

BERNE - KNOX - WESTERLO



CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

# BKW Budget stays within tax cap, adds full day Pre-K, expands Ag program

On Tuesday, May 15, the Berne-Knox-Westerlo Central School District will put forward a proposed 2018-19 budget of \$23,255,186 for residents to vote on. The spending plan represents a significant investment in the district's future, both in college-and-career-readiness opportunities and early childhood education.

The 2018-19 budget has been crafted by district administrators and the Budget Advisory

Committee since the fall of 2017. BKW Superintendent, Dr. Timothy Mundell, made budget presentations to the Board of Education at the February and March Board meetings.

*"We continue to add programs and opportunities for students at minimal cost to our community."*

- Dr. Timothy Mundell, Superintendent of Schools

The \$23,255,186 spending plan represents a 2.64% increase over the 2017-18 budget, and carries a 1% tax levy increase. The budget includes funding for a full day Pre-K program and a fully funded after school program at the elementary school, as well as funding for a Grades 3-12 Device Initiative. The New York state budget settlement in late March provided an additional \$97,000 in Foundation Aid to the district, which was allocated to Instructional Technology in order to fund the Device Initiative. That initiative is expected to be rolled out in the 2018-19 school year as part of the district's aggressive technology plan that is part of its annual goals.

The 1% tax levy increase moves the levy to \$11,055,383, or \$109,459 more than the 2017-18 budget. The levy increase covers the increase in cost for the Pre-K program, which is \$120,000. For \$1.60 per month to the taxpayer with a home assessed at \$100,000, the district will be able to provide early academic intervention for 4 year olds, supervised after school activities for K-6 students, devices for all students in Grades 3-12,

## Inside...

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- 5 ▶ Expenditure and Revenue Breakdown
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add new college credit bearing courses and new Ag Science courses at the high school, and maintain all programs established in the district over the past three years.

This focused investment in the district has seen the district's graduation rate rise to 92% in 2017, its highest since 2012.

The budget vote will take place on Tuesday, May 15 from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the Secondary School Auditorium. Also on the ballot will be a proposition to purchase two 66 passenger buses and three Suburbans. There is also one seat up for election on the Board of Education. Qualifying candidates will be on the ballot as well.



**2018-19  
BUDGET  
SNAPSHOT**

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Proposed  
Budget  
**\$23,255,186**

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Spending  
Increase  
**2.64%**

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Tax Levy  
Increase  
**1.0%**





CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

ON THE BALLOT

### District invests in the future with full day Pre-K

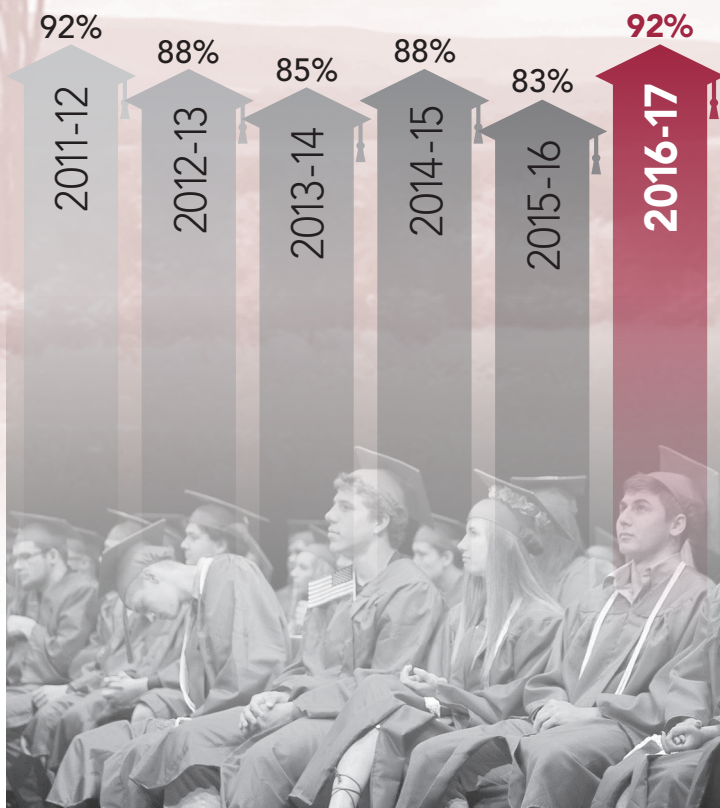
Research shows that students who attend school district Pre-K programs are better prepared for school at the end of the Pre-K year than children who do not attend Pre-K. In an effort to support the parents of four year olds in the community, especially in the case of disadvantaged students, and to lay a foundation for a student's educational journey to give them the best start possible, the Berne-Knox-Westerlo Central School District is including money in the budget to fund a full day Pre-K program.

