obligations of said School District shall be issued.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> YES NO <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> </p>

OFFICE	BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER (FIVE-YEAR TERM)
A	Samantha Melucci
B	Adriana Strong
C	Amanda Landsman (incumbent)





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