



Fonda-Fultonville

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

At a glance:

2025-26
Proposed budget
\$36,137,055

Budget increase
from 2024-25
\$2,062,345 / 6.05%

2025-26
Tax Levy increase
\$314,713 / 2.71%

FFCS community to vote on budget on May 20

District to stay below assigned tax levy for 2025-26 school year

On May 20, Fonda-Fultonville residents will head to the polls to vote on a proposed \$36,137,055 spending plan for the 2025-26 school year. The proposed budget carries a 2.71% tax levy increase, which is below the district's assigned tax levy "cap" of 2.92%. Budget approval requires a simple majority of votes (50% plus one).

Under the proposal, spending would increase by 6.05% from the current year. The increase includes the addition of an Academic Intervention Services teaching position to support English Language Arts and mathematics in grades K-12, the addition of a full-time custodian to support district operations, and a change to funding for the Summer Bridge program, which will move to the general fund after being primarily supported by temporary COVID-19 funding over the past three years.

Continued on Page 2

Vote

Tuesday, May 20
Noon - 9 p.m.

Auditorium Lobby
Also on the ballot:

- See pg. 4 for a list of propositions.

"We strive to provide our students with the resources and opportunities to choose their own pathways, whether through our diverse academic programs, athletic offerings, or music and the arts. We remain committed to helping students connect with their interests and thrive in today's classroom."

RICHARD R. DEMALLIE, ED. D.,
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering, please contact Athletic Director Eric Wilson at ewilson@ffcsd.org.



Unified Sports making gains and friendships

This year, the district introduced its first Unified Sports team in school history with the Unified Bowling team, consisting of high school students in grades 9-12. For the 2025 season, the FFCS Unified Bowling team hit the lanes and built a successful team that not only placed second in their division (Division 9) but built friendships in the process.

"The engagement through Unified Sports built a sense of belonging and team building," said Youth Activation Committee Advisor Jill Gulick. "Our students experienced a special season that not only improved their bowling skills but also fostered friendships to last a lifetime. This program is allowing connections to be built between students, and is such a welcome addition for the district."

The impact of Unified Sports continues to increase in districts across the country. Studies have shown a high percent of Unified sports teammates have an increased understanding of people with intellectual disabilities and that family members in the United States noted that participating athletes improved their self-esteem after participating in Unified Sports. Not to beat, but coaches in the Unified Sports program mentioned improved confidence, enhanced communication, and improved social connections. That type of engagement further strengthened the district's commitment to launching Unified Sports with efforts to expand the program.



Continued from Page 1

The 2025-26 proposed budget will also utilize a capital outlay to complete building and grounds updates following the district's recent adoption of its new mascot, the Valley Hawks, as per the New York State Education Department's mandate on removing indigenous mascot names and imagery. A capital outlay allows the district to receive state aid on a project that maintains a long-term asset, such as our school campus. This process will allow the district to receive state funding for the capital outlay projects at no additional cost to district taxpayers.

In addition to the proposed budget, residents will also vote to approve the purchase of a transportation vehicle, approve funding for the Frothingham Free Public Library in Fonda, and elect three members to the Board of Education. Details about these propositions can be found on page 4.

For more information about the proposed budget, visit www.fondafultonvilleschools.org.



Required School District Budget Notice

2025 - 2026

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	\$34,074,710	\$36,137,055	\$35,966,986
Increase/Decrease for the 2025-26 School Year		\$2,062,345	\$1,892,276
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		6.05%	5.55%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.95%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$11,619,841	\$11,934,554	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	-	-	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable**	-	-	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	-	-	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$11,619,841	\$11,934,554	\$11,619,841
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$126,603	\$234,571	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$11,596,738	\$11,724,516	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$11,493,238	\$11,699,983	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval -See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$103,500	\$24,533	
Administrative Component	\$3,263,923	\$3,416,937	\$3,416,937
Program Component	\$25,875,386	\$27,224,720	\$27,224,720
Capital Component	\$4,935,401	\$5,495,398	\$5,325,329

* In a contingent budget, some programs and services would be reduced or eliminated, as would equipment purchases.

** Separate Propositions (see pg. 4) 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)

Separate Propositions

Vote on the purchase of a transportation vehicle at a maximum cost of \$40,584.00, and finance such purchase from the expenditure of \$40,584.00 from the Capital Reserve 3 Fund.

Vote on \$125,000 for the Frothingham Free Public Library in Fonda, N.Y.

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$389
---	-------

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2025-26 by the qualified voters of the Fonda-Fultonville Central School District, Montgomery County, New York, will be held in the auditorium lobby in said district on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 between the hours of noon and 9 p.m., prevailing time in the high school, 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.

Budget Summary

2025-2026

REVENUES:

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

CATEGORY	2024-25 BUDGETED	2025-26 PROJECTED	2025-26 CONTINGENCY
Property Taxes	\$11,619,841	\$11,934,554	\$11,619,841
State Aid	\$19,713,676	\$20,412,781	\$20,412,781
Fund Balance	\$1,809,995	\$1,925,000	\$2,069,644
Reserves	\$138,470	\$428,470	\$428,470
Other Revenue	\$792,728	\$1,436,250	\$1,436,250
TOTAL	\$34,074,710	\$36,137,055 6.05% INCREASE	\$35,966,986

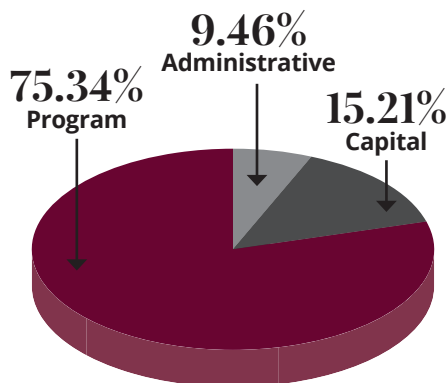
EXPENDITURES:

