



# **HADLEY-LUZERNE**

## **Central School District**

### **BUDGET NEWSLETTER**

**MAY 2025**

#### **Budget Hearing**

Monday, May 12, 2025  
6:30 p.m., Stuart M. Townsend  
Elementary School

#### **Voting Day**

Tuesday, May 20, 2025  
Noon - 8 p.m.  
Stuart M. Townsend Elementary School  
27 Hyland Drive, Lake Luzerne  
• Proposed School Budget  
• 1 Proposition for 2 School Buses  
• 2 School Board Positions

#### **Eligibility to Vote**

- Citizen of the United States
- 18 years of age or older on the day of the vote
- Resident within the district for a period of 30 days prior to the vote
- Registered to vote

#### **Register to Vote**

If you are registered to vote in the general election, then you are registered to vote in the school election. If you are unsure if you are registered to vote, please call the Board of Elections Office for the county in which you reside.

#### **Absentee Ballots**

Absentee ballots are available to registered voters of the Hadley-Luzerne Central School District who will not be able to vote on Election Day. The ballot application, with instructions, is available at [www.hlcs.org](http://www.hlcs.org) or by contacting the District Clerk at 518-696-2378 ext. 1108.

### **Annual School Budget Vote and Board Elections**

The Hadley-Luzerne Central School District Board of Education is proposing a budget of \$25,083,860 for the 2025-26 school year resulting in an estimated 1.62% increase in the tax levy. This represents an overall budget-to-budget increase of \$881,381 or 3.64%, which will be offset by use of the district's fund balance and cost-saving measures.

Each year, our school district strives to provide an academic program that supports a safe, positive, and rewarding learning experience for all students. As we developed the 2025-26 budget, our goals were to maintain programs, maximize taxpayer dollars, and keep budget increases to a minimum. We are pleased to report we have been able to achieve these goals.

To meet the educational needs of students with disabilities, the 2025-26 budget includes an additional special education teacher. Our special education services may look different from year-to-year depending on the age/grade level of students and the services they require (including occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech) according to the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and NYS Commissioner's Regulations. When there are no appropriate outside placement programs for students with disabilities, we educate them in-district. As a result, the district is expected to receive more excess cost aid from NYS than in years past, which you will see on the revenue chart on page two.

Next year will mark our first full-day Universal PreKindergarten program with one classroom of 18 students who were randomly selected by lottery in February. We are looking forward to welcoming our youngest learners and their families to the H-L school community.

To offset the tax levy, the district is planning to use \$1.4 million from the Fund Balance and Reserves to fill the gap between revenue and projected expenditures. We are mindful of using savings to balance the budget, which is why we are so careful with our spending.

NYS Education Law allows school districts to conduct one \$100,000 "capital outlay" project per year, which does not require special approval from voters. Capital outlay projects are reimbursed in the form of revenue (based on the district's NYS Building Aid ratio) the following fiscal year. The capital outlay planned for next year will make necessary safety repairs to the gym partition at Stuart M. Townsend Elementary School.

We are proud of the educational opportunities we are able to provide our students while being fiscally responsible to the taxpayers. We appreciate the support and partnership of the PTSA, Booster Club, and residents who entrust us with their children and their investment in our facilities.

Please remember to vote on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 from noon to 8 p.m. at the Stuart M. Townsend Elementary School.



## ON THE BALLOT

### 2025-26 Proposed School Budget

RESOLVED, to adopt the annual budget for the 2025-2026 school year in the amount of \$25,083,860 and to authorize the requisite portion therefore to be raised by taxation on the taxable property of the district.

### Proposition 1

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education is hereby authorized to acquire two (2) 66-passenger diesel school buses at a maximum estimated cost not to exceed \$418,579 which is estimated to be the maximum cost thereof, to expend such sum for such purpose, levy the necessary tax therefore taking into account state aid received, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education and in anticipation of the collection of such tax, issue bonds and notes of the District at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed \$418,579 and levy a tax to pay the interest on such obligations when due.

