

THE LIONS PRIDE

WEST ISLIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WEST ISLIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

PROPOSED BUDGET MAINTAINS ALL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AND IS TAX CAP-COMPLIANT

A Letter from the Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools

Dear District Residents:

On Tuesday, May 15, West Islip School District residents will vote on the district's \$122.9 million proposed budget for the 2018-2019 school year. The proposal calls for a 1.50 percent increase in spending over 2017-2018 and carries a 3.13 percent tax levy increase. Although it was prepared in a difficult economic environment, this fiscal plan balances the long-term needs of our students with the financial realities of the day, provides a globally competitive education that will enable our students to be successful, and addresses the safety and security challenges that have become a part of the fabric of our society.

The 2018-2019 budget represents the seventh year the state is operating under the tax cap legislation. When most people hear "tax cap," they think of 2 percent (2.0%). However, the tax levy cap is tied to the lesser of 2 percent or the Consumer Price Index (CPI), plus allowances and exclusions. The CPI for 2017 was 2.13 percent; therefore, the tax levy limitation is 2 percent for 2018-2019. However, after accounting for allowances and exclusions in establishing the tax levy, West Islip is faced with a limit of 3.13 percent for the upcoming school year, the seventh year in a row the district has presented a budget within the tax levy limitation.

Despite the challenges faced, the proposed budget maintains the district's current academic program, continues solid fine arts and athletic offerings, provides greater support for our students' socio-emotional

development, and strengthens a robust academic intervention program, including summer school for our secondary students and summer remedial support for our elementary and middle school students. In addition, the proposal continues to expand technology resources, including the 1:1 Google Chromebook initiative. Use of SMART Schools Investment Plan funds and school aid enacted through the state budget will allow the district to enhance security initiatives and upgrade the planetarium and other facilities to ensure sound resources for decades to come.

It is apparent that our community wants nothing other than safe schools and rigorous academic opportunities and extracurricular programs for its children. The Board of Education and administration have worked collaboratively over the last few months to develop a district budget that supports the community's vision that each child leaves our school system with the skills to successfully pursue his or her dream in the 21st century world.

Abundant community support is one of the things that makes this district a special place to teach and learn. Last year, only 1,896 of 20,272 registered voters (9.4 percent) participated in the budget vote and trustee election. We urge you to come out and vote on May 15 between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. at West Islip High School. This important decision should be decided by a true representation of our residents.

Educationally yours,

West Islip Board of Education &
Bernadette M. Burns, *Superintendent*



SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS

Included in the 2018-2019 proposed budget:

- Upgrade districtwide phone system to include direct access to police department
- Addition of security booth at high school entrance
- Addition of additional security cameras districtwide
- Upgrade badge readers at points of entry for staff
- New visitor management system



REMEMBER TO VOTE

Tuesday, May 15

Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
at West Islip High School

SUMMARY OF THE BUDGET



2017-2018
Budget

2018-2019
Proposed Budget

ESTIMATED APPROPRIATIONS

General Support	\$13,963,519	\$14,072,612
Instruction	\$66,831,172	\$68,008,070
Transportation	\$5,532,905	\$5,577,387
Community Services	\$16,000	\$16,000
Undistributed Expenses*	\$34,786,106	\$35,272,754
Total Estimated Appropriations	\$121,129,702	\$122,946,823

* Employee Benefits; Unemployment Insurance; Debt Service; Transfers to Capital Fund, Cafeteria Fund and Special Aid Fund

ESTIMATED REVENUES

State Aid	\$35,198,215	\$34,484,765
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Transfer from Debt Service	\$264,305	\$264,305
Use of Reserves	\$0	\$0
Other Revenue	\$3,671,040	\$3,668,069
Tax Levy	\$80,996,142	\$83,529,684
Total Estimated Revenues	\$121,129,702	\$122,946,823

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

2017-2018 Budget: \$121,129,702

2018-2019 Budget: \$122,946,823

Budget-to-Budget Increase: 1.5%

2017-2018 School Tax Levy:
\$80,996,142

2018-2019 School Tax Levy:
\$83,529,684

Change: \$2,533,542

Tax Rate per \$100 of Assessed Value:

\$18.156 (2017-2018)

