



General Brown Central School District BUDGET NEWSLETTER 2024

Budget VOTE

May 21, 2024

BUDGET AT-A-GLANCE

2024-25
PROPOSED BUDGET
\$29,208,692

CHANGE
\$1,292,232

% INCREASE
4.63%

PROPOSED
SCHOOL TAX LEVY
\$9,401,683

CHANGE
\$213,422

% INCREASE
2.32%

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School budget vote set for May 21

GENERAL BROWN'S PROPOSED BUDGET DEMONSTRATES COMMITMENT TO PROGRAMS, INSTRUCTION AND FACILITIES, STAYS WITHIN TAX LEVY LIMIT

Dear Residents,

On Tuesday, May 21, General Brown Central School District residents will vote on the district's 2024-25 proposed budget. Polls will be open from noon to 8 p.m. in the General Brown Junior-Senior High School Gymnasium, 17643 Cemetery Road. In addition to voting on the proposed \$29,208,692 budget, residents will elect three individuals for three-year terms on the Board of Education. There is also a bus purchase proposition on the ballot.

Additionally, residents are being asked to consider a capital outlay project that focuses on the continued repair of the brick façade at the district's bus garage. We started this project in the 2023-24 school year, with plans to continue until the bus garage exterior is completely repaired. A capital outlay, which receives partial reimbursement, can have a total cost of no more than \$100,000 and must be approved by residents.

General Brown is committed to being a "District of Excellence" for all students. The strategic plan defines our mission as providing a supportive learning experience that prepares students for their successful future. These are the guiding principles in the 2024-25 budget proposal presented to the community.

The school district's budget is the lifeblood of our educational system. It determines not only the resources available to our students and staff,



The proposed 2024-25 budget demonstrates commitment to programs, instruction and facilities and stays within tax levy limit.

but also the quality of education we provide. Each year, we strive to create a budget that balances the needs of our students with the fiscal responsibility we owe to our taxpayers.

Each decision is guided by our commitment to providing the best possible education for our students. We understand the impact these decisions can have on our community, and we do not take them lightly. Our goal is to maintain the integrity of our educational programs while being mindful of the financial constraints we face.

The proposed plan includes transportation for all pre-kindergarten students. This addition will increase accessibility to pre-kindergarten for General Brown families. We are continuing our efforts to expand course offerings and extracurricular opportunities whenever possible for students K-12. This includes the purchase of new Chromebooks for our youngest students, so all students are afforded the newest technology. We are also continuing our emphasis on investing



Can I vote early or by absentee ballot?

EARLY VOTING/ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Residents may apply for an early vote by mail or absentee ballot at the General Brown Central School District Office, 17643 Cemetery Road, Dexter.

If the absentee/early voting ballot is to be mailed to the voter, the application must be submitted by May 14.

If the absentee/early voting ballot is to be picked up by the voter in person, applications will be accepted until May 20.

Ballots must be returned to the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on May 21.

What will I see on the ballot?

PROPOSITION NO. 1 — BUDGET

Voters will be asked to decide on the proposed 2024-25 budget totaling \$29,208,692.

PROPOSITION NO. 2 — PURCHASE OF SCHOOL BUSES

In the event that proposition No.1 is not approved, voters will be asked to decide on the purchase of up to four school buses of varying capacities at a cost not to exceed \$540,000, financed by funds in the Bus Purchase (Capital) Reserve Fund.

BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION

Voters will be asked to select three individuals to three-year terms, which begin July 1, 2024, from the candidates listed on the election ballot. The Board of Education candidates are:

- Jamie Lee
- Kelly Milkowich
- Albert Romano Jr.

School Budget *continued from page 1*

in outstanding curricular resources and professional development, so our teachers have what they need to meet the needs of every student.

The proposed budget for General Brown also allows for continued investment in the preventative maintenance and repair of the school's facilities. Many of the buildings are showing signs of age, and outdoor equipment used for grounds management needs to be replaced. This budget proposal reflects the importance of annual maintenance, and having clean and orderly buildings and grounds at General Brown. While there is still much work to be done, this proposed budget continues the work started in 2023-24. We intend to replace a 35-year-old tractor and a similarly cherished lawn mower that has been in service for over 20 years.



