

PROPOSED BUDGET

2025-26

lthaca
CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Thank you for your ongoing support and engagement with the Ithaca City School District.

We are pleased to present the 2025-26 proposed school district budget, a carefully crafted plan that prioritizes the needs of our students while remaining fiscally responsible to our taxpayers. This budget, totaling **\$169,031,619**, represents a rollover approach, ensuring continuity in our programs and services without major additions, while also incorporating further reductions in administrative costs.

The proposed budget includes a tax levy increase of 3.76%, which is **within the New York State tax cap**. This approach allows us to meet our district's financial obligations—including contractual commitments and meaningful compensation increases for educators—while also reducing our reliance on fund balance. The proposed use of fund balance stands at just under \$6.8 million, reflecting a slight decrease from prior years as we work toward long-term financial sustainability.

In addition to the proposed budget, we are seeking voter approval for Proposition 2, which would authorize the district to spend up to \$2,267,549 of our 2022 Capital Reserve Fund to purchase ultra-low emission propane buses and complete essential renovations at Cayuga Heights Elementary School. Proposition 2 is not taken from the general fund, but rather from an existing savings account used specifically for bus purchases and capital improvement projects—it has no impact on the budget or tax levy.

Most importantly, this budget ensures that we continue to meet the diverse needs of our learners by maintaining high-quality instructional programs and resources. We remain mindful of the balance between securing the necessary funding for our schools and minimizing the financial impact on our community.

We encourage all residents to participate in the upcoming Budget Vote and School Board Election on **Tuesday, May 20**. Polls will be open from **12 noon until 9 p.m.** For more details, including propositions and candidates on the ballot and district poll site locations, visit ithacacityschools.org/vote.

As always, we appreciate your input and collaboration. Please continue to reach out directly or provide feedback via Let's Talk: ithacacityschools.org/letstalk. Your voice and engagement are vital to the continued success of our schools and students.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sean Eversley Bradwell
Board of Education President

Dr. Luvelle Brown
Superintendent of Schools

**Proposed
Budget**
\$169,031,619

**Budget
Increase**
3.69%

**Proposed Tax
Levy**
\$115,031,984

VOTE
Tuesday, May 20
12 noon - 9 p.m.

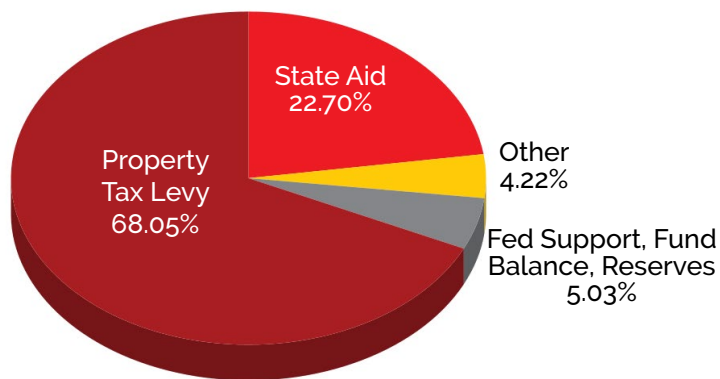
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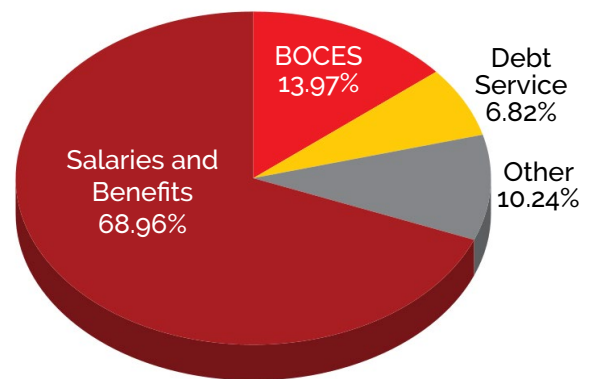
BUDGET SUMMARY

REVENUE	24-25 BUDGET	25-26 PROPOSED	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
Local Property Tax Levy	\$110,862,167	\$115,031,984	\$4,169,817	3.76%
State Aid	\$37,132,808	\$38,362,132	\$1,229,324	3.31%
Federal Support, Fund Balance, and Reserves	\$8,743,679	\$8,497,003	(\$246,676)	-2.82%
Other Revenue	\$6,273,444	\$7,140,500	\$867,056	13.82%
TOTAL	\$163,012,098	\$169,031,619	\$6,019,521	3.69%
APPROPRIATIONS	24-25 BUDGET	25-26 PROPOSED	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
Salaries and Benefits	\$113,148,907	\$116,569,782	\$3,420,875	3.02%
BOCES	\$22,161,143	\$23,621,855	\$1,460,712	6.59%
Other	\$16,184,594	\$17,303,729	\$1,119,135	6.91%
Debt Service	\$11,517,454	\$11,536,253	\$18,799	0.16%
TOTAL	\$163,012,098	\$169,031,619	\$6,019,521	3.69%

REVENUE



APPROPRIATIONS



For a more detailed look at the proposed budget, visit ithacacityschools.org/budget.