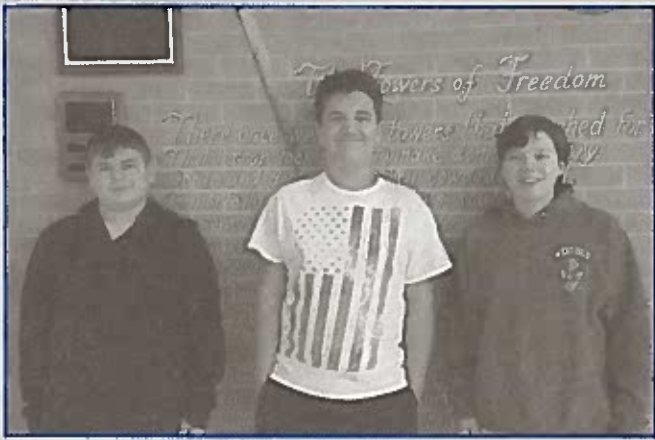
\$18.724 (2018-2019)

The Difference: \$0.568

Tax Levy Increase: 3.13%

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE Proposed Budget

- Expanded 1:1 Technology Initiatives (Chromebooks to all high school students, 1:1 carts for grade 5, shared devices for K-4)
- Planetarium upgrades
- Lab upgrades (Mac Lab for art and music; photo lab and video-recording studio)
- SMART interactive flat panels
- Support for socio-emotional development of students (Counseling Director, social worker, health teacher)
- Maintains small class sizes
- Textbooks and corresponding digital support (English, math, science)
- Athletic supplies and equipment (wrestling mats, Project Adventure repairs)
- Instruments and risers for music program
- Furniture and carpeting (various locations)
- Administrative computers
- Upgrades to IT servers and firewalls
- Repair to high school electronic sign
- Van for facilities department



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

What is the proposed budget increase?

The proposed 2018-2019 school budget carries an expenditure increase of 1.50% over the current year's budget. It is supported by a tax levy increase of 3.13%.

What is the difference between the tax levy and the tax rate?

The tax levy is the total amount the Board of Education requests through property taxes. The Board does not set the tax rate; the assessor's office sets the tax rate after calculating the assessed valuation of properties within the district. It is important to note that the tax levy cap applies only to the tax levy, NOT to the tax rate or an individual tax bill.

What happens if voters reject the proposed budget?

If voters reject the proposed budget, the school board may put up the same or a revised budget for a second vote, or adopt a contingency budget. If the proposed budget is defeated twice by voters, the district must adopt a contingency budget. Under the new law, a district that adopts a contingency budget may not increase its current tax levy by any amount – which would impose, in effect, a zero percent cap.



Understanding the Tax Levy Cap

The calculated tax levy amount (according to a state formula) is the highest allowable amount, before exclusions, that a school district can propose for which the approval of only a simple majority of voters (50 percent plus one) is required.

Although often referred to as a "2 percent tax cap," New York's tax cap law does not restrict any proposed tax levy increase to 2 percent. Rather, school districts must use an eight-step formula to calculate their individual tax levy limits, which may exceed 2 percent and still be within the allowable cap.

So, how does a school district's allowable tax levy limit go above 2 percent? The law excludes certain portions of a district's tax levy from the calculation. A district can add these exclusions to its tax levy limit, increasing the amount of taxes it is allowed to levy while still being tax cap-compliant.



HOW TO COMPUTE YOUR PROPERTY TAX

Proposed Tax Levy Increase – 3.13%

Projected Tax Rate Increase – \$0.568/\$100

Assessed Value

- Take the assessed value from your 2017-2018 tax statement.
- Divide the assessed value by 100.
- Multiply the result by \$0.568.
- The result is the estimated increase in your 2018-2019 school taxes.

Assessed Value	2017-2018 School Taxes	Proposed 2018-2019 School Taxes	Increase for 2018-2019
\$35,000	\$6,355	\$6,553	\$198
\$45,000	\$8,170	\$8,426	\$256
\$55,000	\$9,986	\$10,298	\$312

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Exercise Your Right to VOTE

Tuesday, May 15

Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
at West Islip High School

All high school gates will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. to facilitate voter traffic.

Fifty parking spaces will be available at the back of the high school for voters' convenience, including ten parking spaces for our senior citizens to provide closer accessibility to the gymnasium.



Scan this code to go
directly to the budget
page on our website.



Voter Registration & Qualifications



Voter registration will take place in the lobby of Beach Street Middle School on Tuesday, May 8, 2018 from 2:00 – 8:00 p.m.

General Qualifications for Voter Registration

- Citizen of the United States
- Age 18 years or older
- Resident of the school district for 30 days or more

Voter Qualifications

- Registered to vote in the West Islip School District
- Registered with the Suffolk County Board of Elections

Absentee Ballot Information

If you will not be able to go to the polls on May 15, 2018, you may obtain an absentee ballot application from the district website: www.wi.k12.ny.us.

ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

When voters head to the polls on May 15, they will be asked to elect two (2) Board of Education members for a three-year term commencing July 1, 2018.

Candidates for the Board of Education:

Richard
Antoniello

Catherine
Artusa

Steven
Gellar