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FORT PLAIN
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BUDGET VOTE 2025-26

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

Polls open 12 noon to 8 p.m.
Harry Hoag Elementary School Library

Proposed Budget
\$24,000,000

Increase from 2024-25 Budget
\$156,000 / 0.65%

Tax Levy Increase
\$60,328 / 1.00%

VOTER ELIGIBILITY

- U.S. citizen
- School district resident for at least 30 days
- 18 years of age

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Voters who meet eligibility requirements, but are unable to make it to the polls on school budget vote day, may cast their votes by absentee ballot. An application must be completed and received by the District Clerk at least seven days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter. For applications or more information, contact Rebecca J. Smith in the District Office at 993-4000, ext. 1000.

BUDGET VOTE SET FOR MAY 20

Proposed budget stays below state "tax cap"

Fort Plain Central School District residents will head to the polls on Tuesday, May 20 to decide on a \$24,000,000 proposed budget for the 2025-26 school year. The budget proposal represents an increase in spending of \$156,000 or 0.65%, over the current year.

The proposed spending plan carries a tax levy increase of 1.00%, or \$60,328, which is below the district's state-calculated limit of 5.15%. As a result, a simple majority vote (50% plus one vote) is needed to pass.

The Fort Plain Board of Education and administration have worked collaboratively to formulate a spending plan that continues its focus on improving academic growth and achievement, while being respectful of our community residents in these challenging economic times.

"This year's proposed budget continues to support student learning by maintaining funding for valuable teaching positions and programs that serve the betterment of our student population," said Superintendent Lauren Crisman.

The proposed budget would increase September school tax bills by approximately \$10.87 for the average homeowner with a \$100,000 tax assessment and basic STAR.

The Board of Education unanimously approved the proposed budget on April 10.

Community voting will take place from 12 noon to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 20, in the Harry Hoag Elementary School Library at 25 High St., Fort Plain.

Budget Highlights

Improving instructional outcomes remains a top priority for Fort Plain CSD.

This year's budget preserves all instructional positions, and includes funding for professional development to help our teachers learn and grow as professionals. Additionally, funding will help our educators best support our high schoolers for success with new science coursework and related examinations beginning in the 2025-26 school year.

In addition, it includes funds to purchase new core curricular materials that align with the statewide literacy initiative and will support each of our students in gaining proficiency with English Language Arts (reading, writing and communication.)

The proposed budget also includes funds to support the district's reintegration into the Distance Learning Consortium. Distance Learning offers students the opportunity to participate virtually from the high school with unique electives not available in-district and advanced placement coursework. As this is a BOCES-supported service, the district will be eligible for state aid/reimbursement for a portion of its cost.

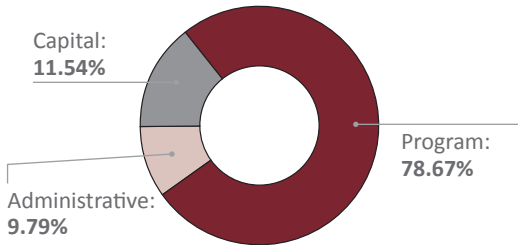
In addition to voting on the 2025-26 school budget, the community will also consider:

Bus Purchase. Residents will be asked to consider the purchase of three buses for approximately \$400,000. This will be paid for from Bus Purchase and Capital Reserve funds and will have no impact on the 2025-26 tax levy.

Board of Education Election. Voters will also be asked to elect two members to the Fort Plain Board of Education to serve two three-year terms beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2028. This will fill the seats currently being held by board members Joshua Parkinson and Kaitlyn Webb, whose terms will expire on June 30, 2025.

Three-Part Budget: 2025-26

New York state school districts are required to present their budgets in three expenditure categories—program, administrative and capital—and compare them to current year’s amounts.



