

EDUCATOR

PUBLISHED BY THE WEST HEMPSTEAD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Budget Vote *and* Trustee Election

MAY 15, 2018
7 A.M. - 9 P.M.

@ WEST HEMPSTEAD MIDDLE
SCHOOL GYMNASIUM
450 NASSAU BOULEVARD
WEST HEMPSTEAD



**BUDGET WITHIN
THE TAX CAP**

*Please Remember
to Vote!*

For more info: www.whufsd.com

Proposed Budget Within Tax Cap; Supports Additional Opportunities for Students

Dear Neighbor,

During the past several months, Board of Education trustees, district administrators and community residents have participated in a series of workshops to plan for and discuss the proposed budget for the 2018-19 school year. The mission is to develop a budget that expands opportunities for student success while, at the same time, being mindful of the impact on community taxpayers. The Board is pleased to present a budget that meets these goals while, at the same time, staying within the district's tax levy cap of 2.31 percent.

The proposed spending plan includes a slight increase in staffing to accommodate our district's special-needs students, as well as a number of supports for various programs at all levels in the district. These include the district's reading workshop in grades 3-5, guided reading in grades K-2, writing in grades K-5, the STELLAR program in grades 4-6 and the addition of kidOYO, a coding program for grades 3-12. Furthermore, the plan supports the addition of ST Math, a visual math program that builds a deep conceptual understanding of math through rigorous learning and creative problem solving in the younger grades. At the high school level, the district looks forward to adding new electives for students to choose from, such as World of Technology. Also included in the budget are funds to support technology, co-curricular clubs, athletics, and fine and performing arts, as well as a number of capital improvement initiatives to continue our goal of improving facilities.

Please be assured that the additions mentioned above are only a few of the many exciting opportunities we hope to introduce to students over the next several years. Looking ahead, we are evaluating our elementary math program, looking to expand middle school courses so that these students have an opportunity to earn high school credit while still in middle school, and introducing the Advanced Placement Capstone program at the high school, among others.

Residents will vote on the spending plan on Tuesday, May 15. Polls will be open from 7 a.m.-9 p.m. in the West Hempstead Middle School gymnasium. We look forward to seeing you at the polls! Thank you for your participation.

Sincerely,

West Hempstead Board of Education

Karen Brohm, President
Andrea Shinsato, Vice President
Caitlin Close, Trustee
Byars Cole, Trustee
Patricia Greaves, Trustee
Joseph Magaraci, Trustee
Vincent Trocchia, Trustee



WEST

POINTS OF
PRIDE

HEMPSTEAD

Collaborating with administration, faculty, students, staff and parents, West Hempstead continues to strive to be a community dedicated to a quest of lifelong learning.

Administrators endeavor to represent the district with strength and dedication, and encourage excellence among staff and students:

- The Board of Education has accepted the Superintendent of Schools and Central Administration's recommendation to restructure the district's schools. Under this plan, the kindergarten center will remain for the youngest learners in the district. Cornwell Avenue will transform into a primary school servicing students in grades 1-3. George Washington will host the intermediate school for students in grades 4-6. The middle school will house students in grades 7-8 and the high school will continue to retain grades 9-12.
- Superintendent of Schools Patricia Sullivan-Kriss serves as the past president of the New York State Council of School Superintendents. In this role, she advocates for the educational needs of West Hempstead and the state among prominent legislators and education officials, including former U.S. Secretary of Education John King Jr. and New York State Education Commissioner MaryEllen Elia.
- The superintendent spearheads the district's successful long-term strategic planning initiative, whose goals are to provide students with more opportunities to grow far beyond their years in the West Hempstead School District. This work involves staff, students, parents and community members setting shared goals through academic curricula, social-emotional learning, professional development, community engagement and fiscal planning to achieve these objectives.
- Administration has enhanced its professional development programs, which allow teachers to actively develop new skills, strategies and instructional techniques that will heighten student engagement and learning. They have worked with leading educational professionals to bring 21st Century technology and co-teaching programs to every grade level.
- The district's business office, in conjunction with the superintendent, provides frequent updates regarding the status of projects from the community-approved bond referendum through district publications and the district website.