PROPOSITIONS

Proposition No. 1 Shall the Board of Education of the Ithaca City School District, City of Ithaca, Tompkins County, New York, be authorized to expend \$169,031,619 to meet the District's estimated expenditures during the 2025-2026 school year, and to levy the necessary tax therefor?

Proposition No. 2 Shall the Board of Education of the Ithaca City School District (the "District") be authorized to appropriate funds from the District's "2022 Capital Reserve Fund" in the maximum amount of \$2,267,549 and to expend these combined funds for the following purposes: 1) Purchase of up to six (6) 70 passenger ultra-low emission propane buses for long range travel; and 2) Purchase of up to three (3) 30 passenger ultra-low emission propane buses for long range travel; 3) purchase of up to two (2) wheelchair equipped 66 passenger ultra-low emission propane buses for long range travel; 4) Interior/exterior renovations at Cayuga Heights Elementary School, to include gymnasium dividers, exterior door repairs, and floor repairs?

BUDGET NOTICE

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2024-25 School Year	Budget Proposed for 2025-26 School Year	Contingency Budget for 2025-26 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 163,012,098	\$ 169,031,619	\$ 164,861,801
Increase/Decrease for the 2025-26 School Year		\$ 6,019,521	\$ 1,849,703
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.69 %	1.13 %
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.95 %	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 110,862,167	\$ 115,031,984	
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)	\$ 110,862,167	\$ 115,031,984	\$ 110,862,167
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 6,546,453	\$ 7,979,565	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 104,506,033	\$ 107,052,419	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$ 104,315,714	\$ 107,052,419	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 190,319	\$ 0	
Administrative Component	\$ 17,961,868	\$ 18,355,734	\$ 17,900,023
Program Component	\$121,451,175	\$125,998,884	\$122,870,753
Capital Component	\$ 23,599,055	\$ 24,677,001	\$ 24,091,025
* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2025-26 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.			
Description		Amount	
Vehicle purchases and capital projects from 2022 Capital Reserve		\$ 2,267,549	
** 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)			

*NOTE TO SCHOOL DISTRICT BUSINESS OFFICIALS: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: emscmgts@nysed.gov

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹

\$ 498

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2025-26 by the qualified voters of the Ithaca City School District, Tompkins County, New York, will be held at Lehman Alternative Community School, Beverly J. Martin School, Belle Sherman Annex, Fall Creek School, South Hill School, Franziska Racker Centers, Enfield School, Danby Fire Hall, Cayuga Heights School, Caroline School, Northeast School, and Varna Community Center in said district on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, between the hours of 12:00 noon and 9:00 pm, prevailing time in those voting locations, 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.

ANNUAL BUDGET VOTE AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

Tuesday, May 20, 2025 • 12-9 p.m.

EARLY MAIL AND ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Registered voters of the district can vote by early mail or absentee ballot. Applications for both can be found online at ithacacityschools.org/vote or by visiting the District Office at 400 Lake Street, Ithaca, NY. If you would like your ballot mailed to you, your completed application must be received by the District Clerk by 5 p.m. on May 13. If your application arrives after this deadline, the ballot must be picked up in person by 5 p.m. on May 19. All completed early mail and absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk by 5 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, May 20, in order to be counted.

VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

To vote in a Budget Vote and School Board Election, you must be a registered voter and—

- a citizen of the United States;
- 18 years of age or older;
- a resident within the district for a period of 30 days preceding the date of the vote; and
- not otherwise prohibited from voting under Election Law.

SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

The candidates for four open seats on the School Board are (in order of position on the ballot):

1. Scott Jahnke
2. Madeline Cardona
3. David McMurry
4. Erin Croyle
5. Jacob Shiffrin
6. Karen Yearwood
7. Jill K. Tripp

POLLING LOCATIONS

To look up your polling location for school district elections, visit ithacacityschools.org/vote.

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|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Lehman Alt. Community School | 2. Beverly J. Martin School | 3. Belle Sherman Annex |
| 4. Caroline School | 5. Cayuga Heights School | 6. Danby Fire Hall |
| 7. Enfield School | 8. Fall Creek School | 9. Franziska Racker Centers |
| 10. Northeast School | 11. South Hill School | 12. Varna Community Center |