**SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION INFORMATION:**

**TOMPKINS COUNTY**

**ELECTION DATE: MAY 20, 2025**

*The information provided below was gathered by the League of Women Voters of Tompkins County, as of May 8, 2025. To share corrections or updates, please contact* *lwvtompkins@gmail.com*

***Many thanks for the assistance provided by our School District Clerks!***

Scroll down to find your school district alphabetically:

Dryden, Groton, Ithaca, Lansing, Newfield, Trumansburg

**DRYDEN**

**District Clerk:** Carrie Merriman cmerrim1@dryden.k12.ny.us

**School District’s website:** <https://www.dryden.k12.ny.us/>

# **School Board website:** <https://www.dryden.k12.ny.us/b_o_e>

**Number of members on the School Board:** 9

**Election information website**:

**Number of positions open:** 3

<https://www.dryden.k12.ny.us/Newsletters/news/four_candidates_seek_three_b_o_e_seats>

**Term lengths:** 3 three-year terms and 1 one-year term

**Candidates’ names,** and public contact information (email, if available)

Christina Cushman : ChrisCushman13053@gmail.com

Leslie Debo : lesliemdebo@outlook.com

Michael Hall Mdhall523@gmail.com

Christiane Linster : CL243@cornell.edu

**Candidates’ biographical and/or platform information:**

<https://www.dryden.k12.ny.us/UserFiles/Servers/Server_506100/File/BOE/2024-2025/DCSD_BOE_Profiles_2025.pdf>

**Proposition(s):**

PROPOSITION 1: 2025-2026 SPENDING PLAN: Shall the following resolution be adopted, to wit: RESOLVED: That the Dryden Central School District, as recommended by the Board of Education, adopt a spending plan for the 2025-2026 school year in the amount of $48,602,723 and to levy the necessary tax therefor?

PROPOSITION 2: SCHOOL BUS BOND PROPOSITION: Shall the Bus Bond Proposition set forth in the legal notice of this meeting authorizing the purchase of school buses and other transportation vehicles at a maximum cost of $400,000 and providing that such sum shall be raised by a tax collectable in annual installments with District obligations to be issued in anticipation thereof, be approved?

PROPOSITION 3: EQUIPMENT/PUMPS/CONTROL SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS AT DRYDEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAPITAL PROJECT PROPOSITION: Shall the proposition set forth in the legal notice of this meeting authorizing expending up to $100,000 for improvements to the equipment, pumps and control system at the Dryden Elementary School, with up to $20,000 of such cost to be expended from the existing building capital reserve fund and the balance of such cost, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to be funded by state aid available, all as more fully described in said notice, be approved?

**Date when the School Board election/budget mailing was/will be sent:** The Budget Newsletter is sent out as an insert in The Shopper (5/13/25 edition)

**Public forums:**

 **Meet the Candidates:**

DATE: April 30, 2025

RECORDED:

<https://www.dryden.k12.ny.us/b_o_e>

<https://youtu.be/veuOxd6g_8Q>

**Budget Hearing**

DATE: May 12, 2025

TIME: 5:30pm

LOCATION: MS/HS Library

**Budget information:**

<https://www.dryden.k12.ny.us/departments/business_office/budget>

**Voter registration deadline:** Does not have to be a registered voter to vote in the school budget election. The criteria are: A US Citizen, Age of 18, A resident of the Dryden Central School District for at least 30 days prior to the vote.

**Voting location:** Auditorium

**Voting times:** 7:00 AM – 9:00 PM

**GROTON**

**District Clerk:** Lisa Warmbrodt lwarmbrodt@groton.cnyric.org 607-898-5301

**School District’s website:** <http://www.grotoncs.org/>

**School Board website:** <https://www.grotoncs.org/page/board-of-education>

**Number of members on the School Board:** 7

**Number of positions open: 3** candidates **for 2 seats**

**Term Length:** 3 years

**Candidates’ names:** Linda Competillo

 Leon Brockway, Jr.

 Phillip Esparza

**Candidates’ biographical and/or platform information:** See *ATTACHMENT*, P 2.

**Proposition:** The Board of Education of the Groton Central School District is hereby authorized to expend the sum set forth of $25,496,452 for the purpose of operating the school district for the 2025-26 school year and to levy the necessary tax on the taxable property of said school district therefor.

