



EAGLE EXPRESS

BUDGET EDITION

Q. What's the budget's tax rate increase?

A. It is 2.9%, which across all towns in the school district (based on current year taxable assessed values and equalization rates) averages out to an estimated \$58 a year on a \$100,000 assessed home. That is before STAR savings.

Q. How can there be no tax increase on the bus purchases?

A. When new buses are purchased, State Aid is reimbursed to the District and old buses are auctioned off. In addition, the District expects to see savings on maintenance and fuel costs with more efficient vehicles. With those funds cycling in, the result is no local cost to taxpayers.

VOTE >>

Voting will be in the Lobby outside the District Office, High School Gymnasium.
Parking is available in the lower and upper parking lots located by the District Office.

TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2025
9 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Annual School Budget, Vehicle Purchase Referendum, Creation of Capital Reserve & Board Election

Voting on the Annual School Budget, proposals for Vehicle Purchase and a Capital Reserve, and the School Board Election will be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, between 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., in the District Office Lobby outside the Gymnasium of Lake Shore High School, 959 Beach Road, Angola, New York 14006.

Voters will cast their ballots on:

- (1)** the Annual School District Budget for the 2025-26 School Year;
- (2)** a proposition for the purchase of replacement vehicles;
- (3)** a proposition for the creation of a capital reserve;
- (4)** the election of three qualified District residents to the office of Member of the Board of Education.

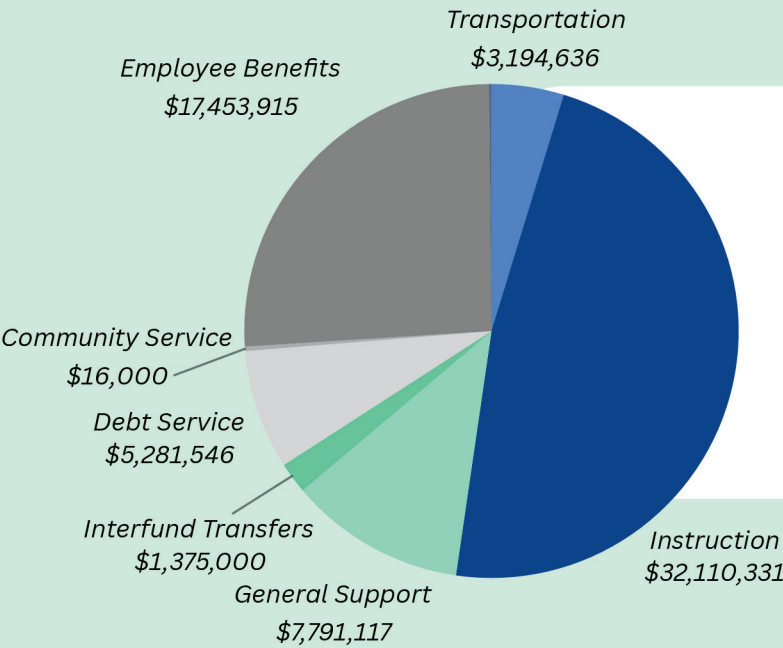
The three candidates who receive the highest number of votes at the Annual Meeting will fill the expired terms of the three incumbents. The candidate who receives the highest number of votes will be elected to serve a term which will commence immediately after the election (upon filing the oath of office) and continue until June 30, 2028. The two candidates who receive the second and third highest number of votes will be elected to three-year terms commencing July 1, 2025, and expire June 30, 2028.

Absentee and early mail ballot information is on page 5. Please note, your ballot will not be counted unless the statement of absentee voter is signed and returned to the District Clerk by the deadline: 5 p.m., on the day of the vote, May 20, 2025.



Annual School Budget Meeting (Public Hearing)

The Annual School Budget Meeting (Public Hearing) for qualified District residents will be held on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at approximately 7 p.m. in the Lake Shore High School Media Center. Comments may be submitted via email to budget.comments@lscsd.org no later than noon on Monday, May 5, 2025.

