

BUDGET News SPRING 2026

TUXEDO UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT



RESIDENTS TO VOTE on Proposed 2026-2027 School Budget on May 19, 2026

DEAR TUXEDO COMMUNITY,

Our journey toward becoming a Top 100 school district continues. While this budget season presented what can only be described as a "perfect storm" of financial challenges, we believe we have navigated it responsibly, preserving our educational programs while remaining mindful of our taxpayers. The result is an educational investment plan that preserves the strength of our programs while remaining mindful of our taxpayers.

This year, reductions in State Aid and other revenues have coincided with significant cost increases. Expenses in special education, employee benefits and contractual transportation alone have risen by more than \$1.1 million. These pressures, many of which districts are experiencing state-wide, are compounded by the fact the TUFSD is operating under a contingency budget in 2025-26. In addition, due to contractor non-renewal, the district was required to rebid transportation services under very unfavorable market conditions (i.e. consolidations, etc.). As a result, the proposed budget exceeds the tax cap and will require a 60% supermajority voter approval. This reflects the financial realities described above.

At the same time, the District is in a period of transition that requires thoughtful structural adjustments. Like many districts across the country, we are experiencing declining enrollment driven by demographic shifts and increased school choice. Recent demographic studies predicted growth which has not yet materialized. This is due in part to the delayed construction timeline of the 1,600-home Tuxedo Reserve residential development that is now in progress and will yield some new students as early as September of 2026.

In response, we are in our second year of aligning staffing levels with enrollment trends. For the 2026-27 school year, our teaching staff has been reduced by 3.6 full-time equivalents (11.25%), primarily through attrition and shared staffing arrangements. Management and confidential staff have also decreased by 1 FTE (12.5%) due to retirement. Importantly, these adjustments have been made while preserving the core of our educational program.

We continue to offer Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK), Academic Intervention Services (AIS) at both the elementary and secondary levels, a wide range of high school electives, and our highly valued STEM program. Athletics and extracurricular opportunities also remain strong, ensuring a well-rounded experience for our students.

While we are addressing current challenges, the District's long-term outlook is exceptionally promising. The Tuxedo Reserve residential development is fully underway and is projected to bring approximately 375 new students upon full build-out, along with a significant expansion of the tax base.

The proposed budget includes a modest estimated tax rate increase of 2.94% while significantly reducing reliance on savings (appropriated fund balance). This approach strengthens our financial position and places the District on a path toward fully balanced budgets within the next two years, supporting long-term sustainability.

We remain committed to balancing fiscal responsibility with educational excellence and we thank our community for its continued support of the Tuxedo Public Schools.

JEFFREY T. WHITE
Superintendent of Schools

TUXEDO UFSD
BOARD OF EDUCATION

BUDGET VOTE AT-A-GLANCE

- **PROPOSED BUDGET:**
\$15,856,877
- **ESTIMATED TAX RATE INCREASE:**
 - TUXEDO: 2.94%
 - WARWICK: 6.63%

VOTE: MAY 19, 2026

George Grant Mason Elementary School
Multipurpose Room
2 PM - 9 PM

BOARD OF EDUCATION VOTE:

One member to be elected for a three-year term commencing on July 1, 2026 and ending on June 30, 2029.

CANDIDATES (as they will appear on ballot):

Joseph "Joe" Rickard
Michelle Watch



National Certificate for STEM Excellence



VOTE: TUESDAY MAY 19, 2026, 2 PM - 9 PM • www.tuxedoufsd.org

INDIVIDUALIZED ATTENTION. LIFELONG SUCCESS.

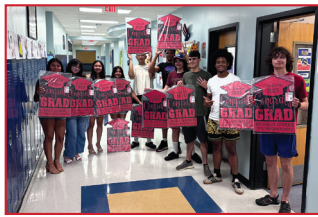


Our district continues to provide an exceptional educational experience for every student, reflected in a 100% high school graduation rate and a strong culture of academic achievement.

