



Worcester

CENTRAL
SCHOOL

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BUDGET At a Glance

PROPOSED BUDGET

\$12,785,747

SPENDING INCREASE

5.16%

PROPERTY TAX LEVY INCREASE

3.27%

What is on the Ballot?

This year, the Worcester CSD ballot will include:

The Budget Proposition for 2024-2025

A Board of Education Seat

Also, a request from the Worcester Free Library to increase the contribution of \$7,500 from the community to fund the library. This would increase the community contribution to \$40,000.



Budget **VOTE**

Tuesday, May 21, 2024 | 12-8 p.m.

Worcester Central School Library,
198 Main Street

Voters to decide on \$12.8 million proposed budget, board election, Worcester Free Library Proposition

Budget adds opportunities for students, remains below tax levy limit

On Tuesday, May 21, 2024, Worcester Central School voters will decide on a \$12,785,747 budget proposal for the 2024-25 school year. The proposed budget maintains all current academic and extracurricular programming for students, and adds BOCES services as well as a teaching position to accommodate growth. The proposed budget is a 5.16% spending increase compared to last year and includes a proposed 3.27% tax levy increase that is substantially lower than the calculated allowable tax levy limit of 4.74%.

Additions to the proposed 2024-25 spending plan include an elementary teacher to accommodate district enrollment growth and two new BOCES services. The budget proposal adds language support services for students who are learning English, and a half-time technology support position. Both new services would be purchased through Otsego Northern Catskill BOCES, and the district would receive aid back on these services in the following year.

In addition, the proposed budget includes the purchase of two diesel powered school buses to maintain the five-year bus replacement schedule established years ago by the Board of Education. This ensures our fleet maintains newly enhanced safety features and minimizes repair costs for maintaining buses and vehicles past their practical life.

"Our community continues to grow and evolve", said Superintendent Tim Gonzales. "Our board of education is working hard to prepare the district for success as it changes, while being aware of the impact on taxpayers."

Voters will also elect one candidate to the board of education.





Elyza Schoeberl earns title of Valedictorian

Elyza Schoeberl has earned the honor of being the Valedictorian of the Class of 2024. Elyza is the daughter of Jeffrey and Tina Schoeberl. She has attended Worcester Central School since Pre-K and has played for the soccer, basketball and softball teams. She has also participated in Band, Chorus, National Honor Society, Tri-M Honor Society, school musicals, SADD, CFES, Student Council, Prom Committee, Science Club, Wolverine Pride Club, and Varsity Leadership Club. Elyza also served as the 2023-24 New York State First Associate Dairy Ambassador through American Dairy Association North East. Following graduation, Elyza plans to attend college and major in political science and public policy to become a lawyer.



Hailey Shalor earns title of Salutatorian

Hailey Shalor has earned the honor of being the Salutatorian of the Class of 2024. Hailey is the daughter of Tanya and Kevin Shalor. While enrolled in Worcester Central School, Hailey has been involved in basketball, soccer, softball, musicals and plays, National Honor Society, Tri-M Honor Society, SADD, Student Council, Class President, Varsity Leadership Club, Section IV Student Athletic Advisory Committee, CFES, Band, Chorus, Science Club, and Worcester Pride Club. Hailey plans to attend college to pursue a career in secondary math education with a special education certification. She also plans to play basketball at a collegiate level.

Questions & Answers about the Proposed Budget

Q: What has changed in the district’s anticipated revenue?

A: Worcester CSD relies on New York state aid for approximately 60% of its revenue each year. However, in the 2024-25 school year, state aid is expected to decrease by about \$37,883, or 0.49%. To make up the difference, the district is planning to use money from its fund balance.

Q: Is the proposed budget within the district’s tax levy limit?

A: The proposed 2024-25 tax levy increase is 3.27%, which increases the budget \$120,255, and is well under the 4.74% tax cap as calculated by the required state formula.

Q: Why is the “2% tax cap” not really 2%?

A: The “2% tax cap” is actually different for every school in the state and is determined by NYS law through a formula using each school’s unique fiscal data. Tax levy limits vary by district every year. For the 2024-25 school year the WCS tax levy limit is 4.74%. The calculated amount is a threshold that determines what level of voter support is needed to pass a budget. If a district’s tax levy increase is below or equal to the limit, a simple majority (50 percent plus one vote) is needed. If a district’s tax levy increase exceeds the limit, 60 percent voter approval is required.



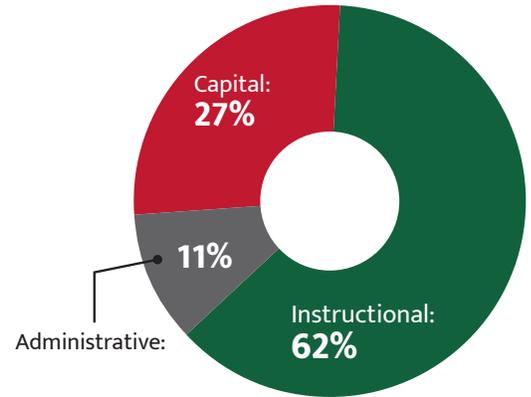


3-PART BUDGET SUMMARY

Where does the money go?