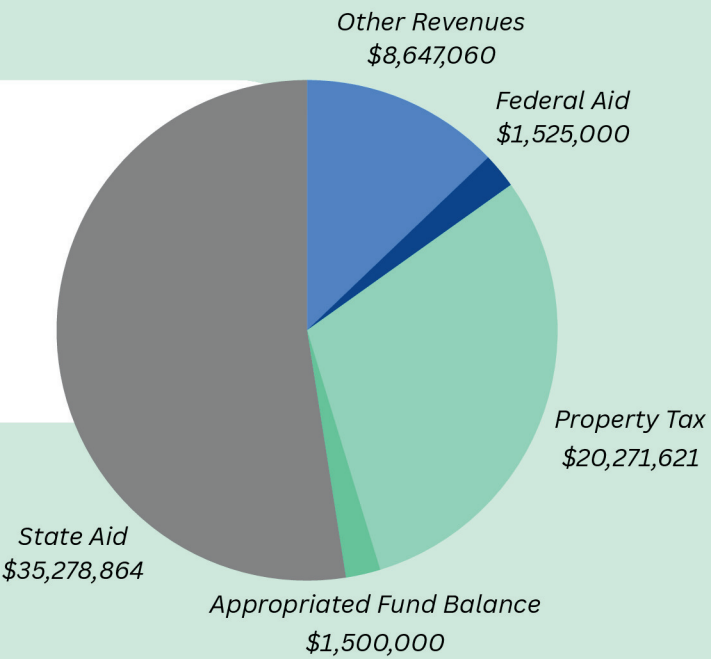


Proposed Budget: 2025-26

General Support	\$7,791,117	11.59%
Instruction	\$32,110,331	47.77%
Transportation	\$3,194,636	4.75%
Employee Benefits	\$17,453,915	25.96%
Debt Service	\$5,281,546	7.86%
Interfund Transfers	\$1,375,000	2.05%
Community Service	\$16,000	0.02%
Total	\$67,222,545	100.00%

Anticipated Revenues: 2025-26

State Aid	\$35,278,864	52.48%
Property Tax	\$20,271,621	30.16%
Federal Aid	\$1,525,000	2.27%
Other Revenues	\$8,647,060	12.86%
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$1,500,000	2.23%
Total	\$67,222,545	100.00%



Proposition 1

Shall the following resolution be adopted:

RESOLVED, that the budget for the Evans-Brant (Lake Shore) Central School District for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, as presented by the Board of Education in the amount of \$67,222,545 is hereby approved and adopted and the required funds therefore are hereby appropriated and the necessary real property taxes required shall be raised by a tax on the taxable property in the District to be levied and collected as required by law. Adoption of this budget requires an anticipated 2.9% property tax increase, which does not exceed the statutory tax levy increase limit of 3.62%.

Proposition 2

Shall the following resolution be adopted:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Evans-Brant (Lake Shore) Central School District (the "District") is hereby authorized to purchase the following replacement vehicles for use by the District in the transportation of students and general use by the District: up to three (3) fully electric buses (two (2) 24-passenger 1-wheel chair position school buses and one (1) 30-passenger school bus). The number of buses purchased shall be based on the amount of grant funding received by the District, and in no case shall the total aggregate local cost exceed \$500,000.00; with such aggregate cost to be raised by a tax upon the taxable property of the District to be levied and collected in annual installments as provided in Section 416 of the Education Law, with such tax to be partially offset by State aid available therefore, and, in anticipation of such tax, by the issuance of debt obligations of the District as may be necessary, not to exceed such maximum aggregate cost.

No tax levy increase is anticipated for Proposition 2.

Q&A

Q. If the budget increase is 1.81% (an increase of \$1,194,349), why is the tax rate increase 2.9% (an increase of \$571,309)?

A. The local tax rate increase fills budget gaps from other areas, such as State Aid, and changes in other revenue sources.

Q. What does the 2.9% increase mean to my taxes?

A. The average increase across all towns in the school district is an estimated \$58 (based on current changes in equalization rates) on a \$100,000 assessed home (before STAR savings). The property tax increase does not exceed the statutory tax levy increase (tax cap) of 3.62%.

Q. What is the District's maximum allowable tax increase?

A. New York State's allowable tax rate increase for Lake Shore this year was 3.62%.

Q. Why is there no tax levy increase for Proposition 2?

A. There is no need to levy a tax to fund this proposition, but voters must approve the purchases. The transportation aid on the buses, coupled with revenue from the sale of the older vehicles, will fully fund the purchase of the new vehicles. In addition, the District expects to see savings on maintenance and fuel costs with more efficient vehicles.