The district already offers a half-day universal Pre-K (UPK) program through Head Start with morning and afternoon sessions. That program will continue, and will work in conjunction with the

full-day Pre-K program.

The full day Pre-K program will cost \$120,000, and most of that cost will be covered by the 1% tax levy increase included in the proposed 2018-19 budget. On a home assessed at \$100,000, this translates to an extra \$1.60 per month for a full day education for the district's four year olds, along with other academic programs.

### BKW's graduation rate is on the rise! Highest graduation rate since 2011-12



## VOTING Information



Any U.S. citizen who is 18 years of age or older and a resident of the Berne-Knox-Westerlo School District for at least 30 days prior to May 15 is eligible to cast a ballot in the budget vote. **But first you must be registered.** Those who are registered for the general elections are automatically registered for school votes.

For further questions on how to register to vote, contact District Clerk Denise Robinson at (518) 872-2030.

### Can't get to the polls on May 15?

**You can still vote using an absentee ballot.** Absentee ballots will be issued, upon request, to residents of the school district who will be out of town or unable to vote in person due to illness or disability. To vote via absentee ballot, district residents must first complete and sign an absentee ballot application. Applications for absentee ballots are available at the elementary school.

If the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, the District Clerk must receive the completed application no later than 3 p.m., May 8. Applications for an absentee ballot that are delivered in person will be accepted until 5 p.m. on May 14.

All absentee ballots must be returned to District Clerk Denise Robinson no later than 5 p.m., May 15.

**Questions?** Call Denise Robinson at (518) 872-2030.

### Parking on Vote Day

**The back parking lot between the secondary and elementary schools will be cleared for voters.** Please park in this lot for easy access to the polls, which will be in the high school auditorium.

### Vote Results

**Polls are open on May 15 from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.** Votes will be counted after that time and announced on the district's website, [www.bkwschools.org](http://www.bkwschools.org)



CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



### Voters to elect one board member on May 15 ballot

Residents will consider two candidates for one seat on the BKW Board of Education. The candidates with the greatest number of votes will fulfill a three-year term. The statements below were submitted by the candidates. The opinions contained within are theirs and may not reflect the opinions or views of BKW School District leaders or the Board of Education.

#### Randy Bashwinger is seeking his first term on the Board of Education.

I take great pride in being a graduate of BKW. This pride and dedication to the community is why I have dedicated my life to public service.

After many years of working in residential and commercial building materials, I knew it was time to give back to the community that gave so much to me.

As the Berne Highway Superintendent and a member of the Helderberg Rescue Squad, I try to make my community better for my six children. Four of those children walk the halls of BKW each day. I have seen many changes in the district since my graduation in 1989.

As a parent and community member, I am dedicated to putting students' needs first with equality for all students. I'm dedicated to increasing safety and security for students and staff of the district. My passion for this community runs deep.

My phone is always on and I look forward to hearing from all of you so we can all work together to move BKW into the future.



#### Lillian Sisson-Chrysler is seeking her second full term on the Board of Education.

As a life-long resident of the Hilltowns, and an alumnus of BKW, I have spent many years invested in our school district.

In the past three years serving on the Board of Education, I have seen many positive changes at BKW, but there is still lot of work to be done. During my time on the board, I have been tasked with making decisions where I came to resolutions with my heart and with the children of BKW in mind.