Faculty and staff members go above and beyond for their students and colleagues through their leadership, mentorship, advisory and curricular strategies:

- West Hempstead staff members participate in the life of the district by serving with committees and collaborative groups and offering their support and expertise at a multitude of academic, cultural and athletic events.
- Teachers propose and teach courses to their peers as part of the district's professional development program.
- Faculty members have written and won grants for enrichment of student learning and consistently write new curriculum, most recently in media, technology and robotics.
- Day-to-day classroom experiences for West Hempstead students are made memorable and exciting by a faculty dedicated to the success of every student.

- Our Advanced Placement teachers continue to receive the most up to date information via workshops, conferences and other professional development opportunities.

West Hempstead students achieve excellence, rising above our expectations and making the district proud:

- West Hempstead High School had one senior honored as a 2017 National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholar.
- West Hempstead Middle and High School students participate annually in the Long Island Science Congress (junior and senior divisions), Long Island Science and Engineering Fair, SAAWA Competition and Virtual Enterprises International Business and Entrepreneurship Leadership Conference.
- West Hempstead students won 15 awards at the Mid-Atlantic Trade Show in Virginia and 6 awards at the National Trade Show in New York City.
- For the past four years, engineering/technology students from West Hempstead High School have competed in the VEX Robotics Competition.
- A West Hempstead High School varsity football player received the Unsung Hero Award from the Long Island Association of Football Officials Foundation.
- For the first time, the West Hempstead High School varsity cheerleading team earned a bid to compete in the 2018 Universal Cheerleaders Association National High School Cheerleading championship, held in Orlando, Florida.
- Districtwide, all students devoted 30 minutes to writing in honor of National Council of Teachers of English National Day on Writing.
- West Hempstead students competed in their respective schools' geography bees, with one Middle School student advancing to the New York State Geographic Bee 2018 in Albany.
- West Hempstead students are dedicated to bettering their community and the



world. Students of all ages spearhead and participate in recycling, food and clothing drives. They organize an annual Thanksgiving Day food drive, Force for Change, Jump Rope and Hoops for Heart Programs for the American Heart Association, P.S. I Love You Day and send Valentines to our veterans.

- SWAG Ambassadors ("Students with the Ability for Greatness") are peer leaders who work with their classmates in the Middle School on leadership, bullying prevention, character education and making good choices.
- Older students mentor younger ones during special academic programs, orientations and sporting events.
- West Hempstead Middle School inducted students into its National Junior Honor Society.
- Two students were recognized as school winners in the Wendy's High School Heisman program.
- High School students serve as role models to elementary students through the Athletes Helping Athletes student leadership program by creating and delivering motivational messages about drug and alcohol abuse prevention, sportsmanship and citizenship.
- One High School senior signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer at Iona College after graduation.
- Twenty students participated in the National PTA Reflections Program, showcasing their literary, musical and artistic talents. Eleven students advanced to the regional level.
- Kindergartners celebrated the 105th anniversary of Chestnut Street School in the West Hempstead School District.
- Cornwell Avenue Elementary School hosted its inaugural Literacy Week celebration to promote a love of literacy and good reading habits and foster a lifelong love of reading.
- The Middle and High School drama clubs present outstanding performances for community members to enjoy.
- Throughout the year, students serenade parents, teachers, administrators and Board of Education members with musical performances during their winter and spring concerts.
- Numerous students across the district participated in the Nassau Music Educators Association All-County Festival and two High School students performed in the Long Island String Festival Association's Nassau Secondary Festival.
- Eighth-grade Middle School students who have accepted the "Challenge" and are taking Living Environment and/or Algebra



(through the district's "Challenge Up" program) will receive high school Regents credit. The program, now in its third year, has maintained a 100 percent passing rate while student enrollment into the program continues to increase.

West Hempstead parents and community members continue to show their support for our district and students:

- The home school connection in West Hempstead has never been stronger. Families and students are digitally connected to the classroom and a new Parent University gives parents the knowledge to help their children at home.
- Parents and community members are supporters and participants for events such as Curriculum Fair, Family STEAM Night, Pick a Reading Partner, PTA Reflections, Read Across America, the Science Expo, makerspaces, student cultural events, and academic and athletic contests. The PTA sponsors important enrichment programs for students.
- Local officials and law enforcement agents educate West Hempstead students about local politics, government affairs and civic duties.
- When the district calls for volunteers to help plan and discuss educational and financial goals, many of these neighbors answer the call to share their thoughts and input.

