

GOUVERNEUR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
 BOARD OF EDUCATION  
 GOUVERNEUR NEW YORK 13642  
 ANNUAL BUDGET HEARING AND VOTE

MAY 11, 2026  
 MAY 19, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER

The ANNUAL BUDGET HEARING of the qualified voters of the Gouverneur Central School District was called to order by Chairperson Lisa Sheen on May 11, 2026 at 5:30 p.m., in the High School Auditorium, leading those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Trustees Present: Todd E. Bates, David Fenlong, Tina French, Lisa McGregor, Laurie Roberts, Laura Spicer.

Trustees Absent: Brooke Bush, Dr. William Cartwright, Nickolas Ormasen.

Also Present: Jacquelyn L. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools; Jessica Sullivan, Assistant Superintendent; Dale R. Munn Jr., Business Manager; Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk.

Chairperson Sheen announced that polls will be open in the High School Auditorium from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on May 19, 2026, for in-person voting. She proceeded to display the ballot items, reminding everyone that the ballots are two-sided. One side has the General School Budget proposition, and the other side is for the Election of Board Members with the names of the three candidates who submitted petitions as well as spaces for up to three write-in votes.

Mrs. Sheen relayed that voter eligibility includes being a US Citizen and at least 18 years of age, and a resident of the district for at least 30 days prior to the election.

II. DESIGNATION OF INSPECTORS AND OFFICERS OF ELECTION

The following Inspectors and Officers were appointed by the Board of Education at their meeting on March 30, 2026: Chief Inspector Diane Kelley, and Inspector of Election Lucy Hart. The Assistant Clerk of the Annual District Budget Vote and Election is Kim Champagne.

III. PRESENTATION OF THE 2026-2027 PROPOSED BUDGET

Superintendent Jacquelyn L. Kelly welcomed all in attendance and thanked the administrative team, faculty and staff who worked collaboratively to develop a fiscally responsible and sustainable budget, stating that the plan preserves the strong academic programs, safe and secure learning environments, and extracurricular opportunities that the community values.

She went on to explain the three components comprising the 2026-2027 proposed budget of \$50,483,279. The *Administrative Component* supports the overall management and operation of the district, and includes expenses for the Board of Education, Chief School Administrator, business operations, legal and auditing services, and other similar items. For 2026-27 this portion is decreasing by approximately \$256,000 and represents 10.91% of the total budget, or \$5,508,755. The *Program Component* is the largest expense at 63.21% of the total budget, or \$31,908,131. The Program Component directly supports student learning and includes, among other things, salaries and benefits of teachers, pupil personnel services, co-curricular activities, and transportation (excluding bus purchases). Finally, the *Capital Component* covers the operation and maintenance of buildings, school bus purchases, debt service on construction and renovation projects. The total Capital Component comes to \$13,066,393, or 25.88% of the total budget, an increase of about \$4.4 million over the previous year due to two debt service payments scheduled during the 2026-27 school year as part of the district's ongoing capital project.

The tax levy for 2026-2027 is \$7,352,940, an increase of \$144,175, or a 2.00% increase. Mrs. Kelly provided examples of the financial impact on property owners with homes valued at \$60,000 and \$100,000. The net tax increase with Basic STAR is \$6.15 and \$14.35, respectively; and with Enhanced STAR the increase is \$0 and \$2.85, respectively.

The budget also supports the long-term district-wide goals. First, to bring consistency to curriculum decisions across grade levels and provide appropriate professional development to support those curriculum decisions, with a primary focus on developing the foundational skills necessary for

III. PRESENTATION OF THE 2025-2026 PROPOSED BUDGET (CONTINUED)

students to effectively read and write. Second, to provide social emotional support and academic opportunities necessary for all students to be engaged in school and find success. Finally, to provide a continuum of Special Education services district-wide to support the needs of all our students.