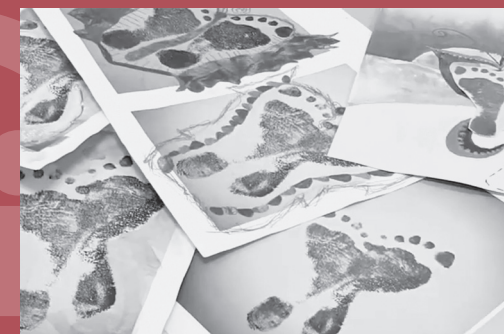
As I seek re-election to the school board, my commitment is to our children and to the taxpaying members of our community. The BOE still has a lot of work to complete, and I would be honored to have the opportunity to continue the work that has been started. Board stability and continuity is vital to the long-term growth and success of our school district.

My number one goal is to work in conjunction with my fellow BOE members and our superintendent to continue to give the students a quality education and a school in which every member of the BKW community can be proud of.



### COMMUNITY FOCUS:

One of the main purposes of any school district is to strengthen the surrounding community. Here at BKW we take that mission very seriously. Our students, teachers, and staff work very hard every day to be good ambassadors for the district and for our great community.



This year, a community member approached one of our art teachers, Ms. Johnson, to ask for assistance with a project to help with the grieving process after losing her daughter, Ava Rose, to childhood cancer. Ms. Johnson and her art class enthusiastically dove in to the project to honor Ava, painting two canvas prints of her footprints. A video of the project can be seen on our Facebook page.

### Stay Connected...

In September, BKW started using the Blackboard mass notification system. Stay up to date on school closings, delays, and events at BKW by signing up!

**Parents:** make sure your information is up to date in eSchoolData Parent Portal. Be sure to have an e-mail address listed and a phone number if you want phone calls in case of closings or an emergency.

**Community members:** Head to [bkwschools.org](http://bkwschools.org) to create an account.





CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Three-part budget shows breakdown of costs

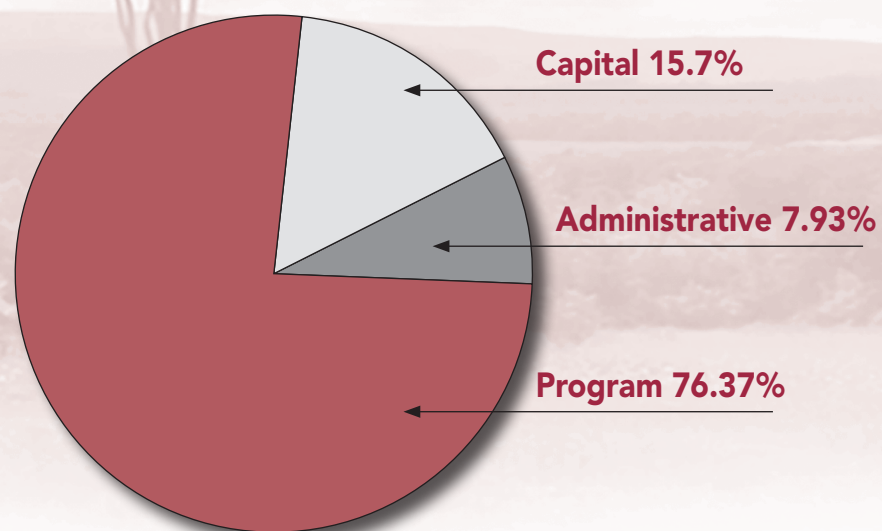
State law requires that a school district present its budget in three component parts: administrative, program and capital. In the proposed budget, the district's administrative and capital costs would decrease next year while program costs increase.

**Administrative costs** include salaries and benefits of administrators and administrative clerical staff, school board costs, staff development, tax collection, legal and auditing costs, central printing, central data processing and BOCES administrative costs.