Proposition 3

Shall the following resolution be adopted:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Evans-Brant (Lake Shore) Central School District (the “District”) is hereby authorized to establish a capital reserve fund pursuant to Section 3651 of the Education Law of the State of New York (the “Fund”); that the Fund shall be known as the “Capital Reserve Fund, 2025” of the District; that the Fund shall be established for the purpose of financing, in whole or in part, the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, expansion, renovation, alteration and/or improvement of buildings, facilities, sites and/or real property owned by the District, including, in all cases, the acquisition of necessary furnishings, equipment, machinery and apparatus; that the ultimate amount of such Fund shall not be greater than \$10,000,000 (plus interest earned thereon); that the probable term of such Fund shall not be longer than ten (10) years; and that the permissible sources from which the Board is authorized to appropriate monies to such Fund from time to time shall be (a) unappropriated fund balance of the District; and (b) such other sources as the Board or the voters of the District may direct from time to time, all as may be permitted by law.

Q&A

Q. Why is the District creating a capital reserve?

A. If approved, the proposition would authorize the District to create a reserve that will set aside funds for future major capital projects, such as building construction, renovations, or upgrades to existing facilities. This allows the District to plan responsibly for the future keeping tax rates and debt levels stable over time.

Q. How is the reserve funded?

A. The Capital Reserve would be funded by the District’s unappropriated fund balance, unspent funds from the District’s Debt Reserve and any other funds that the Board and/or voters would authorize over the life of the reserve.

Q. What is the amount and duration of the reserve?

A. The total amount authorized would be \$10 million plus interest that the reserve fund would earn and the capital reserve would have a probable term no longer than ten (10) years.



Absentee Ballots & Early Mail Ballots

The District Clerk will automatically mail an Absentee Ballot to each voter whose registration record on file with the county board of elections is marked “permanently disabled.” **All other voters must submit an application prior to obtaining an absentee ballot or early mail ballot.**

Applications for Absentee Ballots and Applications for Early Mail Ballots are available 8 a.m.– 3 p.m. in the District Clerk’s office at Lake Shore High School, 959 Beach Road, Angola, NY. Please enter through the High School's main entrance.

Completed applications must be received by the District Clerk at least 7 days before (May 13, 2025) the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election (May 19, 2025), if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter.

Absentee Ballots and Early Mail Ballots must be received by the District Clerk by 5 p.m. on the day of the election (May 20, 2025).



To pick up an Absentee or Early Mail Ballot, please use the High School Main Entrance, which directly faces Beach Road. This also is the entrance to use when attending Candidate’s Night/Public Hearing.

PLEASE NOTE: Information for absentee ballots is not sent to the printer until April 22. If you submit an application for an absentee ballot or early mail ballot, please be aware that ballots are only available after they are received from the printer. When the ballots are received, they will be promptly distributed.

Public Hearing Comments

**(Tuesday, May 6, 2025, 7 p.m.,
High School Media Center,
959 Beach Road, Angola)**

A Public Hearing on the proposed 2025-26 school budget immediately follows Meet the Candidates (at approximately 7 p.m.). Comments may be submitted via email to budget.comments@lscsd.org no later than noon, Monday, May 5, 2025.

Questions on Meet the Candidates Night

A night to "Meet the Candidates" for the Lake Shore Central School District Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the High School Media Center, 959 Beach Road, Angola. There are three candidates running for three expiring seats. The candidates, in the order they will appear on the ballot, are: William Connors, Jr., Dennis Feldmann, and Patricia Ferrito. The candidate biographies are on pages 6 and 7.

The program will be a casual meet-and-greet with the candidates.

Board of Education Election

The three candidates who receive the highest number of votes at the Annual Meeting will fill the three available seats (currently held by William Connors, Jr., Dennis Feldmann, and Kathleen Chiavetta, whose term expires May 20). The candidate who receives the highest number of votes will be elected to serve a term which will commence immediately after the election (upon filing the oath of office) and continue until June 30, 2028. The two candidates who receive the second and third highest number of votes will be elected to three-year terms commencing July 1, 2025 and expire June 30, 2028. The biographical sketches below are submitted by the candidates and are presented in the order they will appear on the ballot. The biographies are printed as submitted, without editing. The opinions expressed are those of the candidates. Background information, as stated in the profiles, has not been verified by the school district.



William J. Connors Jr.

William J. Connors Jr., (Bill) was first elected to the Board in 2013 and is seeking re-election to continue his prudent judgment in these still difficult financial times. Bill serves on the District Budget Committee, the Capital Project Committee, the Erie County Association of School Boards' Budget & Finance Team, and he is dedicated to keeping taxes low without cutting our children's curriculum needs. He is a 1990 graduate of Lake Shore Central Schools, and a 1994 graduate of Saint Bonaventure University with a BA Majoring in Business.