### Election of Two School Board Members

Vote to elect two (2) members to the Board of Education, at large, to three (3) year terms commencing on July 1, 2025 and expiring on June 30, 2028. The incumbents are Greg Novotarski and Bruce Weiss, whose terms expire on June 30, 2025.

### Candidates:

**Greg Novotarski**

**Bruce Weiss**

**Connie Hack**

## 2025-26 EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

Line Item	Budget 2024-25	Proposed 2025-26	\$ Change
Instruction	\$11,526,057	\$11,672,633	\$146,567
Employee Benefits	\$6,555,600	\$7,370,600	\$815,000
General Support	\$3,225,282	\$3,331,000	\$105,718
Transportation	\$1,353,901	\$1,232,383	(\$121,518)
Debt Service	\$1,401,639	\$1,337,244	(\$64,395)
Transfers	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$0
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$24,202,479</b>	<b>\$25,083,860</b>	<b>\$881,381</b>

## 2025-26 REVENUE SUMMARY

Line Item	Budget 2024-25	Proposed 2025-26	\$ Change
Property Tax	\$11,656,012	\$11,844,820	\$188,808
State Aid,	\$9,329,961	\$9,458,345	\$128,384
Excess Cost Aid	\$0	\$1,576,601	\$1,576,601
Federal Aid	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$1,300,000	\$1,000,000	(\$300,000)
Repair Reserve	\$100,000	\$0	(\$100,000)
Workers Comp. Reserve	\$113,000	\$114,000	\$1,000
Restricted TRS Reserve (5997)	\$650,000	\$0	(\$650,000)
Restricted ERS Reserve (5997)	\$305,000	\$300,000	(\$5,000)
Interest & Penalties on Taxes	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0
Charges for Services	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0
Use of Money & Property	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
Sale of Property & Comp for Loss	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0
Miscellaneous	\$633,506	\$675,094	\$41,588
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$24,202,479</b>	<b>\$25,083,860</b>	<b>\$881,381</b>

## ESTIMATED TAX RATES

Per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation

Town	Actual 2024-25	Proposed 2025-26	\$ Change Per \$1,000	% Change
Day	\$19.46	\$19.78	\$0.32	1.62%
Edinburg	\$20.97	\$21.31	\$0.34	1.62%
Hadley	\$11.47	\$11.65	\$0.19	1.62%
Lake Luzerne	\$10.91	\$11.09	\$0.18	1.62%
Stony Creek	\$988.97	\$1,004.99	\$16.02	1.62%
Warrensburg	\$9.39	\$9.54	\$0.15	1.62%



### Budget Vote

**Tuesday, May 20, 2025**

**Noon to 8 p.m.**

**Stuart M. Townsend  
Elementary School**

# SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

## Overall Budget Proposal

	Budget Adopted for 2024-25	Budget Proposed for 2025-26	Contingency Budget for 2025-26
Total Budgeted Amount, not including Separate Propositions	\$24,202,479	\$25,083,860	\$24,998,340
Increase for the 2025-26 School Year		\$881,381	\$795,861
Percentage Increase in Proposed Budget		3.64%	3.29%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.95%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$11,656,012	\$11,844,820	
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)	\$11,656,012	\$11,844,820	\$11,656,012
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	\$689,072	\$552,728	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$10,966,940	\$11,292,092	
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy for School Purposes, Excluding Permissible Exclusions and Levy for Library Debt, Plus Prior Year Tax Cap Reserve (E - B - F + D)	\$10,966,940	\$11,292,092	
I. Difference: (G - H); (Negative Value Requires 60% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$0	\$0	
Administrative component	\$1,686,140	\$1,838,416	\$1,838,416
Program component	\$18,547,789	\$19,234,941	\$19,189,441
Capital component	\$3,968,550	\$4,010,503	\$3,970,483
**Separate propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: PROPOSITION ONE (1)			

## BASIC STAR EXEMPTION IMPACT

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings Based on a Hypothetical Home Within Lake Luzerne with a Full Value of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) and a Basic Star exemption of \$20,430. The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

**Under the  
Budget Proposed for  
the 2025-26 School Year**

Basic STAR tax savings \$273

## ALSO ON BALLOT

### Election of Library Trustees

Vote to elect two (2) members to the Board of Trustees of the Rockwell Falls Public Library, at large, to three (3) year terms, commencing on July 1, 2025 and expiring on June 30, 2028 due to the expired terms of Ted Mirczak and Margaret Hartley.