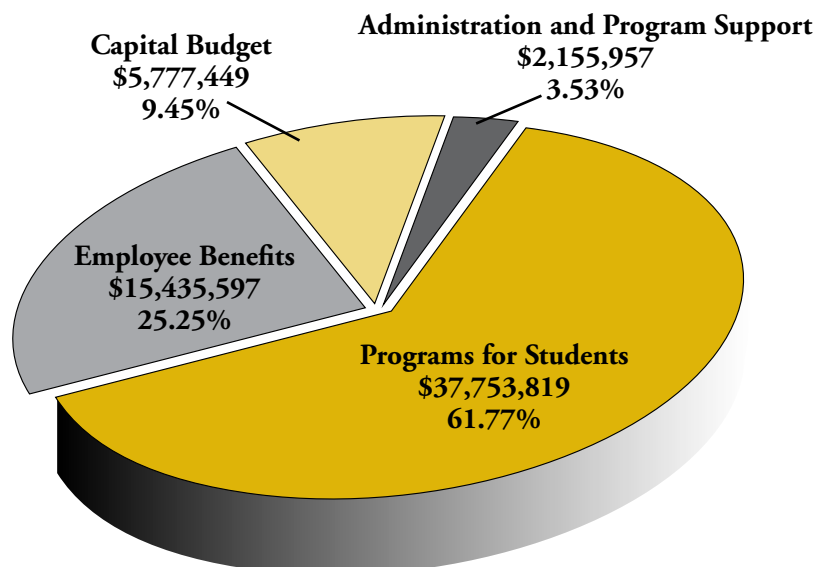


PROPOSED BUDGET EXPENDITURES 2018-19

	2017-18 BUDGET	2018-19 PROPOSED	CHANGE \$	%
<u>ADMINISTRATION AND PROGRAM SUPPORT</u>				
Board of Education / District Clerk / Annual Meeting	\$120,056	\$122,602	\$2,546	2.12%
Chief School Administrator	\$340,794	\$343,674	\$2,880	0.85%
Business / Finance / Legal / Auditing / Insurance	\$1,453,980	\$1,396,781	(\$57,199)	-3.93%
BOCES Services – Administrative Charges	\$287,100	\$292,900	\$5,800	2.02%
	\$2,201,930	\$2,155,957	(\$45,973)	-2.09%
<u>PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS</u>				
Teaching / Co-curricular / Educational Support	\$18,874,781	\$19,083,182	\$208,401	1.10%
Special Education and Related Services	\$11,505,966	\$11,381,228	(\$124,738)	-1.08%
Occupational Education	\$522,000	\$522,000	\$0	0.00%
Technology / Instructional Media / Library	\$1,409,152	\$1,430,051	\$20,899	1.48%
Athletics	\$768,933	\$784,675	\$15,742	2.05%
Pupil Transportation	\$4,332,515	\$4,552,683	\$220,168	5.08%
	\$37,413,347	\$37,753,819	\$340,472	0.91%
<u>EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</u>				
Retirement / Social Security / Compensated Absences	\$5,284,382	\$5,526,277	\$241,895	4.58%
Workers' Compensation / Unemployment / Disability	\$578,210	\$581,835	\$3,625	0.63%
Health and Dental Insurance	\$8,946,255	\$9,327,485	\$381,230	4.26%
	\$14,808,847	\$15,435,597	\$626,750	4.23%
<u>CAPITAL BUDGET</u>				
Debt Services	\$1,191,942	\$1,572,793	\$380,851	31.95%
Operations and Maintenance	\$3,517,264	\$3,454,656	(\$62,608)	-1.78%
Transfer to Capital Fund	\$810,000	\$750,000	(\$60,000)	-7.41%
	\$5,519,206	\$5,777,449	\$258,243	4.68%
TOTAL BUDGET	\$59,943,330	\$61,122,822	\$1,179,492	1.97%



2018-19 EXPENDITURES



PROPOSED BUDGET REVENUES 2018-19

	2017-18 BUDGET	2018-19 PROPOSED	CHANGE \$	%
STATE AID	\$10,273,354	\$10,753,736	\$480,382	4.68%
PROPERTY TAX LEVY	\$44,566,967	\$45,594,326	\$1,027,359	2.31%
PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILOTS)	\$1,302,613	\$1,302,613	\$0	0.00%