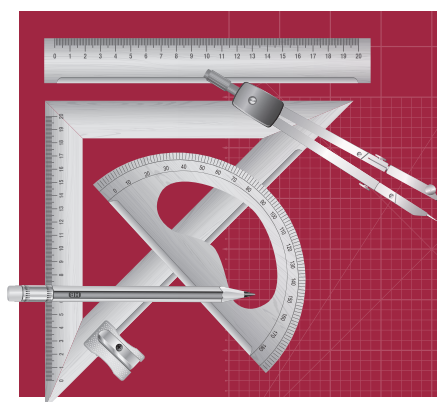
**Program costs** include salaries and benefits of all teachers and staff delivering pupil services (health, guidance, library, etc.), curriculum development, textbooks, instructional materials, equipment, extracurricular activities, athletics, BOCES program costs, and all costs of the transportation program except bus purchases.

**Capital costs** include salaries and benefits of maintenance and custodial staff, debt service on buildings, bus purchases, utilities, insurance, tax certiorari, and other court-ordered costs.

## Proposed 2018-19 Budget



| Three-part budget   | 2017-18 Budget      | 2018-19 Proposed    | Difference       |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Administrative      | \$1,966,847         | \$1,844,249         | (\$122,598)      |
| Program             | \$17,047,312        | \$17,760,787        | \$713,475        |
| Capital             | \$3,643,334         | \$3,650,150         | \$6,816          |
| <b>TOTAL BUDGET</b> | <b>\$22,657,493</b> | <b>\$23,255,186</b> | <b>\$597,693</b> |



## Capital Project Update

Plans for the Capital Project approved by voters in November are continuing to move forward. Since the vote, architects, construction managers, and engineers have been meeting and working with key stakeholders to design the specific renovations to classroom spaces,

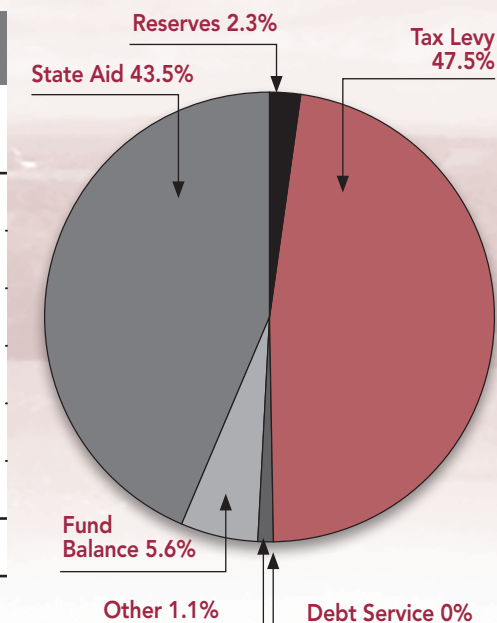
including agriculture/STEAM rooms, along with HVAC renovations and specific site work. Plans for the Capital Project are expected to be developed and submitted to the New York State Education Department by June 1. The district is anticipating approval of the plans by the end of the 2018 calendar year. Construction is expected to begin in the summer of 2019.

## REVENUES

Where the money comes from...

### Revenues

| Revenue Source        | 2017-18 Budgeted    | 2018-19 Proposed    | Difference       |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| State Aid             | \$10,005,808        | \$10,113,803        | \$107,995        |
| Fund Balance          | \$976,761           | \$1,299,835         | \$323,074        |
| Reserves              | \$206,000           | \$534,165           | \$328,165        |
| Debt Service Fund     | \$25,000            | \$0                 | (\$25,000)       |
| Tax Levy              | \$10,945,924        | \$11,055,383        | \$109,459        |
| Other                 | \$498,000           | \$252,000           | (\$246,000)      |
| <b>Total Revenues</b> | <b>\$22,657,493</b> | <b>\$23,255,186</b> | <b>\$597,693</b> |

