

Whitehall Central School
Notice of Budget Hearing
And
Notice of Annual Meeting, Budget Vote and Election

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing of the qualified voters of the Whitehall Central School District, Washington County, New York will be held in the Large Group Instruction Room in the Junior-Senior High School Building on Buckley Road in the Town of Whitehall, New York, on May 06, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. for the presentation of the budget.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that a copy of the statement of the amount of money which will be required for the ensuing year, for school purposes (2024-2025), may be obtained by any resident of the Districts at each school building during school hours, in the office of the District Clerk between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., on the date of the Annual Meeting, Budget Vote and Election, as well as on the District's website, beginning May 6, 2024, except Saturday, Sunday or holidays.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that the Real Property Tax Exemption Report will be annexed to the budget and posted on District bulletin boards maintained for public notices, and on the District's website.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that the annual meeting of the qualified voters of the Whitehall Central School District, Washington County, New York, will be held at the Large Group Instruction Room in the Junior-Senior High School Building on Buckley Road in the Town of Whitehall, New York, on May 21, 2024 between the hours of 12:00 o'clock noon and 8:00 o'clock P.M. during which hours the polls will be opened to vote upon the following items:

1. To adopt the annual budget of the School District for the fiscal year 2024-2025 and to authorize the requisite portion thereof to be raised by taxation on the taxable property of the District.
2. To elect three (3) members of the Board of Education as follows:

One (1) member, for a 3-year term commencing July 1, 2024 and expiring on June 30, 2027, to succeed Frank Barber whose term expires on June 30, 2024.

One (1) member for a 3-year term, commencing July 1, 2024 and expiring June 30, 2027, to succeed Christopher Dudley whose term will expire June 30, 2024.

One (1) member for a 3-year term, commencing July 1, 2024 and expiring June 30, 2027, to succeed Dr. Shannon Newell whose term will expire June 30, 2024.

3. To vote on the following Proposition(s) which will be submitted for consideration:

PROPOSITION #1

Shall the Board of Education of the Whitehall Central School District be authorized to purchase one sixty-five (65) passenger school bus for the use of the said School District, the estimated maximum cost thereof, not to exceed a total of \$162,054 that such sum or so much thereof as may be necessary be expended from the unencumbered and unappropriated funds now on hand, or shall be raised by the levy of a tax to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education.

PROPOSITION #2

Shall It Be Resolved, that the Board of Education of Whitehall Central School District be authorized and directed to establish a new Capital Reserve Fund in accordance with the provisions of Section 3651 of the Education Law which shall be used for future building projects, improvements, and renovations. The ultimate amount of such fund shall be \$5,000,000 plus interest earnings thereon. The probable term shall be ten years and the source of its funds will be funds from the expiring Capital Reserve Fund and from unappropriated balances in the District's General Fund in current and future years.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that petitions nominating candidates for the office of member of the Board of Education shall be filed with the Clerk of the District, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., no later than April 22, 2024. A petition is required to nominate a candidate to the office of member of the Board of Education. A nominating petition must be directed to the Clerk of the District; must be signed by at least twenty-five (25) qualified voters of the District, or two percent of the voters who voted in the 2023 election of the members of the Board of Education, whichever is greater, such number to be determined by the number of persons recorded on the poll list as having voted at such election; must state the residence of each signer, and must state the name and residence of the candidate therein nominated. Vacancies upon the Board of Education are not considered separate specific offices and nominating petitions shall not describe any specific vacancy upon the Board of Education for which the candidate is nominated.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that applications for absentee ballots and early mail-in ballots for the election of Board members, the adoption of the annual budget and referenda may be applied for at the office of the Clerk of the District beginning April 15, 2024. That list of all persons to whom absentee ballots and early mail-in ballots shall have been issued will be available in the said office of the Clerk on each of the five (5) days prior to the day of the election except Saturday, Sunday and holidays.

The Education Law also makes special provisions for absentee voting for “military” voters of the District. Specifically, the law provides a unique procedure for “military ballots” in school district votes. Whereas absentee ballots must be received by the voter by mail, a military voter may elect to receive his/her absentee ballot application and absentee ballot by mail, email or facsimile. The military voter must, however, return his/her original military ballot application and military ballot by mail or in person. The Clerk of the Board shall transmit the military voter’s military ballot in accord with the military voter’s preferred method of transmission not later than April 26, 2024. The Clerk of the Board must then receive the military voter’s military ballot by mail not later than 5:00 p.m. on the day of the vote.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the qualified voters of the School District shall be entitled to vote in said annual vote and election. A qualified voter is one who is (1) a citizen of the United States of America, (2) eighteen (18) years of age or older, and (3) resident within the School District for a period of thirty (30) days preceding the annual vote and election. The School District may require all persons offering to vote at the budget vote and election to provide one form of proof of residency pursuant to Education Law section 2018-c. Such form may include a driver’s license, a non-driver identification card, a utility bill, or a voter registration card. Upon offer of proof of residency, the School District may also require all persons offering to vote to provide their signature, printed name and address.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to a rule adopted by the Board of Education in accordance with §2035 and 2008 of the Education law, any referenda or propositions to amend the budget, or otherwise to be submitted for voting at said election, must be filed with the Board of Education at the District Office, 87 Buckley Road, Whitehall, NY, on or before April 22, 2024, at 5:00 PM prevailing time; must be typed or printed in the English language; must be directed to the Clerk of the School District; must be signed by at least twenty-five (25) qualified voters of the District; and must state the name and residence of each signer. However, the School board will not entertain any petition to place before the power of the voters to determine, or any proposition which fails to include a specific appropriation where the expenditures of monies is required by the proposition.

Dated: March 18, 2024
By order of the Board of Education
Heather Morcombe
School District Clerk

To be published: 3/28, 4/11, 4/25, & 5/9, 2024