At **George F. Baker High School**, students have access to 17 Advanced Placement courses, SAT preparation, and dual-enrollment college opportunities, along with accelerated and honors coursework. We are also proud to be New York State's only school designated as a certified STEM School by the National Institute for STEM Education. Students benefit from comprehensive special education and counseling services, a 1:1 Chromebook program, and a vibrant school community where over 85% of students participate in athletics and many engage in leadership opportunities such as Student Council, National Honor Society, Ethics Club, and Interact Club.

At **George Grant Mason Elementary School**, we lay a strong foundation for lifelong learning through Universal Pre-K and a STEM-infused curriculum that incorporates Next Generation math and the Science of Reading. Our commitment to the whole child is evident through the RULER social-emotional learning program, developed by the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence, as well as thriving music and art programs.

● 100% GRADUATION RATE



George F. Baker High School is dedicated to academic excellence and student success. We are proud that every Class of 2025 graduate earned a Regents diploma, allowing them to take the next step toward a bright future.

TUFSD students gain the skills, knowledge and confidence to excel in college and career—with graduates enrolling in top universities, enlisting in the military and entering the skilled workforce. Recent Tuxedo graduates have been accepted to prestigious institutions such as Princeton University, Purdue University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, NYU, Penn State, University of Connecticut, University of Virginia, Georgia Tech, UMass Amherst, and multiple State University of New York campuses.

At GFB, we inspire ambition, nurture potential and prepare students for lifelong success—wherever their journey takes them.

● CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN PROGRESS

Important capital improvements are currently in progress. The installation of security vestibules will enhance the safety of our students and staff—our highest priority. Repairs to the George F. Baker building cupola, including restoration of the clocktower, will protect the facility and preserve a cherished symbol of our District. These projects were approved by the voters in 2023, and the funds were used from a capital reserve at that time. This will have no impact on current or future taxes.



ON THE BALLOT

PROPOSITION 1:

Shall the Board of Education of the Tuxedo Union Free School District be authorized to expend the sum of \$15,856,877 for school district purposes for the 2026-2027 school year, and to levy the necessary tax therefore adoption of this budget requires a tax levy increase of 8.98% which exceeds the statutory tax levy increase limit of 2.61% for this school fiscal year and therefore exceeds the state tax cap and must be approved by 60% of the qualified voters present and voting.

PROPOSITION 2:

Shall the Board of Education of the Tuxedo Union Free School District enter into a five-year transportation contract with First Student, Inc., in the amount of \$8,099,456 for the period from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2031, for Home-to-School, Summer School, and Field and Sports Trips.

Approval of the transportation proposition enables a five-year cost structure with approximately \$315,000 budgetary savings; without approval, first-year costs increase under the original pricing structure in 2026-27.

THREE-PART BUDGET COMPARISON



REVENUES Three main sources of revenue support for next year's school budget.

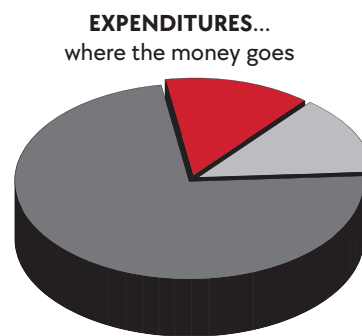
Property taxes contribute **\$13,836,551** in local levy for **87.26%** of total revenue. State Aid has decreased slightly to **\$1,097,313** generating **6.92%** of total revenue. Other revenues and the appropriation of fund balance constitute **5.82%** of total revenue, totaling **\$923,013 2**

■ TAX LEVY: **87.26%** □ STATE AID: **6.9%** ■ OTHER REVENUE: **5.82%**

EXPENDITURES New York State requires a three-part budget to summarize district expenditures.

- **ADMINISTRATIVE: \$2,223,256 (14.02%)**
This portion includes Board of Education, Superintendent's Office and Business Office, personnel, legal and insurance costs, as well as funding for the District's Strategic Action Plan.
- **PROGRAM: \$11,597,870 (73.14%)** This largest component funds all PreK-12 teacher and PPS salaries, benefits, textbooks, equipment, contractual services, materials and supplies for the classroom, as well as transportation costs, BOCES support, library, computer/technology and related instructional costs.
- **CAPITAL: \$2,035,751 (12.84%)** The District's operations, maintenance and facilities upkeep are included in this category, as well as employee salary and benefits.

