



PERU CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

COMMUNITY REPORT

MAY 2025

PROPOSED BUDGET VOTE & BOARD ELECTION SLATED FOR MAY 20, 2025

BUDGET VOTE & SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

Tuesday, May 20th
Peru High School
Community Room
1:00 - 8:00 pm*

*PLEASE NOTE NEW VOTING TIME



Peru Central School District’s Board of Education has established a **\$55,656,269 proposed expenditure plan** for voters to consider by **voting in person, requesting an absentee ballot because of a qualifying condition, or requesting an early mail voting ballot. Absentee/early mail voting ballots must be received by the District no later than May 20, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.** The proposed budget calls for an **increase in overall spending of 2.88%. The tax levy is forecasted to increase 2.98%** which doesn’t exceed the tax levy limit. This tax levy increase attempts to balance the costs of sustaining a school district with the inflationary pressures everyone is experiencing. Details regarding the budget proposal are featured within this Community Report.

ANNUAL BUDGET HEARING

**Tuesday, May 13, 2025
7:00 p.m.**

See www.perucsd.org for info.

WHEN & WHERE TO VOTE

**Tuesday, May 20, 2025
1:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

**High School Community Room
17 School Street
Peru, NY**

WHAT AM I VOTING ON

- Budget Proposition No. 1
- Bus Proposition No. 2
- Library Proposition No. 3
- Board of Education Election



PROPOSED 2025-26 BUDGET SUMMARY

The proposed 2025-26 budget reflects Peru Central School District’s continued commitment to delivering high-quality education and supporting the well-being of our students, staff, and school community—even amid financial uncertainty. While economic challenges such as a modest State Aid increase, fluctuating funding forecasts, declining enrollment, and rising property values presented some tough decisions, the Board of Education and district leadership approached the budgeting process with care, thoughtfulness, and a focus on what matters most: our students.

Our top priority was to create a responsible and balanced budget that maintains strong educational programs and student services while being mindful of the financial realities our community is facing. The result is a budget that sustains our core programming and strategically invests in areas that will have a positive and lasting impact.

The proposed budget includes targeted enhancements designed to support academic achievement, student well-being, and program growth:

- A new reading program to continue supporting literacy as the current program reaches the end of its life cycle.
- An additional school psychologist to help meet increasing student needs and provide early intervention.
- A modified flag football coach to promote inclusive athletic opportunities as interest in the sport continues to grow in our region.
- An organic fertilizer initiative to support healthy, sustainable maintenance of our athletic and physical education fields.
- Funding for a sustainable instructional technology replacement plan, ensuring students and staff have access to reliable and up-to-date learning tools.

To address enrollment trends and financial constraints, the budget includes several staffing reductions. These decisions were made with great care to preserve student programs and minimize impact on classroom learning. The reductions are as follows:

- Three elementary teaching positions
- One art teaching position
- Two secondary teaching positions
- Two clerical positions
- Three teaching assistant positions

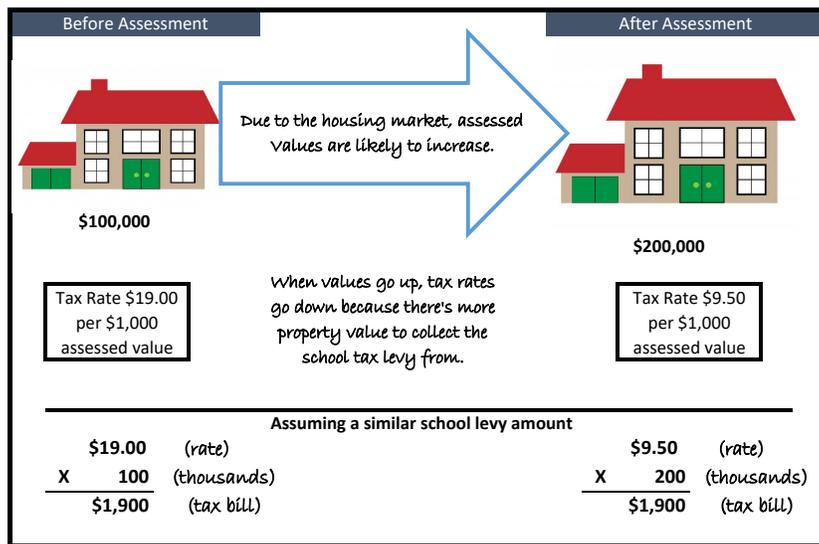
- One Instructional Grants Coordinator position

We recognize and deeply value the contributions of every staff member. These reductions were not made lightly, and the district remains committed to supporting affected employees during this transition.

The proposed budget also includes a \$100,000 capital outlay project to replace carpeting in the High School Library. With approximately 88% of the cost reimbursed by State Building Aid in the following year, this project is a cost-effective way to improve a vital learning space for students. These annual capital outlay projects allow the district to address key facility needs while minimizing long-term financial impact.

Despite challenges, Peru Central School District’s commitment to our mission remains unwavering: to prepare every student to be a fulfilled, empowered individual and a positive contributor to their community. We believe this proposed budget is a strong step forward in achieving that mission—providing a supportive, engaging, and future-focused learning environment for all.