**Public forums:**

**BOE Public Budget Presentation & Meet the Candidates**

DATE:May 12, 2025

TIME: Immediate following 6:30 Board of Education Meeting LOCATION: District Office, 400 Peru Road, Groton

**Budget information:** Available on our website on Superintendent’s page https://www.grotoncs.org/page/superintendent

**Voter registration deadline:** no registration required

**Voting location:**  GCS District Office – 400 Peru Road Groton

**Voting times:** May 20th noon - 9 pm

***ATTACHMENT*: CANDIDATE BIOS** (next page)

**LINDA COMPETILLO**

My name is Linda Competillo, and I humbly seek to continue my service on the Groton Central School Board of Education. I have spent the greater part of the past 22 years sitting on this board, taking every opportunity to learn all that I can about our district and the educational processes of New York State; deepening my high regard for the responsibility this position carries.

Since 2006, I have consistently served as Groton’s representative on the Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga BOCES Board of Education, which I find invaluable to my ability to best serve **all** in our district. I am currently the president of that board and have been for the past six years.

I have lived in Groton since 1981, when my husband, Mike, and I relocated from Buffalo, NY. We will be married 46 years this fall, have two sons who are Groton graduates, and two grandchildren who are on course to become Groton alumni in 2031 and 2033!

I have been employed at Cornell University for the past 33 years, working directly with Cornell parents in my position. I am also a member of Groton Assembly of God church, and write the weekly column, “Groton on the Inside” in the Tompkins Weekly newspaper.

I believe that my exposure to academia, my involvement in the community, and my consistent pursuit of school board professional development affords me a well-rounded approach to board service. I committed to the hard work required to do this job well and dedicate a great deal of my time and personal resources to achieve that end.

I firmly believe that what matters most is being an elected official who stands in the gap for our children and regards our faculty and staff in esteem for the brilliant work they do, while also balancing the needs of the taxpayers in our community. This takes time, energy, common sense, and commitment. It also requires shared vision for our district’s future that is practical and strategic.

I would consider it a great privilege to continue to serve and would deeply appreciate your support and your vote on May 20.

**LEON BROCKWAY, JR.**

Leon Brockway Jr. is a class of 2000 graduate from Groton. He joined the Army following graduation, which provided him with vast training and experiences that broadened his leadership skills. He competed and received awards in leading, such as Non Commissioned Officer (NCO) of the quarter and NCO of the year. During his service in the Army, he was the recipient of three Army Commendation Medals, as well as, miscellaneous peacetime and wartime medals and ribbons.

Prior to moving back to Groton in 2015, he was a Communication Engineer in the Army working at the NSA and then for the Department of Defense at Northrop Grumman, as a Network Security Engineer and Information Technology Compliance manager, in Maryland. He currently works at Tompkins Financial in Ithaca, leading their Information Security Department. He and his family are active in the community; Leon is a current Town Planning Board Chairman, a member of the Groton Recreation Committee, and involved in numerous youth sports programs and school activities with his seven children. Leon has been involved in work with the Groton NYForward Committee that helped secure that $4.5 million for the revitalization of the Village of Groton. In addition, he is an active member working to reestablish the Groton Community and Business Associations (formerly ‘GBA’) as a means of supporting local businesses in both the Village and Towns of Groton. Leon has a Bachelor’s degree in Information Technology & Cybersecurity.

His life experiences and education have provided a well-rounded perspective and are certain to bring a unique outlook and value to the board.

As a proven leader and financial conservative, he understands balancing the goal of educational excellence within the community tax burden and associated challenges. Every decision made must be done with due diligence, due care, and with the students and community in mind.

As a board member, Leon has no pet projects, his mission is to be a meaningful part of the solutions for the advancement and sustainability of the students, the school administration, and the community.

**PHILLIP ESPARZA**

My name is Phil Esparza and I am running for the Groton School Board. I have lived in Groton since I was 6 years old and I am a Groton alumnus (2007). My wife, Kayla Esparza (Hays), is also a Groton alumnus and we live in the village of Groton with our two boys. Groton is not only the place that Kayla and I grew up in, but the place we want to raise our family in. Westin is 3 years old and will be starting school in the fall and Kamrin is 8 months old. Groton has not only given me the education that has helped me achieve my career as an insurance agent, but it has given me lifelong friendships, provided me with support, has helped shape me into the person I am today, and most importantly, the place I call home. I take a lot of pride in our small town.

Groton’s School’s mission statement reads, “Empower all students to reach their fullest potential and thrive in a diverse, ever-changing world.” As a father, and spouse of a Groton elementary school teacher, my goal is to support the adults who work with our kids every day and the children of Groton to achieve this mission.

