

AT-A-GLANCE

Proposed Budget:
\$139,700,000

Tax Levy Increase:
2.98%

Spending Increase:
4.41%

BUDGET 2026-2027 EDITION

VALLEY CENTRAL

SCHOOL DISTRICT



VOTE ON
MAY 19, 2026

6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Valley Central High School
Gymnasium

VOTER ELIGIBILITY

- U.S. citizen
- School district resident for at least 30 days
- 18 years of age by May 19, 2026
- Registered to vote with the School District and/or County Board of Elections

ABSENTEE & EARLY MAIL BALLOTS

Applications for absentee & early mail ballots are available on the District website or from the Office of the District Clerk.



MORE INFORMATION
VCSDNY.ORG



Band and other extracurricular activities foster a sense of pride in our district, which is Priority 2 of our strategic plan: Community Belonging & VC Pride.



Aligned with Strategic Plan Priority 3: Clear & Transparent Communications and Priority 1: Elevating Student Success & Engagement, Valley Central introduced curriculum e-newsletters that share what students are learning and offer resources to strengthen engagement at home.



Evette Avila
Superintendent
of Schools

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

On May 19, Valley Central School District voters will have the opportunity to consider three important propositions that directly impact our schools and community—the annual

school budget, a capital project proposal and the establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund.

The proposed 2026-27 budget is \$139,700,000 with a tax levy increase of 2.98%, which is below the district's tax levy limit, and is designed to prioritize student achievement and fiscal sustainability. We worked diligently to develop a fiscally responsible, balanced budget that supports educational programs, accounts for rising costs, preserves an adequate fund balance and is mindful of the financial impact to taxpayers while at the same time ensures the stability and long-term health of our schools.

Proposition 2 focuses on capital improvements across multiple Valley Central schools. Collectively, these projects aim to improve safety, functionality, and the overall learning environment. The capital project would also foster belonging and pride in our district, which is Priority 2 of our strategic plan.

The improvements outlined in Proposition 2 would have no additional tax impact on residents as it would be funded by a combination of state building aid, capital reserve funds and the District's fund balance. Detailed project information and a link to an informative video is contained on page 3 of this newsletter.

This year, there is also Proposition 3 which, if approved, will establish a new Capital Reserve Fund to allow the District to set aside funds over time for future building repairs, equipment replacement and facility improvements. By planning ahead, the District can address major capital needs responsibly while helping reduce reliance on borrowing and also stabilizing costs for taxpayers.

At Valley Central, we work diligently every day to create a school district that the community can be proud of. We will continue to make progress on our strategic plan goals while upholding our mission—empowering every student to achieve at high levels and embrace the joy of continuous learning.

Please remember to vote on Tuesday, May 19. Polls will be open 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Valley Central High School.



VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

The information provided below is the "School District Budget Notice" as required by state law. School districts must distribute this notice, as prescribed, to all district residents.

REQUIRED SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

BUDGET EXPENDITURES
TOTAL BUDGET \$139,700,000

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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	\$ 133,800,000	\$139,700,000	\$137,591,000
Increase/Decrease for the 2026-27 School Year		\$5,900,000	\$3,791,000
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		4.41 %	2.83%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.63%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$70,691,000	\$72,800,000	
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)	\$70,691,000	\$72,800,000	\$70,691,000
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$1,170,193	\$1,211,754	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$71,324,435	\$71,909,472	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$69,520,807	\$71,588,246	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$1,803,628	\$321,226	
Administrative Component	\$12,296,040	\$12,573,108	\$12,386,108
Program Component	\$107,921,555	\$111,222,936	\$109,574,311
Capital Component	\$13,582,405	\$15,903,956	\$15,630,581

* 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.

Pursuant to section 2023 of the Education Law, the Board of Education will comply with all laws and regulations relative to declaring ordinary contingent expenses in the event of a contingency budget for the 2026-27 school year. Salaries for professional educators and support personnel will be declared contingent expenses as well as costs necessary to maintain mandated educational programs, maintain and preserve District property, as well as costs to ensure the health and safety of students and staff.

** 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)

Description	Amount
Proposition 2 - Renovation and Improvement of School District Facilities	\$10,370,000
Proposition 3 - Establishment of Capital Reserve Fund 2026	\$20,000,000
	\$
	\$

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$593

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2026-27 by the qualified voters of the Valley Central School District, Orange County, New York, will be held at the Valley Central High School in said district on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., prevailing time in the gymnasium, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine

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

PROGRAM COMPONENT:
\$111,222,936

PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET: 80%

The program component provides funding for the salaries and benefits of all teachers, guidance counselors, aides, monitors, psychologists, nurses, social workers, and speech therapists. The program component also includes the costs associated with all the instructional and extracurricular programs, transportation and athletic activities.

CAPITAL COMPONENT:
\$15,903,956

PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET: 11%

The capital component provides funds for the operation and maintenance of Valley Central's school buildings, debt service, property tax refunds, tax certiorari and court-ordered costs, and the salaries and benefits for the maintenance and custodial staff.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT:
\$12,573,108

PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET: 9%

The administrative component provides funding for the overall general support and management activities of the district, including the salaries and benefits of all professional members who spend 50% or more of their time in administration and supervision, curriculum development, clerical staff, public information, business office operations, and legal and auditing services.



TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT

Passage of the 2026-27 Proposed Budget Would Constitute Approval of Five-Year Contract

The 2026-2027 school year is the first year of a five-year contract for home-to-school transportation, field and sports trips, and summer school transportation.