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT AND SCHOOL TAX RATE RELATIONSHIP



Increases in the assessed value of property will decrease the tax rate per thousand compared to a stagnant or decreasing property value. In a school district with increasing property values, the school tax levy amount is collected over a larger amount of property value. As a result, the tax rate per thousand decreases. The greater the total property tax assessment increase, the greater the tax rate decreases. The graphic to the left seeks to illustrate this relationship between assessed value and tax rates.

A Budget Notice will be released prior to the budget vote which should reflect tax rate estimates for each town within Peru Central School District. The updated assessed values and equalization rates were not available from Clinton County Real Property Office when this Community Report was printed.

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

From the Desk of Scott Storms

As we enter the 2025–2026 school year, Peru Central School is navigating a period of uncertainty. Declining student enrollment, combined with only a modest 2% increase in state aid from New York State, has led us to make some difficult—but necessary—budget decisions.

Throughout this process, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to putting students first. Staffing reductions were approached with care, focusing on attrition whenever possible, and we have worked closely and respectfully with our union partners to support those affected. I'm proud to share that, even in the face of these challenges, we have preserved our educational programs and continued to deliver the high-quality instruction that our students and families expect and deserve.

In this year's budget, the allowable tax levy limit increase for the 2025-26 school year is 2.98%, or an additional \$597,263 from the 2024-25 school year. This year's increase is within the allowable tax levy limit formula which was implemented in 2012. If the Board of Education had proposed exceeding this limit, a supermajority (60% or above) of favorable votes would have been required in order to approve the budget. Since the Board did not elect to go above the allowable limit, a simple majority (above 50%) is what is needed to pass the budget.

The annual budget vote will take place on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, in the High School Community Room, from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. **Please note that the voting time has changed from previous years.** The budget that will be placed before the taxpayers for the 2025-26 school year is \$55,656,269.

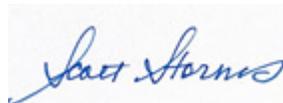
At Peru Central School, we firmly believe that education is more than just mastering subjects—it's about inspiring a genuine love for learning and nurturing both intellectual and personal growth. We are

committed to preparing our students to become confident, capable individuals who are ready to make meaningful contributions to their communities. This vision fuels our dedication to creating an engaging, challenging, and supportive learning environment where every student has the opportunity to thrive.

In addition, we remain dedicated to being responsible stewards of the Peru Central School campus and facilities. We understand the importance of maintaining safe, welcoming, and efficient spaces for learning, and we continue to invest in the long-term care of our buildings and grounds as part of our responsibility to current and future generations.

We also recognize that the success of our students is deeply tied to the strength of our community. Your continued partnership reflects the spirit of collaboration and shared commitment to educational excellence. Together, we are the heart of a vibrant learning community that fosters growth, achievement, and opportunity for all.

Thank you for your trust, your engagement, and your ongoing support as we move forward—together.




"We also recognize that the success of our students is deeply tied to the strength of our community. Your continued partnership reflects the spirit of collaboration and shared commitment to educational excellence."

Scott D. Storms - Peru CSD Superintendent



BUDGET VOTE & SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION
Tuesday, May 20th
Peru High School
Community Room
1:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

SUMMARY OF BUDGET, SCHOOL BUS, AND LIBRARY PROPOSITIONS & BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION

PROPERTY TAX LEVY LIMIT

The property tax cap limit is an annual calculation unique to each school district which accounts for new development within the District and incorporates some exclusions. The **Board of Education has selected a levy increase of 2.98% - this is at Peru's 2025-26 Tax Levy Limit.** The Board of Education has worked diligently to balance educational programming and the long-term financial health of our school community.

BUDGET PROPOSITION NO. 1

Authorize the adoption of the 2025-26 budget in the amount of \$55,656,269.

LIBRARY PROPOSITION NO. 3

Increase the tax levy for the Peru Free Library from \$10,000 to \$20,000 annually. **This amount is separate and apart from the annual school budget.**

BUS PROPOSITION NO. 2

Authorize the purchase and, at the option of the Board, finance up to three (3) standard 65-passenger school buses, including related and ancillary equipment, for a total aggregate maximum cost of \$626,738.68. State Transportation Aid will offset an estimated 90% of the expense associated with the purchase of these buses.

BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION

There are two (2) vacant seats to be filled on the Board of Education for a three-year term.

For more information on the 2025-26 Budget



Visit our district website
<http://www.perucsd.org>



Like us on Facebook
facebook.com/perucsd



Peru Central School District

COMMUNITY REPORT

Peru Central School District
17 School Street
Peru, NY 12972-0068

NON-PROFIT ORG.
PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERU, NY 12972
PERMIT #24

Superintendent Scott D. Storms
(518) 643-6000 • www.perucsd.org

Business Executive
Kara Bowes

Board of Education
Bonnie Berry, *President*
Sarah Mitchell, *Vice President*
Stephanie Boswell-Davies
Sarah Graves
Mark Hamilton
Steven Peters
Edward Webbinaro

Published by
Peru Central School District &
Champlain Valley Educational Services

CAR-RT SORT