Mrs. Kelly acknowledged the many stakeholders who shared input to build the budget, and was proud to share the support for the following: Districtwide, items include literacy and mathematics curriculum and professional development, special education programming and related support, a school psychology intern, increased athletic supervision, staffing alignment with enrollment, social-emotional initiatives, a full-time tutor, a BOCES literacy coach, BOCES early college access, and regional high school summer school.

Superintendent Kelly recapped that the proposed budget focuses on preserving the strong educational programming, safe and secure environments, and extracurricular activities that our community has supported over the years. This budget also provides for additional academic and social-emotional support for all students. This is a fiscally responsible and educationally sound spending plan that focuses on aligning our budgetary decisions with our mission statement to educate all individuals, in a safe environment, to be passionate learners and responsible citizens in a global society.

IV. CANDIDATES FOR OPEN BOARD SEATS

Current Board Members are David Fenlong, President; Todd Bates, Vice President; Brooke Bush, Dr. William Cartwright, Tina French, Lisa McGregor, Nickolas Ormasen, Laurie Roberts, and Laura Spicer. Three current members have terms expiring on June 30, 2026: David Fenlong, Todd Bates, and Brooke Bush. Three vacancies will be voted upon; the top three vote-getters will be for three-year full terms commencing July 1, 2026, and expiring on June 30, 2029. Petitions have been filed by three individuals. A drawing was done on April 21 for ballot placement. The candidates are listed in the order they will appear on the ballot: Brooke Bush – Incumbent, Logan Buckmaster, and Todd Bates - Incumbent.

V. COMMENT PERIOD

No additional comments or questions were posed.

VI. RECESS UNTIL POLLS OPEN ON MAY 20, 2025

There being no further business or discussion, Chairperson Lisa Sheen recessed the meeting at 5:44 p.m., until the polls open on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, in the Auditorium beginning at 12:00 p.m.

**BUDGET VOTE AND ELECTION OF TRUSTEES**

## VII. OPENING OF THE POLLS

On Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. local time, Chairperson Lisa Sheen reconvened the annual meeting and declared the polls open for voting. The following Election Inspectors were present: Diane Kelley, Chief Inspector; Lucy Hart, Election Inspector; Tatia Z. Kennedy, Clerk; and Kim Shampine, Assistant Clerk.

## VIII. CLOSING OF THE POLLS

After Chairperson Lisa Sheen had ascertained that all who were in the polling place at 8:00 p.m., local time, who wanted to vote had done so, she declared the polls closed.

## IX. VOTING AND ELECTION RESULTS

After the votes were tallied, Chairperson Lisa Sheen announced the Voting Results as follows:

A. PROPOSITION ONE: GENERAL SCHOOL BUDGET.

Authorize the Board of Education of the Gouverneur Central School District to expend for General Fund Appropriations a sum of \$50,483,279.00 and to levy the necessary taxes thereof.

PASSED      YES - 141      NO - 46

B. ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS:

The top 3 vote-getters are elected for three (3) vacancies with terms of three (3) years (7/1/26 – 6/30/29) to succeed David Fenlong, Todd Bates, and Brooke Bush:

- #1 – Brooke Bush
- #2 – Todd Bates
- #3 – Logan Buckmaster

Number of votes received:

Brooke Bush: 150  
Logan Buckmaster: 139  
Todd Bates: 140

Write-in: One vote each for Sean Devlin, Steven Besaw, Mark Dailey, Bobbie Holmes, Christine Cornell, Pam Adle.

C. VOTERS:

Number of Active Voters	<u>5,585</u>
Number of Voters Voted	<u>192</u>
Number of Spoiled Ballots	<u>2</u>
Number of Blank or Void Votes	<u>0</u>

## X. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Chairperson Sheen declared the Annual Budget Vote and Election of the Residents of the Gouverneur Central School District to be adjourned at 8:34 p.m., local time.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file  
Tatia Z. Kennedy, District Clerk

Attachments:

*Sample Ballot*

*Oath of Inspectors*

*Certificate of Inspectors of Election with Absentee/Early Voting Ballot Return and Write-in Candidate Tally Statement of Canvass*

*Machine Tapes: open poll; ballots cast/close poll*

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