Thank you for your continued support of our schools. Your involvement is essential to our success, and I am confident that, together, we can overcome any challenges that lie ahead.

Your voice matters, and your vote has an impact. I urge you to educate yourself on the issues at hand, ask questions, and engage in meaningful dialogue with your fellow community members. For more information about the 2024-25 proposed budget, visit the district website at www.gblions.org or call the district office at 315-779-2300. We would be happy to sit together and talk through any questions you may have.

Sincerely,
Brian A. Moore, Superintendent
General Brown CSD

School District Budget Notice



Overall Budget Proposal

	Budget Adopted for the 2023-24 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2024-25 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$27,916,460	\$29,208,692	\$28,429,192
Increase/Decrease for the 2024-25 School Year		\$1,292,232	\$512,732
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		4.63%	1.84%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.12%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$9,188,261	\$9,401,683	
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)	\$9,188,261	\$9,401,683	\$9,188,261
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$484,796	\$437,210	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$8,703,465	\$8,964,473	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$8,703,465	\$8,964,473	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$0	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$2,705,442	\$2,791,265	\$2,759,265
Program Component	\$20,425,940	\$20,815,186	\$20,815,186
Capital Component	\$4,785,078	\$5,602,241	\$4,854,741

*Please be advised that in the event the proposed budget for the 2024-25 school year is defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law, a contingency budget will be implemented. Assumptions include a reduction of \$779,500 in equipment and administrative costs, prioritizing core educational programs, collaboration with stakeholders, and adherence to legal and regulatory requirements. Our aim is to responsibly manage resources while maintaining educational excellence.

** 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
N/A	

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$287
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The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2024-25 by the qualified voters of the General Brown Central School District, Jefferson County, New York, will be held at General Brown High School in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 between the hours of 12 p.m. and 8 p.m., prevailing time in the High School, 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.





General Brown Central School District

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President

Tiffany Orcesi,
Vice President

Natalie Hurley

Jamie Lee

Jason Reynolds

Albert Romano Jr.

Kimberly Shuler

Superintendent of Schools

Brian A. Moore

Business Administrator

Christine Wheeler

**For more budget information,
visit www.gblions.org**

*Produced in cooperation with Capital Region
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School District Resident



VOTE

**Tuesday, May 21
from noon to 8 p.m.**

in the General Brown
Junior-Senior
High School gymnasium
17643 Cemetery Road, Dexter

WHO CAN VOTE?

- Must be a U.S. citizen
- and 18 years or older
- and a district resident for at least 30 days prior to the vote

WHAT SHOULD I BRING?

- Personal identification/proof of residency is required (e.g., driver's license or utility bill, both with name and current address)

BUDGET Q&A

Q How is the tax levy different from the tax rate?

A The tax levy is the total amount of money a school district raises in taxes each year from all property owners in the district. Tax rates are calculated by dividing the total amount of the levy by the total taxable assessed value in a community. Tax rates are affected by changes in both municipal assessments and state equalization rates, which are determined in the summer. The tax rate is used to calculate each individual property tax bill.

Q Does the percentage of increase in the tax levy equal the percentage of increase in the tax rate?

A No. Typically, the tax rate increase is lower than the tax levy increase. New home construction and businesses

added to the tax roll lowers the tax rate. Over the past 10 years, the average tax levy increase of 3.2% has yielded an average tax rate increase of 2.0% in the Town of Brownville.

Q What is the state's School Tax Relief, or STAR, Program?

A New York State's School Tax Relief Program, or STAR, provides partial school property tax savings to eligible homeowners. Most New Yorkers who own and live in their homes are eligible for STAR savings on their primary residences. Because the STAR program is not a district program, taxpayers STAR savings are not factored into a school budget.

More information about STAR can be found at: <https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star/>.