■ ADMINISTRATIVE: **14.02%** ■ PROGRAM: **73.14%** ■ CAPITAL: **12.84%**



NOTE: Residents interested in reviewing a line item budget, including all codes, can view the entire budget on the District's website.



ANNUAL SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE & ELECTION VOTE: TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026

To be held at the George Grant Mason Elementary School Multipurpose Room from 2-9PM

- **VOTER REGISTRATION:** In order to participate in this year's Budget Vote and Board of Education Election, residents must be properly registered. Under New York State Law, qualified residents registered with the Orange County Board of Elections for general elections are automatically registered for school elections. It is not necessary for such persons to register separately with school election officials. Qualified voters who have NOT voted in a primary, presidential, or school district vote within the past four (4) years, need to register in order to vote.
- **WHERE DO YOU REGISTER AND VOTE?:** You may register with the Orange County Board of Elections or with the school district. Any qualified voter may register to vote for the Annual Budget Vote and School Board Election to be held on May 19, 2026 during regular school business hours, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on days when the district offices are open, at the Office of the District Clerk in the George F. Baker High School; 1 Tornado Drive; Tuxedo, NY. Registration must be completed by May 14 in order to vote on May 19. When registering with the school district, you will need to provide identification and proof of residency.
- **ABSENTEE & EARLY MAIL BALLOTS:** Voters may obtain an application for an absentee or early mail ballot for the 2026-2027 school budget vote and Board of Education election on the District's website. The application must be received by the District Clerk at George F. Baker High School, 1 Tornado Drive, Tuxedo Park, NY 10987 at least seven days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election, if the ballot will be picked up personally by the voter or the voter's designated person set forth in the application. The absentee or early mail ballot must be received by the Office of the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on the day of the election.

NOTE: FOR IMPACT OF A POSSIBLE CONTINGENCY BUDGET, PLEASE SEE THE STATEMENT ON PAGE 4 OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE SECTION.

VOTE: TUESDAY MAY 19, 2026, 2 PM - 9 PM . www.tuxedoufsd.org

SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

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	\$ 15,096,754	\$ 15,856,877	\$ 14,706,325
Increase/Decrease for the 2026-27 School Year		\$ 760,123	(\$ 390,429)
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		5.04%	-2.59%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.63%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 12,696,449	\$ 13,836,551	
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)	\$ 12,696,449	\$ 13,836,551	\$ 12,696,449
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 243,643	\$ 159,948	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 12,452,806	\$ 12,868,271	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$ 12,452,806	\$ 13,676,603	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$ 0	(\$ 808,332)	
Administrative Component	\$ 2,085,225	\$ 2,223,256	\$ 1,977,363
Program Component	\$ 11,073,736	\$ 11,597,870	\$ 10,820,065
Capital Component	\$ 1,937,793	\$ 2,035,751	\$ 1,908,897

* 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. The Tax Levy would be held constant and only purchases authorized under a contingency budget would be authorized.

** 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 - 5-Year Transportation Contract- Total cost for the 5-years	\$ 8,099,456

What Happens Under Another Contingency Budget?

Legal Context & Fiscal Impact: If the budget fails two separate votes, the District enters a contingency budget. This limits the tax levy to the prior year's level, requiring an additional reduction of \$1,140,102 in expenditures and/or appropriation of fund balance

Required Reductions: (Mandated by law):

- Most equipment
- Public use of facilities/fields by community groups (at no cost to the District)
- Non-essential maintenance

Possible Reductions: (To maintain compliance):

- Staff positions (reduced electives/support and AIS services)
- Athletics and extracurricular activities
- Universal Pre-Kindergarten

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$366

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2026-27 by the qualified voters of the Tuxedo Union Free School District, Orange County, New York, will be held at George Grant Mason School in said district on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 between the hours of 2:00pm and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the George Grant Mason School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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

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TUXEDO UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
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www.tuxedoufsd.org

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CURRENT RESIDENT