### Candidates:

Margaret Hartley

Sarah Thieverge Kruger

Beth Teitel

### Why Are We Voting for Library Trustees?

In June 2019, voters approved the Hadley Luzerne Public Library's request to change its charter from a "municipal library" – funded only by the towns of Hadley and Lake Luzerne – to a "school district library" that would expand the tax base to the same geographical area as the Hadley-Luzerne Central School District. The vote was 241 votes for and 199 against.

"School District Public Libraries" are totally independent of the school district. They are corporate entities chartered by the Board of Regents and registered by the Commissioner of Education. NYS Education Law provides a means for public and association libraries to access voters in the community in order to levy taxes and to use tax collection mechanisms. Tax money collected for the library is kept separate from the school district budget, and any increases to the library budget would face approval by popular vote of school district constituents. The library board of trustees are elected to three-year terms rather than appointed.

# Hadley-Luzerne Central School District

PO Box 200, 27 Hyland Drive  
Lake Luzerne, New York 12846  
518-696-2378



Hadley-Luzerne Central  
School District  
**NON-PROFIT ORG.**  
Lake Luzerne, NY 12846  
PERMIT #7

## Board of Education

Eddie Joe Moulton, President  
Shana Graham  
Gregory Novotarski  
Justin Hunt  
BJ Weiss

## Administration

Burgess Ovitt, Superintendent  
Dan Hamm, Junior-Senior High School Principal (7-12)  
Jon Baker, Elementary School Principal (PK-6)  
Michelle Taylor, School Business Official  
Robert Mark, Director of Special Education

## POSTAL CUSTOMER

\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*\*

*Produced in cooperation with WSWHE BOCES Communication Services.*

## PROPERTY TAX REPORT CARD

	2024-25 Budget	2025-26 Budget	Percent Change
Total Budgeted Amount, not including Separate Propositions	\$24,202,479	\$25,083,860	3.64%
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$11,656,012	\$11,844,820	
B. Tax Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$0	\$0	
C. Tax Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable	\$0	\$0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy, if Applicable	\$0	\$0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$11,656,012	\$11,844,820	1.62%
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	\$689,072	\$552,728	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$10,966,940	\$11,292,092	
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy for School Purposes, <u>Excluding</u> Permissible Exclusions and Levy for Library Debt, Plus Prior Year Tax Cap Reserve (E - B - F + D)	\$10,966,940	\$11,292,092	
I. Difference (G - H); (negative value requires 60% voter approval)	\$0	\$0	
Public School Enrollment	636	640	0.63%
Consumer Price Index			2.95%
Adjusted Restricted Fund Balance	\$3,253,838	\$3,352,758	
Assigned Appropriated Fund Balance	\$1,300,000	\$1,000,000	
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$221,549	\$521,549	
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance as a Percent of the Total Budget	0.92%	2.08%	

## From Olympus to Hadestown

Every year, sixth graders present a Living Wax Museum of Greek gods and goddesses (Mount Olympus) for their parents and fellow elementary students. The students worked hard on their ELA/social studies unit on Greek myths and ancient Greece, and they were excited to show off their homemade costumes that represented the gods/goddesses they chose!

These lessons parlayed into the Junior/Senior High School Drama Club production this year, as the cast and crew presented Hadestown: Teen Edition, which is a modern take on Orpheus' mythical quest to overcome Hades (pictured below!) and regain the favor of his one true love, Eurydice.



Find us on    YouTube @ HadleyLuzerneCSD