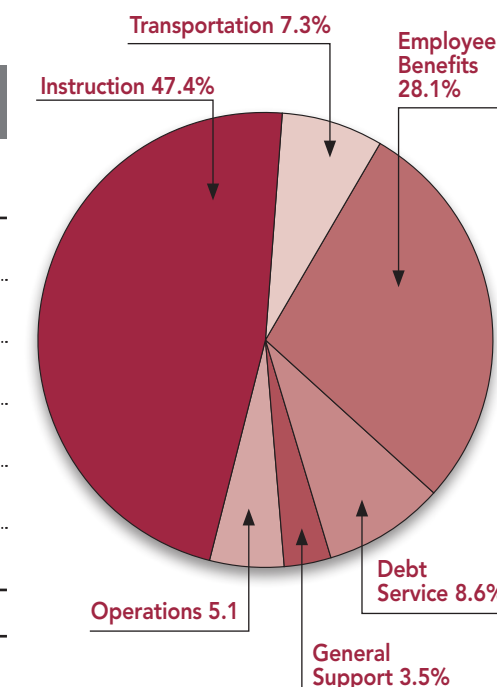


## EXPENSES

Where the money goes...

### Expenditures

| Budget Category           | 2017-18 Budgeted    | 2018-19 Proposed    | Difference       |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| General Support           | \$839,614           | \$827,713           | (\$11,901)       |
| Operations/Maintenance    | \$1,180,900         | \$1,180,900         | \$0              |
| Instruction               | \$10,336,015        | \$11,021,691        | \$685,676        |
| Transportation            | \$1,703,520         | \$1,699,520         | (\$4,000)        |
| Employee Benefits         | \$6,659,817         | \$6,524,049         | (\$135,768)      |
| Debt Service/Transfers    | \$1,937,627         | \$2,001,313         | \$63,686         |
| <b>Total Expenditures</b> | <b>\$22,657,493</b> | <b>\$23,255,186</b> | <b>\$597,693</b> |







CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Agriculture and FFA program grow

One of the key focuses of the budget is expanding academic programs to make sure BKW students are as college-and-career-ready as possible when they walk out our doors. And the expanding and thriving Agricultural Science and FFA Chapter are prime examples of those initiatives.

The new BKW Agricultural Science program and FFA chapter are rapidly gaining state and national recognition. Earlier this year, the district was awarded an \$8,000 grant through the New York Agricultural Education and Outreach project and Cornell University. That money will be used towards the district's Agricultural Science program, including the purchase of state-of-the-art pieces of equipment and lab supplies for the 960 square-foot hightunnel built on campus in mid-December, which was funded by a \$10,000 grant from the Albany County Soil and Water Conservation Department. In April, the district received a \$2,500 grant from Tractor Supply Company and the National FFA Foundation. That money will go towards purchasing a floral cooler for the Agricultural Science program. In just a few months, the program has received over \$20,000 in grants, and the district is looking to continue that success in the coming months and years.

But the success hasn't just been limited to financial gains. BKW students have also been winning regional agricultural and FFA competitions. In September, 28 BKW students took part in the 12th Annual SUNY Cobleskill Agriculture and Natural Resources Day and won



six awards. Liz Lendrum took first place in 4-Wheel Wagon Tractor Driving, Ryan Stansfield took first in Landscape Design, while Breanna Larghe and Samantha Filkins took first in the Equine Team Competition. And in March, Kayleigh Reynolds-Flynn placed first in the FFA Sub-state People in Agriculture Leadership Development Event, and will be competing at the New York State FFA competition in May.

Academically, the district is adding three new Agricultural Science courses to the curriculum for 2018-19. These courses will bring the total number of classes offered in Agricultural Science to eight. This is all part of a continuing student-driven Agricultural Science and FFA program that continues to give back to the school and community, such as when FFA members met with Elementary students in March to speak with them about FFA and the agriculture program at BKW!