A line-by-line look at Expenditures

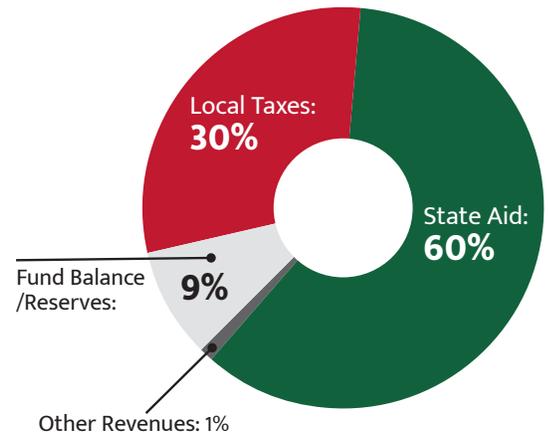
EXPENSES	2023-24 Budget	2024-25 Proposed	% Change
Administrative	\$1,366,976	\$1,412,179	3.31%
Program	\$7,555,970	\$7,890,493	4.43%
Capital	\$3,235,800	\$3,483,475	7.65%
Total Expenses	\$12,158,746	\$12,785,747	5.16%



Where does the money come from?

A line-by-line look at Revenues

REVENUES	2023-24 Budget	2024-25 Proposed	% Change
Fund Balance/Reserves	\$675,000	\$1,117,629	65.57%
Other Revenues	\$49,000	\$151,000	208.16%
State Aid	\$7,761,713	\$7,723,830	-0.49%
Local Taxes	\$3,673,033	\$3,793,288	3.27%
Total Revenues	\$12,158,746	\$12,785,747	5.16%



One seat on the Board of Education

On Tuesday, May 21, voters will elect a candidate to fill one seat on the Worcester Board of Education. The seat is for a five-year term currently held by Stacey Serdy.



Stacey Serdy

My name is Stacey Serdy and I am running for a third term to the Worcester CSD Board of Education. My husband and I are both alumni of this district, and we were very intentional when settling back in our hometown to raise our four children. In addition to being a school board member, I run a hobby farm, and actively participate in the local chapter of the DAR and St. Joseph's church.

In my tenure on the board, we strengthened the curriculum in grades 1-6 with the return of science and history, and most recently adding STEM and agriculture. We oversaw a merger study, with great thought put into the impact on our students and taxpayers. We continue to maintain a healthy budget by being fiscally prudent with our fund balance.

With your vote, I will continue to set goals for our district which will secure its longevity while providing students with an education that nurtures the individual child and sets them up for a successful future beyond graduation.

Board of Education

William Fisher, *President*

Stacey Serdy, *Vice President*

Peter Kwiatkowski

Tanya Shalor

Jim Conroe

Tim Gonzales, *Superintendent*

*Produced in cooperation with the Capital
Region BOCES Communications Service.*



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Budget 2024-25

Budget Vote Information

What will I be voting on?

- A \$12,785,747 budget proposal for 2024-25.
- One school board seat. (See page 3.)
- A request from the Worcester Free Library to increase the contribution by \$7,500 to \$40,000 from the community to fund the library.

When and where do I vote?

Tuesday, May 21, 2024, from 12-8 p.m. at the Worcester CSD Library.

Who is eligible to vote?

District residents who are U.S. citizens, 18 years old or older and residents in the school district for at least 30 days prior to the vote; and are not otherwise disqualified under the Education Law.

Do I need to register to vote?

No, but the WCSD may require all persons offering to vote to provide one form of proof of residency pursuant to election law.

How can I vote by absentee ballot?

Absentee ballots are available by application for residents unable to vote on the day of the referendum. Absentee ballots should be requested at least two weeks prior to the vote date. To request an absentee ballot, please contact the district clerk Wendy Elliott by phone at 607-397-8785 or in-person at the district office, 198 Main St, Worcester, NY 12197.

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 preceding the election.

All ballots are due by 5 p.m. on May 21.

WHAT IF THE BUDGET VOTE FAILS?

The board of education can adopt a contingent budget which would prevent WCSD from increasing the current levy by any amount.

To make up the levy difference of \$120,255 incurred with a contingency budget, WCSD could possibly cut program expenses or increase the amount we would have to take from our fund balance.

Alternatively, the district may choose to hold a revote on June 18, 2024.



Board of Education 2023-24 Meetings Schedule

May 8, 2024: Budget Hearing - Worcester Central School Library, 6:30 p.m.

May 22, 2024: Worcester Central School Library, 6:30 p.m.

June 18, 2024: Worcester Central School Library, 6:30 p.m.