

PROJECT VOTE INFO

Wednesday, October 6, 2026
12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Willsboro Central School
29 School Lane
Willsboro, NY 12996

VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

Voting is open to anyone who is a legal resident within the Willsboro Central School District for a period of 30 days immediately prior to October 6, 2026, a citizen of the United States and at least 18 years of age.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Qualified voters may obtain applications for an absentee ballot or early voting ballot from the District Clerk.

Completed applications must be received by the District Clerk no later than 4:00pm on September 29, 2026 if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter or 4:00pm on October 5, 2026 if the ballot is to be issued to the voter in person.

Questions regarding absentee ballots may be directed to the District Clerk by email at bpierce@willsborocsd.org or by telephone at (518)963-4456.



WILLSBORO CSD COMMUNITY,

It may be hard to believe, but our "new school building" has just started its 26th year of service to our community. While many still remember the excitement of opening our PK-12 school facility in 2001, the reality is that our building now requires significant attention to ensure it continues to serve our students, staff, and community safely and effectively.

Like everyone's personal home, school buildings eventually require major updates to critical systems. Specifically, the roof, which is the building's first line of defense against the elements, is worn and has had several recent leaks leading to damage inside. Additionally, our HVAC equipment and controls require upgrades to ensure reliable operation through our harsh winters.

Throughout the past year and a half, the WCS Board of Education and the district's facilities committee have worked closely with our architect and construction management partners to develop a capital project that will address the long-term needs of our school building with the primary goal of protecting the community's prior investment in our facility.

By planning a project now and addressing these needs before they become emergencies, we can prevent more costly unanticipated facilities expenses, receive state financial support from the New York State Education Department, avoid disruptions to student learning, and ensure our facility remains a safe, comfortable environment for everyone. That is why this important project will come up for a community vote on Tuesday, October 6, 2026, from 12-8 PM.

Financial responsibility to our community has been at the forefront of our planning. As a result, this project will not require any new taxes. The district will utilize the retirement of previous debt to fund this new project. As we finish paying off earlier bonds, we'll replace that retiring debt with this new project, keeping the tax impact neutral for our community.

Additionally, the district receives 52% building aid from New York State for capital projects, and it is anticipated that the majority of this project will be eligible. This means that over a 15-year period, for every \$1 spent on this project, the state will reimburse our district \$0.52, significantly reducing the actual cost to our local taxpayers by over half.

We are committed to keeping everyone informed throughout the capital project process, and encourage all eligible voters with questions to visit our website or consider attending our public presentation on Thursday, September 24th at 6:30 PM.

We remain grateful for the continued support of our community, and look forward to seeing all eligible voters on Tuesday, October 6th.

Sincerely,
Justin Gardner, Superintendent of Schools
Heather Sheehan, WCS Board President

"... with the primary goal of protecting the community's prior investment in our facility... this project will not require any new taxes."

2026 PROPOSED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY'S INVESTMENT

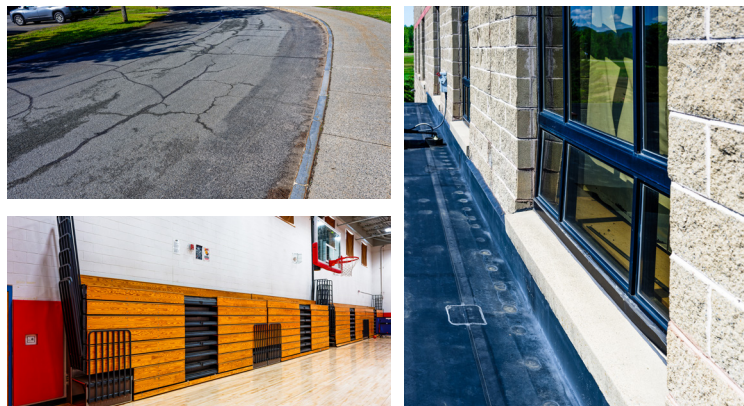
As our school building starts its 26th year, several major infrastructure components require attention. The Willsboro Central School District is proposing a \$10.3 million capital improvement project to address these needs and improve the building for years to come.

The proposed improvements are organized around four main areas, or project cornerstones:

PROJECT CORNERSTONES

ROOFING

- Re-roof entire building
- Address roof flashing issues
- Reconstruct roof edge and perimeter soffits



INFRASTRUCTURE / RELIABILITY

- Repaving / Sidewalks
- Outdoor educational space upgrades
- Refinish stage wood floor
- Replace gym bleachers and scoreboards
- Add a whole building generator with automatic coverage
- Replace gym windows