Multi-year transportation contracts require voter authorization. **Passage of the proposed school budget by the voters would constitute the authorization of the multi-year transportation contract with First Student.**

The projected total cost over the five-year period is estimated to be \$49,804,000.



★ THE BOTTOM LINE ON TAX IMPACT

THE FOLLOWING REFLECTS THE ESTIMATED INCREASE IN SCHOOL TAXES UNDER THE PROPOSED TAX LEVY INCREASE OF 2.98%

2026-27 Average Cost to Taxpayer Based on Proposed Tax Levy

Full Value	Senior/STAR		STAR		No STAR	
	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual
\$200,000	\$3.75	\$45	\$5.67	\$68	\$6.67	\$80
\$300,000	\$7.08	\$85	\$9.00	\$108	\$10.00	\$120
\$400,000	\$10.42	\$125	\$12.33	\$148	\$13.33	\$160

The chart to the left is broken down into three categories:



A senior citizen homeowner **receiving Enhanced STAR** (based on a \$86,100 equalized value exemption)



A homeowner **receiving STAR** (based on a \$30,000 equalized value exemption)



A homeowner **without STAR** (usually the case for a non-primary residence)

This estimate is for illustrative purposes only and is an estimation based on full equalized value.

For information on the STAR Program: www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star



The Valley Central School District offers a **Senior Citizen Tax Exemption**, a **Veterans Tax Exemption**, and a **Volunteer Firefighter/Ambulance Worker Tax Exemption**. For more information about eligibility and applying for these exemptions, please contact the assessor's office in your town.

PROPOSED CAPITAL PROJECT AND RESERVE FUND

PROPOSITION 2: RENOVATION & IMPROVEMENT OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

BEREA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- + Replacement of water supply, storage, and treatment systems
- + Cafeteria/auditorium stage curtain, stage lighting and sound system upgrades

EAST COLDENHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- + Cafeteria/auditorium stage curtain, stage lighting and sound system upgrades

MONTGOMERY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- + Cafeteria/auditorium stage curtain, stage lighting and sound system upgrades

VALLEY CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

- + Cafeteria/auditorium stage curtain, stage lighting and sound system upgrades

CONCESSION STAND/RESTROOM BUILDING AT HIGH SCHOOL

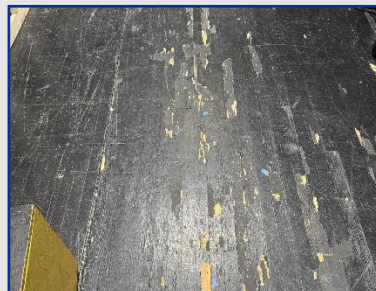
- + Heating upgrades for concessions and restroom areas

VALLEY CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

- + Replacement of water supply, storage, and treatment systems
- + Auditorium stage improvements (curtains, wood flooring, storage, & access doors)
- + Dehumidification of main office area, guidance office & auditorium
- + Upgrades to provide dedicated pool hot water system
- + Boiler modifications to provide domestic hot water
- + Flooring and wall base replacement in main office and music classrooms
- + Roof replacement at gymnasium entrance & girls locker room
- + Improvements to track & field event (jumping) areas

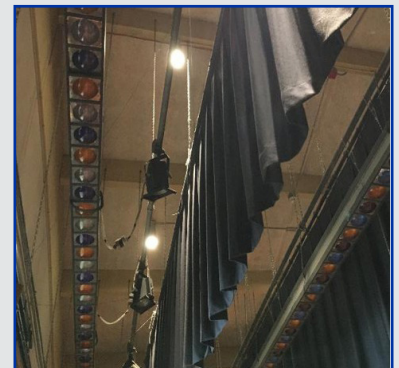
PROPOSITION 2: FUNDING FACTS

- + Maximum cost **NOT TO EXCEED** \$10,370,000
- + Expect to receive **APPROXIMATELY 70.4% IN STATE AID** on eligible expenses
- + **\$2,250,000 OF CAPITAL RESERVES** will be applied
- + **\$1,490,000 OF UNAPPROPRIATED GENERAL FUND BALANCE** will be applied
- + **NO ADDITIONAL TAX** impact on taxpayers



Damaged High School stage floor

SCAN HERE FOR ADDITIONAL CAPITAL PROJECT DETAILS AND AN INFORMATIONAL VIDEO



Outdated High School stage lighting and curtains

PROPOSITION 3: ESTABLISH A NEW CAPITAL RESERVE FUND 2026

Establish the VCSD Capital Reserve Fund 2026 with a cap of \$20 million to expire in 15 years. Funds may be used for capital improvements and/or site acquisitions as permitted by law.



VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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2026 - 2027 BOARD OF EDUCATION

Joseph Bond,
President

Katie McKnight,
Vice-President

Frances Fox-Pizzonia
Robert Oakes
Diana Revoir
Jane Samuelson
Angela Terralavoro

BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES

✓ VOTE ON MAY 19, 2026

6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Valley Central High School Gymnasium

There are two seats open for election, each for a three-year term commencing July 1, 2026, and expiring June 30, 2029.

- Patricia Doss
- Barney Zipkin
- John Ramos
- Katie McKnight
- Nicole Drost



Students from our four elementary schools come together each year for Fifth Grade Field Day to play games and build a sense of community belonging before joining one another in middle school.

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*****ECRWSEDDM*****

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

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