Since school, Bill has made a career with business application software companies specializing in critical business functions, analytics, and reporting for manufacturing and distribution-based companies. He is a Senior Executive for a U.S. based software company selling and developing solutions for the SAP software solution set.

Bill is married to Karen, a Planning & Governance Leader at Rich Products Corp in Buffalo, NY. The couple has two children: Will is a 2019 graduate of Lake Shore and Simon 2023. Will is a graduate of Canisius University and Simon is a sophomore at Colgate University. The family lives in Evans, and if there's any spare time, helps out at Connors Hot Dog Stand, their family business for over 80 years. Bill is looking forward to continuing to serve the Lake Shore community to help enhance the college and career readiness of our students for a changing college and workforce environment around the world.



Dennis M. Feldmann

I grew up in the Town of Evans, one of seven children of Bernard and Joanna Feldmann. All my siblings and myself graduated from Lake Shore Central School District. After college, I made a decision to stay in the Town of Evans, being hired as a police officer with the Town of Evans Police Department.

In 1993, I started a new chapter in my life, marrying Jill Warner and deciding together to start a family. We were blessed with three amazing daughters, all three attending and graduating from Lake Shore Central before moving on to college.

In 2006, I was afforded the opportunity to serve on the Lake Shore Board of Education, serving until 2012. I thoroughly enjoyed my time on the board serving on several committees and continuing my educational requirements through NYSBA and ECSBA. In 2011, I was elected as councilman to the Evans Town Board, which led me to not run for re-election to avoid any conflict of interest situations.

I am choosing again to run for school board and if afforded the opportunity by the residents of this community, promise to meet the unique challenges facing school districts head on. With life experience, mandated training already completed, I could hit the floor running to serve you as you should expect and demand.



Patricia "TC" Ferrito

I'm Patricia "TC" Ferrito and I am a candidate for Lake Shore Central School District's Board of Education. I have lived in the Town of Evans for more than 40 years. My husband, Tom Franz, and I live in the Roat Acres neighborhood and have 2 adult sons.

I recently retired from Erie 1 BOCES. I provided policy and regulatory advice, policy manuals, professional development, and student codes of conduct to more than 400 school districts across NYS at E1B. It was my job to explain state and federal laws and regulations to school district customers. I previously worked at the United Way, evaluating the programs of nonprofit agencies and distributing funding. I have a bachelor's degree from William Smith College and a master's in public administration from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University.

I believe I have the skills and abilities needed to be a valuable member of the Lake Shore CSD Board of Education. The district will face challenges in the coming years, and I am ready to face those challenges head on for the betterment of our students. Our future depends on it.

**THE EAGLE EXPRESS is
a publication of the
Lake Shore Central
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DISTRICT OFFICE

959 Beach Road

Angola, NY 14006

716-549-2300

**Lake Shore Central Schools
(Evans-Brant Central School District)
Annual School Budget, Vehicle Purchase Referendum,
Creation of Capital Reserve & Board Election**

May 20, 2025 – 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.



**Voting will be held in the Lobby outside the District Office/High School Gymnasium.
Parking will be available to voters in the lower and upper parking lots located by the District Office.**

New York State Education Law §2012 sets forth the qualifications of voters at school district meetings:

- A voter must be a citizen of the United States
- A voter must be eighteen (18) years of age or older
- A voter must be a legal resident within the District for a period of thirty (30) days preceding the meeting or election at which he/she offers to vote.
- A voter must not be otherwise prohibited from voting pursuant to Education Law Section 5-106.

To be a qualified voter in the Lake Shore Central School District Annual Meeting, Budget Vote and Election, an individual who resides on the Seneca Nation of Indians territory must meet the following qualifications:

- Eighteen years of age or older;
- Born in the United States to a member of an Indian tribe, or having been naturalized or otherwise acquired citizenship;
- Resided on the Seneca Nation of Indians territory for a period of thirty days prior to the election;
- NOT be the parent or guardian of Native American children who are being educated in the Gowanda Central School District or the Silver Creek Central School District*; and
- NOT be otherwise prohibited from voting pursuant to Election Law Section 5-106.

**The parents or guardians of Native American children of such reservation/territory who are being educated in the Gowanda CSD or the Silver Creek CSD are eligible to vote only in the district where their children are being educated.*

PLEASE NOTE – Individuals who have not registered to vote in Erie County and who have not previously voted in a school district election will be asked to show proof of residency (e.g., driver's license, non-driver identification card, utility bill, or voter registration card).