HVAC SYSTEMS

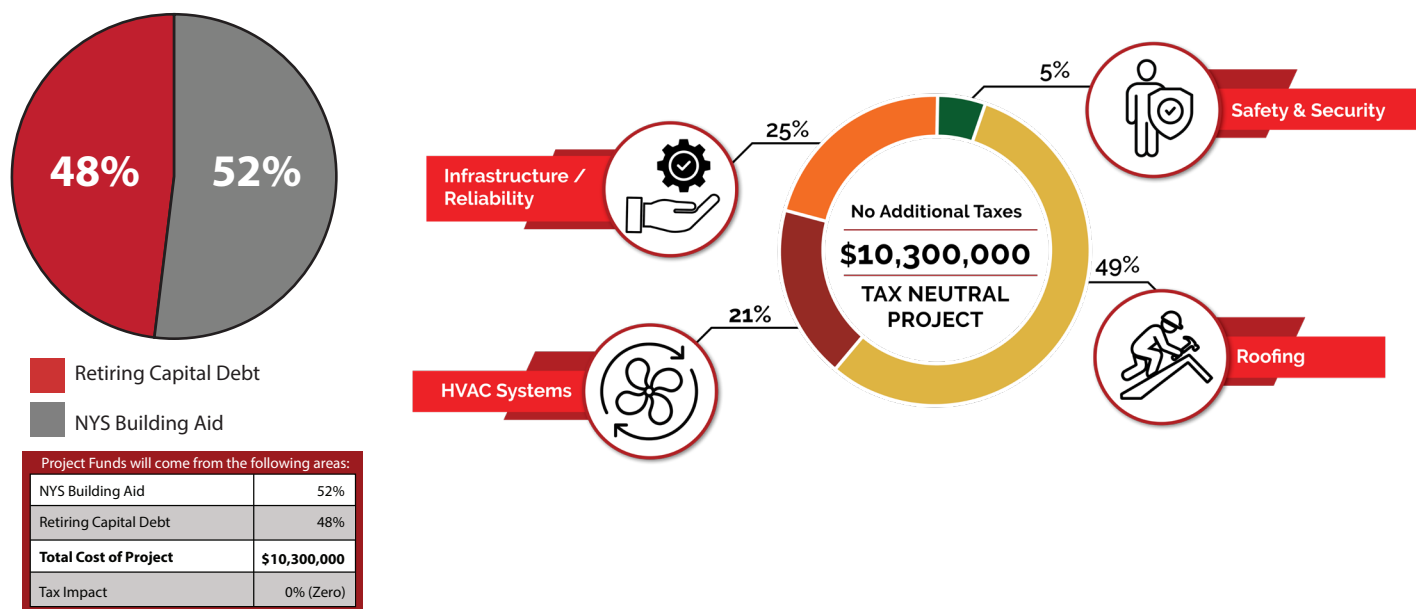
- Migration of the building controls system
- Replace control valves and actuators
- Address misc. HVAC system upgrades
- Add auditorium cooling



SAFETY & SECURITY

- Replace high use exterior doors and hardware
- Replace high use interior doors and hardware
- Rekey select doors
- Partial security system upgrades

PROJECT FUNDING



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How will this affect my taxes?

The proposed project is designed to be tax neutral, meaning it will result in **no additional taxes** for Willsboro CSD residents. The project will be funded through New York State building aid and the debt service payments that are scheduled to expire from the 2001 building project. At the District’s current 52% building-aid ratio, New York State is expected to reimburse approximately 52 cents for every dollar spent on eligible project costs. The project will not require an additional local tax contribution.

How were the project priorities selected?

The proposed improvements were identified through the Building Condition Survey and further reviewed by the Facilities Committee. The committee recommended projects to the Board of Education that responsibly address current building needs and support the school’s long-term viability as a place of learning and a resource for the community.

Why is this project being proposed now?

The District is scheduled to pay off debt from previous capital projects in the 2028-29 school year. This creates an opportunity to begin new capital project payments without increasing the tax levy associated with that portion of the overall budget. The proposed project would provide predictable costs while allowing the District to address important building needs and continue making long-term improvements.

What if the referendum does not pass?

Many of the proposed improvements are necessary and will need to be addressed in the near future. Without an approved capital project, the District would lose access to New York State building aid and would have to fund the work through the annual school budget, placing the full cost on local taxpayers. For example, the school’s leaking roof will eventually compromise its long-term integrity if not addressed.

Isn’t New York State building aid funded by tax dollars?

Yes. New York State sets aside tax revenue to provide building aid to school districts across the state. This funding can be used for eligible school construction, renovations, and site improvements. The proposed project will allow Willsboro CSD to bring a portion of those state tax dollars back to the community to improve the school building and support high-quality educational opportunities for students.



PROPOSED CAPITAL PROJECT NEWSLETTER

CAPITAL PROJECT INFORMATIONAL MEETING

For additional information on the Capital Project,
join us for a public meeting on

Thursday, September 24th at 6:30PM

in the **Willsboro Central School Auditorium**

Scan here for more information on the Capital Project



CAPITAL PROJECT VOTE

REMEMBER TO VOTE!

**Tuesday, October 6, 2026
12pm - 8pm**



Superintendent of Schools - Justin Gardner

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Willsboro, NY 12996

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