I am authentic. I embody trust and integrity. I am also good at considering the viewpoints of others and I am an effective problem solver. I hope to bring my dedication to the school board to create a safe, healthy, and positive educational experience for the youth in our community. Please show your support on May 20th, by voting for me to be a member of our Groton School Board.

**ITHACA (ICSD)**

**District Clerk: Tricia Beresford**

Board of Education Clerk boeclerk@icsd.k12.ny.us

or Deputy District Clerk Emilee Tracy-Arm at (607) 274-6845, or email boeclerk@icsd.k12.ny.us. Or send a message on [Let's Talk.](https://www.ithacacityschools.org/o/icsd/page/lets-talk)

**School District’s website:** <https://www.ithacacityschools.org/>

**School Board website:** https://www.ithacacityschools.org/page/board-of-education

**Number of members on the School Board**: There are currently 8 board members but

ICSD should have a 9 member board

**Election information website:** [https://www.ithacacityschools.org/o/icsd/page/budgetvote-election](https://www.ithacacityschools.org/o/icsd/page/budget-vote-election)

**Number of positions open: 4**

**Term lengths:** The three candidates receiving the highest number of votes will be elected to an at large full three-year term from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028. The fourth highest vote-getter will be elected to the balance of the unexpired term of office of Katie Apker, ending June 30, 2026

**Candidates’ names, and public contact information if available:**

1. Scott Jahnke
2. Madeline Cardona
3. David McMurry
4. Erin Croyle
5. Jacob Shiffrin
6. Karen Yearwood
7. Jill K. Tripp

**Incumbent candidates’ biographical information:**  (coming soon) <https://www.ithacacityschools.org/o/icsd/page/budget-vote-election>

**Propositions:**

**Proposition No. 1:** Proposed 2025-26 Budget

Shall the Board of Education of the Ithaca City School District, City of Ithaca,

Tompkins County, New York, be authorized to expend $169,031,619 to meet the District’s estimated expenditures during the 2025-2026 school year, and to levy the necessary tax therefor?

**Proposition No. 2:** Appropriation and Expenditure of Capital Reserve Funds Shall the Board of Education of the Ithaca City School District (the “District”) be authorized to appropriate funds from the District's “2022 Capital Reserve Fund” in the maximum amount of $2,267,549 and to expend these combined funds for the following purposes: 1) Purchase of up to six (6) 70 passenger ultra-low emission propane buses for long range travel; and 2) Purchase of up to three (3) 30 passenger ultra-low emission propane buses for long range travel; 3) purchase of up to two (2) wheelchair equipped 66 passenger ultra-low emission propane buses for long range travel; 4) Interior/exterior renovations at Cayuga Heights Elementary School, to include gymnasium dividers, exterior door repairs, and floor repairs?

**Date when the School Board election/budget newsletter was sent:** 5/9/2025

**Public forums:** Tuesday, May 13, at 5:30 p.m. in York Hall (Ithaca High School).

**Meet the candidates forum:** May 15th, 6-8pm**,** BJM Elementary School, Co-hosted by The

Village at Ithaca, and IPEI

**Budget details:** <https://www.ithacacityschools.org/page/blisaudget-development> <https://www.ithacacityschools.org/o/icsd/page/budget-faqs>

**Voter registration deadline:** The voter registration deadline is May 6, 2025

If a qualified voter has previously registered with the district or with the county board of elections and has voted within the last four (4) calendar years, they are eligible to vote in the May 20, 2025 Annual Budget Vote and School Board Election without re-registering.

All others who wish to vote in the Annual District Meeting and Election must either preregister with the district as set forth below or be registered with the [Tompkins County](https://www.tompkinscountyny.gov/All-Departments/Board-of-Elections/Voter-Information-and-Registrations) or [Tioga County](https://tiogacountyny.com/how-do-i/elections-voting/register/) board of elections to vote in general elections.

The district has authorized continuous registration of qualified voters in the Office of the District Clerk, 400 Lake Street, Ithaca, New York between the hours of 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., Monday through Friday, through May 6, 2025**.**

**Voter registration qualifications:** To vote in the 2025 Budget Vote and School Board

Election, you must be a registered voter and--

* a citizen of the United States;
* 18 years of age or older;
* a resident within the district for 30 days immediately preceding May 20, 2025; and
* not otherwise prohibited from voting under Election Law.