RESERVES AND FUND BALANCE

ERS Reserve	\$110,000	\$110,000	\$0	0.00%
Employee Benefit Reserve – EBALR	\$275,000	\$275,000	\$0	0.00%
Unemployment Reserve	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$600,000	\$800,000	\$200,000	33.33%
	\$985,000	\$1,185,000	\$200,000	20.30%

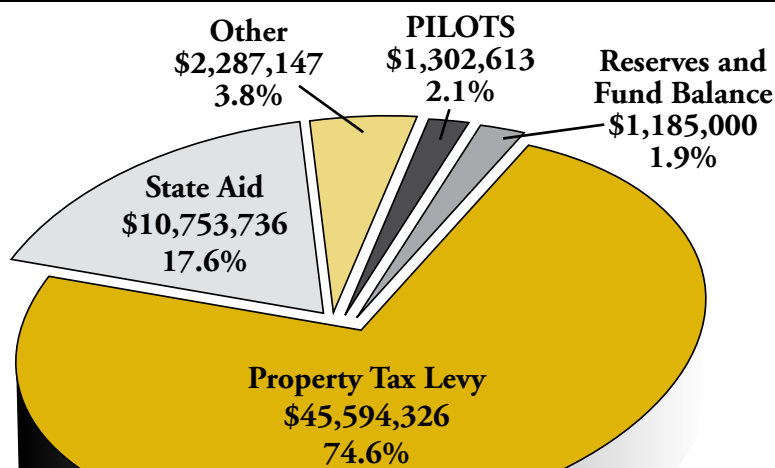
OTHER

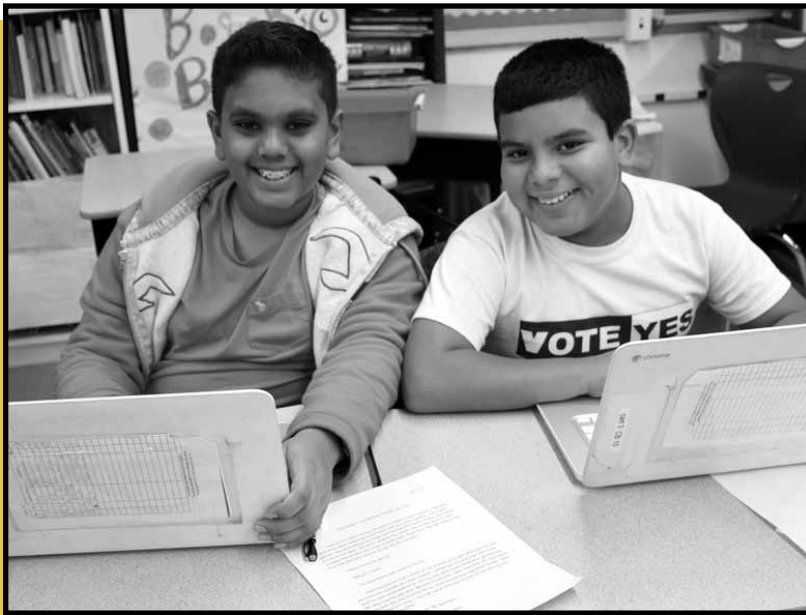
Tuition, Island Park	\$1,155,339	\$576,390	(\$578,949)	-50.11%
Tuition, Summer School	\$20,000	\$30,000	\$10,000	50.00%
Federal Aid, Special Education	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0	0.00%
Interest Income	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0	0.00%
Building Rental – Marian Delaney	\$495,000	\$509,850	\$14,850	3.00%
Public Library – Bond Payment/Building Rental*	\$585,057	\$585,907	\$850	0.15%
Health Services – Other Districts	\$270,000	\$280,000	\$10,000	3.70%
Special Education Services – Other Districts	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0	0.00%
Musical Instrument Rentals	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0	0.00%
Miscellaneous	\$150,000	\$165,000	\$15,000	10.00%
	\$2,815,396	\$2,287,147	(\$528,249)	-18.76%

*This amount equals the Library debt service payment for the fiscal year.