## ATHLETIC Achievements

Michelle Puzulis –  
All-State Selection – Cross Country

NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Teams –  
Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Golf, Girls Volleyball

Slade Pulliam –  
Section 2 Scholar Athlete – Boys Basketball

Morgan Latham –  
Section 2 Scholar Athlete – Girls Basketball

Coach Tom Galvin – 350 career wins, Section 2  
Sportsmanship Award – Girls Basketball

Taylor Meacham –  
Mohawk Division MVP – Girls Basketball

Girls Basketball –  
WAC Mohawk Division Champions



## BKW School District Budget Notice

The information below is the New York state mandated School District Budget Notice. It shows specific items for the 2017-18 budget, as well as the 2018-19 proposed budget and the 2018-19 contingent budget (implemented if the proposed budget does not pass). The 2018-19 proposed budget of \$23,255,186 represents a 2.64% increase in spending, or \$597,693, from the 2017-18 school year. The 2018-19 proposed tax levy of \$11,055,383 is a 1.0% increase from the 2017-18 tax levy.

| OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL  | Budget Proposed 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   | \$22,657,493                                | \$23,255,186                                | \$23,097,309                                    |
| Increase/Decrease for the 2018-2019 School Year  |   | \$597,693                                   | \$439,816                                       |
| Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget  |   | 2.64%                                       | 1.94%   |
| Change in the Consumer Price Index   |   | 2.13%                                       |   |
| A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount, Net of Reserve  | \$10,945,924                                | \$11,055,383                                |   |
| B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable   | N/A   | N/A   |   |
| C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable**   | N/A   | N/A   |   |
| D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy   | N/A   | N/A   |   |
| E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)   | \$10,945,924                                | \$11,055,383                                | \$10,945,924                                    |
| F. Total Permissible Exclusions  | \$295,531                                   | \$211,576                                   |   |
| G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions  | \$10,930,147                                | \$10,895,779                                |   |
| H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D) | \$10,650,393                                | \$10,843,807                                |   |
| I. Difference: (G - H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**    | \$279,754                                   | \$51,972                                    |   |
| Administrative Component   | \$1,966,847                                 | \$1,844,249                                 | \$1,824,637                                     |
| Program Component  | \$17,047,312                                | \$17,760,787                                | \$17,652,050                                    |
| Capital Component  | \$3,643,334                                 | \$3,650,150                                 | \$3,620,622                                     |

\*If voters do not approve the proposed 2018-19 budget within two votes, the Board must adopt a contingent budget, which limits the property tax levy increase to zero percent, with no exclusions. Deliberations would center around using fund balance, finding additional revenue, and reducing expenditures. The combination would result in \$157,877 in cuts to capital, administrative, and programs necessary to meet the contingency limit. Reductions to be considered would include non-mandated courses, athletics and extra-curricular activities. The above represents one possible scenario available to the district.

\*\*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    |
|---|-----------|
| Proposition to purchase two 66-passenger buses and three 7-passenger vehicles using \$150,000 from transportation reserves. | \$215,688 |

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2018-2019 by the qualified voters of the Berne-Knox-Westerlo School District, Albany County, New York, will be held at Berne-Knox-Westerlo Secondary School in said district on Tuesday, May 15, 2018, between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., prevailing time in the Berne-Knox-Westerlo Secondary School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup> (average savings on \$100,000 home) | \$571 |
|---|-------|

<sup>1</sup> The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.



## Board of Education

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# BERNE-KNOX-WESTERLO

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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BERNE - KNOX - WESTERLO

# BKW

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MAY 2018



## VOTING Information

Any U.S. citizen who is 18 years of age or older and a resident of the Berne-Knox-Westerlo School District for at least 30 days prior to May 15 is eligible to cast a ballot in the budget vote. **But first you must be registered.** Those who are registered for the general elections are automatically registered for school votes.

For further questions on how to register to vote, contact District Clerk Denise Robinson at (518) 872-2030.

### VOTE RESULTS

Polls are open on May 15  
from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
in the high school auditorium.

Votes will be counted after that time and immediately announced on the district's website, [www.bkwschools.org](http://www.bkwschools.org)

## WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT?

- ▶ BKW's 2018-19 proposed school budget
  - **\$23,255,186 spending plan**
  - **2.64% spending increase**
  - **1.0% tax levy increase**
- ▶ One open Board of Education seat (see page 3)
- ▶ Bus proposition

**VOTE!**  
TUESDAY, MAY 15  
6 A.M. TO 8 P.M.  
HIGH SCHOOL  
AUDITORIUM