**Voting locations:**

Street name: <https://nb.findmypollplace.com/ithacacsd/>Voter’s name:

<https://nb.findmypollplace.com/ithacacsd/AmIRegistered.aspx?language=en>

**Voting times:** 12-9pm

**LANSING**

**District Clerk:** Debbie Todd DTodd@lcsd.k12.ny.us 607-533-3020 ext 4000

**School District’s website:** <https://www.lansingschools.org/>

**School Board’s website:** <https://www.lansingschools.org/boe>

**Number of members on the School Board:** 7

**School Board election information**: <https://www.lansingschools.org/page/board-of-education>

**Number of positions open**: 2

**Term lengths:**  3 years

**Candidates’ names,** and public contact information (email if available)

Matthew Hektor MHektor@LCSD.K12.NY.US

David Hatfield DHatfield@yahoo.com

Susan Tabrizi STabrizi@LCSD.K12.NY.US

**Candidates’ biographical and/or platform information**:

<https://www.lansingschools.org/page/board-of-education>

**Propositions:**

PROPOSITION 1 - BUDGET That the Board of Education of Lansing Central School District be, and hereby is, authorized to expend the sums set forth of $39,695,625 and to levy the necessary tax therefore.

PROPOSITION 2 - TRANSPORT VEHICLES Shall the Board of Education of the Lansing Central School District be authorized to purchase and finance replacement student transport vehicles, including necessary furnishings, fixtures and equipment and all other costs incidental thereto, and expend a total sum not to exceed $385,000, which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and said amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of said School District and collected in annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law; and, in anticipation of such tax, obligations of said School District, in the principal amount not to exceed $385,000, shall be issued?

**Date when the School Board election/budget mailing was sent**: Week of May 5th

**Public forums:**

 **Budget Hearing** **and Meet the Candidates**

DATE: May 12, 2025

TIME: 6-9pm

LOCATION: Middle School Auditorium

Board meetings may also be viewed on our [LCSD YouTube Channel](https://www.youtube.com/%40lansingschoolvideos).

**Virtual Community Conversations: Budget**

DATE: May 14

TIME: 10am and 5pm

**Budget information:**

<https://www.lansingschools.org/page/budget>

**Budget Newsletter**: <https://core-docs.s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/4591/LCSD/5616191/Updated_Compressed_2025-2026_BUDGET_PROPOSAL_FINAL.pdf>

**Voter registration deadline:** May 15th (5 days prior to vote)

**Voting location:** Elementary School Cafeteria

**Voting times:** 7am – 9pm

**NEWFIELD**

**District Clerk:** Perri Gorgen pgorgen@newfieldschools.org or 607-564-9955 extension

4121

**School District Website:** <https://www.newfieldschools.org/>

**School Board Website:** <https://www.newfieldschools.org/page/board-of-education>

**Number of members on the School Board:** 7

**School Board Election Information and Budget Information:**

 <https://www.newfieldschools.org/page/newsletters>

**Number of positions open:** 3

**Term Length:** 3 years

**School Board Candidates:**

Antwane Lynch

Erik Swanson

AJ LeViere

George Taylor

Alisa Green

Christina Ward

Diana Griffin

**Candidates statements:** See pages 8-14 of the

*Newfield Central School District Budget Newsletter*

<https://www.canva.com/design/DAGhWAk9Ef0/XDIHLgyibJ61Tv30WQzEDg/view?utm_content=DAGhWAk9Ef0&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=uniquelinks&utlId=h14891664d7>

**Propositions:**

**Proposition 1** is the school budget. The final budget amount for the 2025-26 school year is $26,492,408. The tax levy has a 2.5% increase which is below the 3.9583% state tax cap. An analysis of the budget’s breakdown is enclosed. \*

**Props 2 & 3** are separate bus purchases. The district has a carefully planned schedule to trade in or sell buses before they decline in reliability (between 8 and 10 years of service, depending on mileage), and we replace one or two vehicles most years to ensure we stay on track.

**Proposition 2** asks for authorization to purchase a full-sized diesel bus with a wheelchair lift in order to transport our students safely to and from school. The purchase amount will be $201,105.74, and the district will receive 90% of that amount back in state aid over five years.

**Proposition 3** asks for authorization to purchase an electric full-sized bus. Electric vehicles are cheaper to operate, get more state aid, and have proven to be up to the job here in Newfield’s cold winters and steep hills. Due to a rebate awarded this year by NYSERDA, the upfront cost is less as well. The purchase amount will be $198,059.37, and the district will receive 100% of that amount back in state aid over eight years.