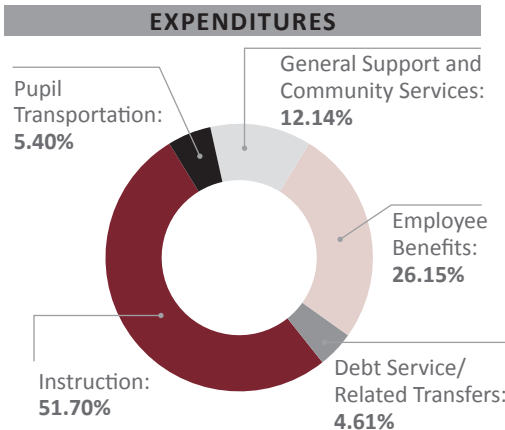
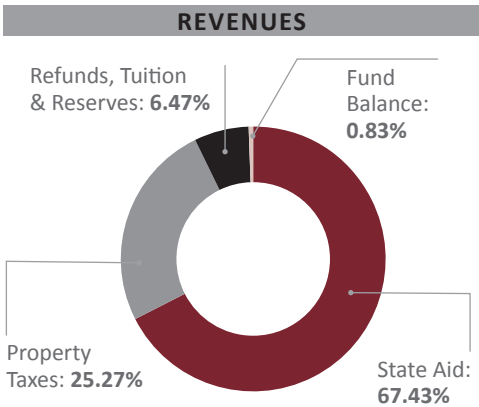
THREE-PART BUDGET	BUDGETED 2024-25	PROPOSED 2025-26	\$ CHANGE '24-25 TO '25-26	% OF BUDGET
Administrative	\$2,275,972	\$2,350,800	\$74,828	9.79%
Program	\$18,067,642	\$18,880,571	\$812,929	78.67%
Capital	\$3,500,386	\$2,768,629	(-\$731,757)	11.54%
TOTAL	\$23,844,000	\$24,000,000	\$156,000	100.0%

PROJECTED REVENUES Where the money comes from...

REVENUES	BUDGETED 2024-25	PROPOSED 2025-26	\$ CHANGE '24-25 to '25-26	% OF REVENUE
State Aid	\$16,562,981	\$16,182,808	(-\$380,173)	67.43%
Property Taxes	\$6,004,077	\$6,064,405	\$60,328	25.27%
Refunds, Tuition & Reserves	\$1,076,942	\$1,552,787	\$475,845	6.47%
Fund Balance	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$0.00	0.83%
Total Revenue	\$23,844,000	\$24,000,000	\$156,000	100.0%

PROJECTED EXPENDITURES ...and where it is spent

EXPENDITURES	BUDGETED 2024-25	PROPOSED 2025-26	\$ CHANGE '24-25 to '25-26	% OF EXPENSES
Instruction	\$11,800,999	\$12,408,716	\$607,717	51.70%
Employee Benefits	\$6,110,798	\$6,275,653	\$164,855	26.15%
General Support and Community Services	\$2,777,289	\$2,914,253	\$136,964	12.14%
Pupil Transportation	\$1,274,089	\$1,297,083	\$22,994	5.40%
Debt Service/ Related Transfers	\$1,880,825	\$1,104,295	(- \$776,530)	4.61%
Total Expenditures	\$23,844,000	\$24,000,000	\$156,000	100.0%



WHAT WILL I SEE ON THE BALLOT?

PROPOSITION NO. 1 2025-26 Budget

Residents will vote on the proposed 2025-26 district budget totaling \$24,000,000.

PROPOSITION NO. 2 Bus Purchase

Residents will be asked to consider the purchase of three buses for approximately \$400,000. This will be paid for with reserve funds and will have no impact on the 2025-26 tax levy. The district is eligible for roughly 90% reimbursement for these vehicle purchases through state school transportation aid.

Board of Education Election

Two, three-year terms on the Board of Education are up for election this year. These terms will begin on July 1, 2025 and end June 30, 2028. Kaitlyn Webb is the single candidate running for these open seats; the other term will be filled through write-in vote.



FORT PLAIN CENTRAL SCHOOL BUDGET ESTIMATE: 2025-2026
NOTICE of BUDGET VOTE and ELECTION of BOARD MEMBERS
May 20, 2025 at the Harry Hoag Elementary School Library 12 noon-8:00 PM

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL

	Budget Adopted for School Year 2024-2025	Budget Proposed for School Year 2025-2026	*Contingent Budget for School Year 2025-2026
TOTAL Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 23,844,000	\$ 24,000,000	\$ 24,000,000
Increase/(Decrease) for the School Year: 2025-2026		\$ 156,000	\$ 156,000
Percentage Increase/(Decrease) in Proposed Budget		0.65%	0.65%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.95%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support Budgeted Amount	\$ 6,004,077	\$ 6,064,405	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable			
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable**	\$ -	\$ -	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount to Reduce Current Tax Year Levy	\$ -	\$ -	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A+B+C-D)	\$ 6,004,077	\$ 6,064,405	\$ 6,004,077
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit***	\$ -	\$ -	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 6,122,462	\$ 6,313,279	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions, but Adding Back Any Tax Cap Reserve Amount used (E-B-F+D)	\$ 6,004,077	\$ 6,064,405	
I. Difference: (G-H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$ 118,385	\$ 248,874	
1. Administrative Component	\$ 2,275,972	\$ 2,350,800	\$ 2,350,800
2. Program Component	\$ 18,067,642	\$ 18,880,571	\$ 18,880,571
3. Capital Component	\$ 3,500,386	\$ 2,768,629	\$ 2,768,629

*** What happens if the 2025-2026 budget is not approved by the majority of voters?**

Under state law, school boards can submit a budget to voters a maximum of two times. If the budget is defeated twice, the board must adopt a contingent budget, which would cap the 2025-2026 tax levy at the 2024-2025 current year amount (a 0% tax levy cap).