TOTAL BUDGET	\$59,943,330	\$61,122,822	\$1,179,492	1.97%
---------------------	---------------------	---------------------	--------------------	--------------

2018-19 REVENUES





West Hempstead Union Free School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2017-18 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2018-19 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2018-19 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$59,943,330	\$61,122,822	\$59,770,011
Increase (Decrease) for the 2018-19 School Year		\$1,179,492	(\$173,319)
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		1.97%	(0.29)%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.13%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount, Net of Reserve	\$44,566,967	\$45,594,326	\$44,566,967
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)	\$44,566,967	\$45,594,326	
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$1,175,127	\$1,172,119	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$43,391,840	\$44,422,207	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E-B-F+D)	\$43,391,840	\$44,422,207	
I. Difference: G-H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$0	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$4,888,257	\$4,849,658	\$4,790,416
Program Component	\$48,766,682	\$49,491,532	\$48,991,471
Capital Component	\$6,288,391	\$6,781,632	\$5,988,124

* If the West Hempstead Union Free School District does not have a voter-approved budget for 2018-19, the Board of Education would need to reduce the proposed budget by approximately \$1,352,811. The resulting reductions would include all non-contingent budget items, including new equipment and hardware (that is not directly needed for the instructional program) and the capital project for the George Washington School, Middle School administrative office air and ventilation project and high school cafeteria renovation projects. The figures above for a 2018-19 contingent budget are estimates for future consideration. A formal contingency budget would be promulgated for consideration by the Board of Education if the voters compel the District to operate under contingency.

** List separate propositions that are not included in the total budgeted amount: (Tax levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions is not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements.)

Description	Amount
NONE	

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2018-19 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹	\$1,322

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2018-19 by the qualified voters of the West Hempstead Union Free School District, Nassau County, New York, will be held at the West Hempstead Middle School in said district on Tuesday, May 15, 2018 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., prevailing time, 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.

Q: What does the proposed budget support?

A: The proposed budget maintains the district's academic programs, athletics and co-curricular activities within the district's tax levy cap of 2.31 percent. The proposed budget also calls for certain enhancements as detailed in the Board's letter on page 2. In addition, the spending plan provides for \$750,000 in funding to replace windows and repair brickwork at George Washington Elementary School, add air conditioning to the Middle School administrative office, as well as renovate the High School cafeteria.

Q: How does the New York State tax cap work?

A: In 2011, New York State enacted a property tax levy limit for school districts, local governments, libraries, and fire and water districts – a stated but flexible 2 percent increase above the previous year's levy. The rate of inflation and specified exclusions and adjustments can allow for greater or lesser increases.

School districts follow an eight-step process that also reflects tax base growth and the previous year's payments in lieu of taxes to calculate their actual tax levy limit.

For the 2018-19 school year, West Hempstead's cap allows an increase of 2.31 percent above last year's tax levy. The district's proposed increase is within the allowable cap, as



it has been in the past.

Remember that this is the total tax levy increase; individual property owners may see a higher or lower percent of increase based upon each property's change in assessed value, exemptions and other factors.

Q: In addition to the tax cap, what mandates does the government impose on school districts?

A: All levels of government impose a variety of mandates for which school districts must pay. These include, but are not limited to:

- *Charter school funding*
- *BOCES administrative fees*
- *Special education mandates*
- *Mandated testing and scoring*
- *Auditing and financial compliance*
- *Academic Intervention Services (AIS)*
- *Health insurance premium increases*
- *Pension and retirement contributions*
- *Implementation of APPR and Common Core Learning Standards, with accompanying staff development and new classroom material costs.*

Like most expenses related to government directives, these generally increase rather than decrease annually.

Q: What happens if voters do not approve the budget?