**Budget Hearing and Meet the Candidates:**

 May 6, at 5:30-7:30pm in the High School Library

**School Board election/budget mailing:**

 “Newfield Central School District Budget

Newsletter”. Available online at<https://www.newfieldschools.org/page/newsletters>

**Budget Information:** <https://www.newfieldschools.org/page/budget-2025-2026>

**Voter requirements**

 To vote in a school district budget vote and board election, you do not need to be a registered voter, however, you must:

 \*Be a citizen of the United States;

 \*Be 18 years of age or older;

 \*Be a resident within the district for a period of 30 days preceding the date of the vote.

**Voting Location:** Newfield Elementary School, Lower Gym, 247 Main St., Newfield

**Voting Times:** noon – 9pm

**TRUMANSBURG**

**District Clerk:** Tina Lincoln tlincoln@tburg.k12.ny.us 607-387-7551 ext 4427 districtclerk@tburg.k12.ny.us

**School District’s website:** <https://www.tburgschools.org/>

**School Board website:** <https://www.tburgschools.org/o/trumansburg/page/board-of-education>

**Number of members on the School Board:** 7

**Election information**: <https://www.tburgschools.org/article/2180624>

**Number of positions open:** 3

**Term lengths:** 3 years

**Candidates’ names:**

Suzanne Organ

James Kemmerer

Jim Mielty

Jonathan Febish

**Candidates’ biographical and/or platform information:** Is included in the

*2025-26 Budget Proposal* on pp.11-14

<https://core-docs.s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/1653/Trumansburg/5606383/TCSD_Budget_Book_2025_Print.pdf>

**Propositions:**

**2025-2026 BUDGET PROPOSITION:** SHALL THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BE ADOPTED, TO-WIT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education for the Trumansburg Central School District, in the Counties of Tompkins, Schuyler, and Seneca New York, by and hereby is authorized to expend the sums set forth in the General Fund Appropriation in the amount of $32,120,230 and to levy the necessary tax therefor.

**2025 VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT CAPITAL RESERVE FUND PROPOSITION:** SHALL THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BE ADOPTED, TO-WIT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Trumansburg Central School District is hereby authorized to establish a Vehicle and Equipment Reserve fund pursuant to section 3651 of the Education Law (to be known as the “2025 Vehicle and Equipment Reserve Fund”) with the purpose of such fund being to finance the purchase of school buses, vehicles, and equipment that would be eligible for financing under the Local Finance Law, and costs incidental thereto, the ultimate amount of such fund to be $5,000,000, plus earnings thereon, the probable term of such fund to be ten (10) years, but such fund shall continue in existence until liquidated in accordance with the Education Law or until the funds are exhausted, and the sources from which the funds shall be obtained for such Reserve are (i) amounts from budgetary Appropriations from time to time, and (ii) unappropriated fund balance made available by the Board of Education from time to time, and (iii) New York State Aid received and made available by the Board of Education from time to time, all as permitted by law.

**ULYSSES PHILOMATHIC LIBRARY PROPOSITION:** SHALL THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BE ADOPTED, TO-WIT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Trumansburg Central School District, in the counties of Tompkins, Schuyler, and Seneca, New York, is hereby authorized to raise the tax levy by $4,511 (from $135,216 to $139,727) for the support of the Ulysses Philomathic Library, and such sum shall be paid annually to the trustees of said library.

New York State Education Law permits a school district to collect money to help support a chartered public library. In 2024, the voters approved a tax increase of $7,433 for the local library that remains in effect until another proposition is passed to change it. If this year’s proposition is approved, it will replace the 2024 proposition. The amount represents approximately 31% of the library’s annual operating budget.

**The School Board election/budget mailing was/will be sent:**

**Public Forums:**

**Budget Hearing and Board of Education Meeting**

DATE: May 6, 2025

TIME: 5:30-8:30

LOCATION in-person: Trumansburg High School Library

ONLINE: Please register in advance <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJckdOGhpz4vHdE4x2rGqB3tygUUj4vA8-M3>

**Budget information webpage:** *2025-26 Budget Proposal*

<https://core-docs.s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/1653/Trumansburg/5606383/TCSD_Budget_Book_2025_Print.pdf>

**Voter registration deadline:** Not required

**Voting location:** Ulysses Historical Society, 30 North Main St., Trumansburg

**Voting times:** noon – 8pm