

# School Budget Revote

Tuesday, June 21, 2011 ■ 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. ■ Secondary School Auditorium

For more information on the 2011-12 school budget, visit [www.bkwschools.org](http://www.bkwschools.org)

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Superintendent of Schools

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The annual budget revote for the fiscal year 2011-12 by qualified voters of the Berne-Knox-Westerlo Central School District, Albany County, New York, will be held at Berne-Knox-Westerlo High School in said district on Tuesday, June 21, 2011, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 9 p.m., prevailing time in the high school, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by machine or ballot.

## Berne-Knox-Westerlo School District Budget Notice

### OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL

	Budget Adopted for the 10-11 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 11-12 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 11-12 School Year
<b>Total budgeted amount</b>	<b>\$19,641,977</b>	<b>\$20,917,977</b>	<b>\$20,864,904</b>
<b>Increase for 2011-12</b>		<b>\$1,276,000</b>	<b>\$1,222,927</b>
<b>Percentage increase in each proposed budget</b>		6.5%	6.23%
<b>Change in the Consumer Price Index</b>		1.6%	
<b>Resulting est. property tax levy for 2011-12</b>		<b>\$10,734,974</b>	<b>\$10,681,901</b>
<b>1. Administrative Component</b>	<b>\$1,798,200</b>	<b>\$1,786,809</b>	<b>\$1,777,216</b>
<b>2. Program Component</b>	<b>\$15,678,638</b>	<b>\$15,841,321</b>	<b>\$15,801,971</b>
<b>3. Capital Component</b>	<b>\$2,165,139</b>	<b>\$3,289,847</b>	<b>\$3,285,717</b>

### \*What happens if the 2011-12 budget is not approved by a majority of voters?

Under state law, school boards can submit a budget to voters a maximum of two times. If the budget is defeated twice, the board must adopt a contingency budget. The overall increase cannot exceed the lesser of 4 percent or 120% multiplied by the average of the national Consumer Price Index determined by the U.S. Department of Labor for the 12-month period proceeding January 1 of the current year. The contingency cap for the 2011-12 school year is 1.92%.

### BASIC STAR EXEMPTION IMPACT

Estimated Basic STAR exemption savings based on a hypothetical home within the school district with a full value of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000).

	2011-12 Proposed Budget
<b>Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings</b>	<b>\$505</b>

# School budget up for revote; projected tax levy increase: 3.51%

Residents of the Berne-Knox-Westerlo School District will be asked to vote again on the proposed 2011-12 school budget on Tuesday, June 21. Voting will take place from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the secondary school auditorium.

The budget was initially voted down by 28 votes on May 17, with 451 "yes" votes to 479 "no" votes.

"Given the slim margin of the vote and the fact that, if a budget is not approved, this would be the second year in a row that BKW would be operating under a contingent budget, the school board and the administration felt it would be in the school's best interest to try to pass the budget," said BKW Superintendent of Schools Dr. Paul Dorward.

The proposed 2011-12 school budget is \$20,917,977 and represents a spending increase of \$1,276,000 or 6.5 percent from the 2010-11 school budget. The proposed budget calls for a projected tax levy increase of 3.51 percent.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS	
<b>\$20,917,977</b>	TOTAL BUDGET
<b>\$1,276,000</b>	SPENDING INCREASE
<b>3.51%</b>	TAX LEVY INCREASE

\$1.2 million of the 6.5 percent increase in spending is a result of the capital project and energy performance contract. However, BKW is receiving an increase of \$1.1 million in state building aid to offset most of the increase.

The district cut \$284,001 from its budget to achieve a 3.51 percent tax levy increase.

Included in the proposed budget is a reduction of 3.4 full-time equivalent teaching staff positions, the Dean of Students position, JV boys and girls soccer, JV cheerleading, JV softball, JV baseball, the student newspaper, adult education and the evening G.E.D. program.

The budget also calls for an addition of 3 full-time equivalent positions: an elementary AIS teacher, a director of special education and a student monitor.

At the high school level, Advanced Placement (AP) classes will still be offered, as will Career and Technical Education options and the New Visions program. The Path to Education, Achievement, Knowledge, Success (PEAKS) program will not be eliminated.

Seven new courses will be offered in 2011-12 through distance learning: AP World History, AP English Literature, AP U.S. Government & Politics, statistics, sign language, University in the High School (UHS) Calculus and UHS Sociology. There will also be seven new electives offered in-house: Regents prep in social studies, Regents prep in English, local history, American History Through Film, the Holocaust, Algebra for College-Bound Students, and Current Issues in Biology. These in-house electives may change, based on enrollment.

If residents vote down the budget a second time, the board must adopt a contingent budget, which would result in an additional \$53,073 in cuts and carry a projected tax levy increase of 3 percent and a spending increase of 6.23 percent or \$1,222,927.

## The difference between an approved budget and a contingent budget

	Proposed 2011-12 school budget	Contingent budget for 2011-12	Difference
<b>Total budget</b>	\$20,917,977	\$ 20,864,904	\$53,073
<b>Budget Increase</b>	\$ 1,276,000 (6.5%)	\$ 1,222,927 (6.23%)	0.27%
<b>Tax Levy Increase</b>	3.51%	3%	0.51%

### An Approved Budget

- Calls for a 3.51% tax levy increase.
- Calls for a 6.5% spending increase.
- Maintains district control over how school dollars are spent.
- Allows the district to subsidize food services.
- Allows the district to purchase some educational and health/safety equipment.
- Allows district to pay salary increases to non-contractual employees.
- Permits community members and groups to use facilities without a fee.

### A Contingent Budget

- Calls for a 3% tax levy increase.
- Calls for a 6.23 % spending increase
- Gives the state some control over how school dollars are spent.
- Does not allow the district to subsidize food services.
- Prohibits the purchase of all non-educational and non-health/safety equipment.
- Does not allow the district to pay salary increases to non-contractual personnel.
- May impose fees for community members and groups to use schools.

**The difference in cost between them? \$53,073**

## Voting information

**Voting will take place from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, June 21 in the secondary school auditorium.**

Any U.S. citizen who is 18 years of age or older, a registered voter, and a resident of the Berne-Knox-Westerlo School District for at least 30 days prior to June 21 is eligible to cast a ballot. Those who are registered for the general elections are automatically registered for school elections.

Can't get to the polls on June 21? You can still vote using an absentee ballot. Applications are available at the district office.