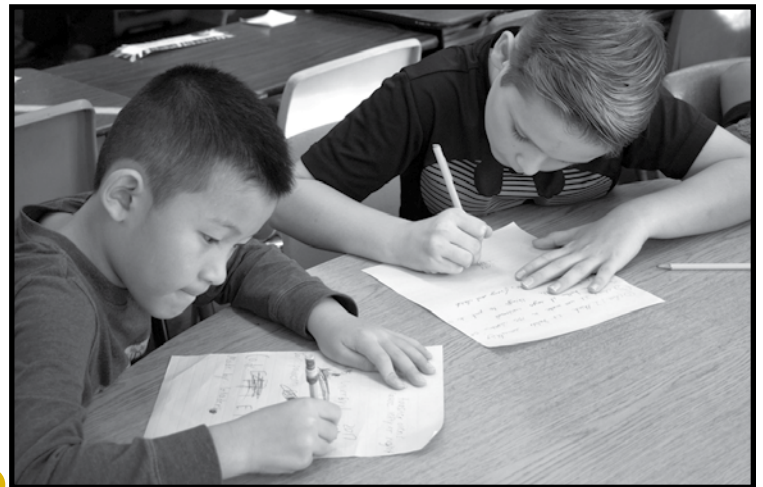
A: If voters defeat the proposed budget, the district has two options: put the same or a revised budget up for a revote, or adopt a contingency budget.

If a proposed budget is defeated twice, a contingency budget must be adopted. If that were to occur, state law mandates that the tax levy increase over the current year be capped at zero percent. The Board would need to reduce expenditures by approximately \$1,352,811 and plus other non-contingent items, which would include items such as new equipment and hardware. Reductions would also include upgrades at George Washington School and the Middle School administrative office air and ventilation project and High School cafeteria renovation projects.

Q: Will residents be eligible for the property tax credit as included in the state's budget?

A: Yes. Since the district's proposed budget is within the tax levy cap, qualifying homeowners will be eligible for the property tax relief credit as per New York State guidelines.

If you have additional questions, please email vote@whufsd.com.



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Karen Brohm, President
Andrea Shinsato, Vice President
Caitlin Close, Trustee
Byars Cole, Trustee
Patricia Greaves, Trustee
Joseph Magaraci, Trustee
Vincent Trocchia, Trustee

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

Patricia Sullivan-Kriss
Superintendent of Schools

Daniel Rehman
*Assistant Superintendent for
Curriculum and Instruction*

Emmanuel Glasu
*Assistant Superintendent for
Business and Operations*

ECRWSS
EDDM

POSTAL PATRON

Photos by Steve Orlando

Remember to Vote!

Tuesday, May 15

7 A.M.-9 P.M.

West Hempstead Middle School

*Gymnasium – North Building, 450 Nassau Blvd.
(For your convenience, use North Parking Lot.)*

Please remember to visit our website at www.whufsd.com.

A resident of the West Hempstead School District may vote for the election of school board members or upon all matters which may be brought before the annual meeting by the Board of Education.

To qualify for the vote, a person must be:

- *A resident of the West Hempstead School District for at least 30 days prior to the voting meeting.*
- *Registered.*
- *A citizen of the United States who is at least 18 years old.*

The West Hempstead School District has permanent registration records for school district elections and votes.

If you registered and/or voted in any school election or referendum or in the general elections since 2014, you need not register again to vote on May 15, 2018. To maintain permanent registration, you must have voted and/or registered at least once in the last four years.

Qualifications for the Vote

ELECTION OF SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES

The election of one Board member for a three-year term from July 1, 2018 for the seat currently held by Caitlin Close, whose term expires June 30, 2018. The election of one Board member for a three-year term from July 1, 2018 for the seat currently held by Andrea Shinsato, whose term expires June 30, 2018. The election of one Board member for a one-year, 47-day term from May 15, 2018 for the seat vacated by Rudolf Schindler, whose term expires June 30, 2019.

ELECTION OF LIBRARY TRUSTEE

The election of one Library trustee for a five-year term from July 1, 2018 for the seat currently held by Ray E. Duran, whose term expires June 30, 2018.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

The West Hempstead Board of Education has authorized the use of absentee ballots for the vote on the school district budget and on all other propositions.

Applications for absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk or designee at least seven days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter. If the ballot is to be filled out in the District Clerk's office, voters have until the day before the election to pick up the ballot.

To obtain an application for an absentee ballot, contact Kathryn Girolamo, District Clerk, at 516-390-3118, visit the administration offices at 252 Chestnut Street, West Hempstead, or download it from www.whufsd.com.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have questions about your current registration status or need further information about voting, call the District Clerk, Kathryn Girolamo, at 516-390-3118 during business hours.