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

CATEGORY	2024-25 BUDGETED	2025-26 PROJECTED	2025-26 CONTINGENCY
General Operations	\$3,904,651	\$3,881,027	\$3,858,627
Instruction	\$15,533,335	\$16,341,642	\$16,341,642
Transportation	\$2,934,442	\$2,966,603	\$2,918,934
Employee Benefits	\$9,199,262	\$10,002,606	\$10,002,606
Debt Service	\$2,498,020	\$2,840,177	\$2,840,177
Interfund Transfers	\$5,000	\$105,000	\$5,000
TOTAL	\$34,074,710	\$36,137,055 6.05% INCREASE	\$35,966,986

THREE-PART BUDGET:

New York law requires school districts to present their budgets divided into three expenditure categories—program, administrative and capital—and compare them to the previous year's costs. Fonda-Fultonville's three-part budget is as follows:



Figures may not be exact due to numbers being rounded to the nearest whole dollar.

CATEGORY	2024-25 BUDGETED	2025-26 PROJECTED	2025-26 CONTINGENCY
Program Includes salaries and benefits of all teachers and staff who deliver pupil services (guidance, health, library/media, etc.), textbooks, equipment, extra-curricular activities, athletics, and transportation costs (excludes bus purchases).	\$25,875,386 76% OF BUDGET	\$27,224,720 75.34% OF BUDGET	\$27,224,720 75.69% OF BUDGET
Administrative Includes salaries and benefits of administrators, supervisors, and administrative clerical staff, public information, printing, curriculum and staff development, school board costs, general insurance and professional fees.	\$3,263,923 9.5% OF BUDGET	\$3,416,937 9.46% OF BUDGET	\$3,416,937 9.5% OF BUDGET
Capital Includes salaries and benefits of maintenance and custodial staff, debt service on buildings and school bus purchases, utilities, tax certiorari and court-ordered costs.	\$4,935,401 14.5% OF BUDGET	\$5,495,398 15.21% OF BUDGET	\$5,325,329 14.8% OF BUDGET
TOTAL	\$34,074,710	\$36,137,055	\$35,966,986

Faster, more reliable Wi-Fi supports learning and efficiency

Students and faculty are now accessing Wi-Fi 7, the district's new state-of-the-art and reliable wireless network that aims to support instructional technology and increase engagement in the classroom. The newly introduced Wi-Fi is 13 times faster than normal networks, and allows our district to stay ahead of the curve with technology infrastructure.

"Providing this wireless network enhances our faculty's ability to teach students efficiently and effectively," shared IT Director Jarrod Baker. "Technology plays a vital role in our students' education, and the district is committed to keeping its resources updated and readily accessible for our school community."

Access to Wi-Fi 7 is fully deployed in all instructional spaces, and state funding covers a majority of the wireless network's costs.





Fonda-Fultonville

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

112 Old Johnstown Road
PO Box 1501
Fonda, NY 12068-1501

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Fonda, NY
Permit No. 25

Board of Education

Matt Sullivan, *President*
Bonnie Couture, *Vice President*
Adam Sullivan
Dennis Egelston
Michelle Isabella
Jessica Munson
John Wiltey

POSTAL CUSTOMER

Richard R. DeMallie, Ed. D.,
Superintendent of Schools

Rich Meddaugh, Editor

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

FF|CSD Budget Newsletter

2025 - 2026

Vote:

Tuesday, May 20
Noon - 9 p.m., Auditorium Lobby

On the ballot:

PROPOSITION 1

Vote on a \$36,137,055 proposed budget for the 2025-26 school year. Details on this proposition can be found on the district's website.

PROPOSITION 2

Vote on the purchase of a transportation vehicle at a maximum cost of \$40,584.00, and finance such purchase from the expenditure of \$40,584.00 from the Capital Reserve 3 Fund. Details on this proposition can be found on the district's website.

PROPOSITION 3

Vote on \$125,000 for the Frothingham Free Public Library in Fonda. Under state education law, funding for libraries is collected by the school district and then forwarded to the respective libraries. Details on this proposition can be found on the district's website.

BOARD ELECTION

Elect three (3) members of the Board of Education: two (2) individuals to a three (3) year term commencing on July 1, 2025, and expiring June 30, 2028, to succeed Bonnie Couture and Matt Sullivan whose terms expire on June 30, 2025; and one (1) individual to a one (1) year term commencing on May 20, 2025; or as soon thereafter as the individual may be sworn in, and expiring June 30, 2026, to succeed Jessica Munson who was appointed by the Board of Education to temporarily fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Michael Lewis. The following residents are seeking to be considered for the Board of Education: Kathy Bostick, Raymond Phillips. Jessica Munson (Incumbent), Bonnie Couture (Incumbent) and Brooke Cuddy.

VOTER ELIGIBILITY

All voters must be U.S. citizens, age 18 or older, and residents of the district for at least 30 days prior to the vote. Advanced registration is NOT required. You may be asked to show proof of residency (such as a valid ID that lists your address) when voting.

ABSENTEE / EARLY MAIL BALLOTS

Absentee and early mail ballot voting is available. You must fill out an application to vote by early voting or absentee ballot. There are separate applications for voting by early voting or absentee ballot, but the application process and deadlines are the same for both. To receive an application, contact the District Clerk Lori Maves at 518-853-4415 ext. 4230. If you would like a ballot mailed to you, your application must be received by 5 p.m. on May 13, 2025. If you plan to pick up your ballot, your application must be received by 5 p.m. on May 19, 2025. The completed ballot must be received by 5 p.m. on May 20, 2025.