If a contingent budget is adopted:

- Any non-school related use of the buildings would require a charge to cover associated costs.
- Most "Downtown" bus runs would be suspended unless specific donations were raised for that purpose.
- \$60,328 would have to be removed from the Proposed Tax Levy and added to Appropriated Fund Balance.
- No further reductions would be required.

** There are no Non-Excludable Propositions

*** While the \$400,000.00 Proposition for Authorization to Purchase Buses is a Permissible Exclusion to the School Tax Levy Limit, because 100% of the actual costs would be expended from the Bus Purchase Reserve Fund, it has a \$0.00 effect on the Tax Levy.

	Budget Proposed for School Year 2025-2026
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings	\$ 468

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

The annual **budget vote for the fiscal year 2025-2026** by the qualified voters of the Fort Plain Central School District, Montgomery County, New York, will be held May 20, 2025, at the Harry Hoag Elementary Library between the hours of 12 noon-8:00 PM. One candidate is running for one of two seats on the Fort Plain CSD Board of Education. The other will be filled by a write-in vote. Two: 3-year terms.

**Vote for two candidates
to replace**

Kaitlyn Webb Joshua Parkinson

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**Capital Improvement Project
Helps Defray Expenses**

In October 2024, voters approved a \$10,140,000 capital improvement project. With this dedicated support, the district does not need to factor funding for necessary, and pricey, maintenance projects into the proposed general budget this year. Instead, the district has the dedicated funding available for projects that will preserve, and in some cases, enhance and upgrade our facilities.

The capital project was approved with a state aid rate of 92.4% meaning the district will be reimbursed a little over \$0.92 for every \$1.00 spent.





Fort Plain Central School

25 High Street • Fort Plain, NY 13339

Bulk Rate
Non-profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Fort Plain, NY
Permit No. 2
Carrier Rt. Sort

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Brenna Kirkpatrick,
President

Kaitlyn Webb,
1st Vice-President

Anthony Crouse,
2nd Vice-President

David Przestrzelski

Sara McDuffee

Joshua Parkinson

Neal VanSlyke

Lauren Crisman,
Superintendent

*Dated Material: Important for
district residents. Please send any
address additions or corrections to
the Superintendent's Office at Fort
Plain CSD.*

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

LOCAL BOXHOLDER

PUBLIC HEARING

Thursday, May 8, 2025, 6 p.m.

District Office, 25 High Street,
Fort Plain.

BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

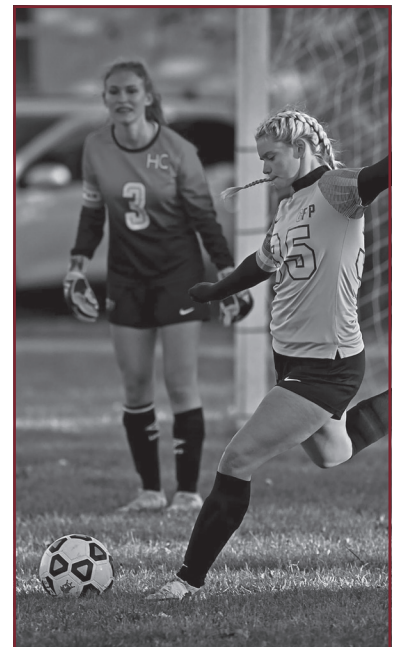
POLLS ARE OPEN

12 noon to 8 p.m.

Harry Hoag Elementary
School Library

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

- Residents who will not be in the area on May 20, 2025 or are otherwise unable to vote in person, may apply for an absentee ballot at the District Office. Please call 518-993-4000 ext. 1000 to request an application.
- If the absentee ballot is to be mailed to the voter, the application must be submitted at least seven days prior to the vote, or May 13, 2025.
- If the absentee ballot is to be picked up by the voter in person, applications will be accepted until 4 p.m. on May 19, 2025.
- Absentee ballots must be returned to the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on May 20, 2025.
- For more information or to request a ballot, call the District Office at 518-993-4000 ext. 1000.



VOTER INFORMATION

Voter eligibility

To be eligible to vote, residents must live in the school district for at least 30 days prior to the May 20, 2025 vote, be at least 18 years of age and be a citizen of the United States.

