



Wayne Local Schools

Financial Update 2026

A transparent look at our district's financial landscape — where we stand, what has changed, and how we move forward together.



Purpose of this Presentation

We believe our community deserves a clear, honest picture of Wayne Local Schools' financial situation. This update is designed to accomplish four important goals:



Transparency

Clear facts on current school funding.



Understanding

What the numbers mean for Wayne Local Schools.



Expectations

The next steps, and the timeline for decisions ahead.



Unity

We are inviting our community to collaborate on solutions together.

The Value of a Wayne Local Education

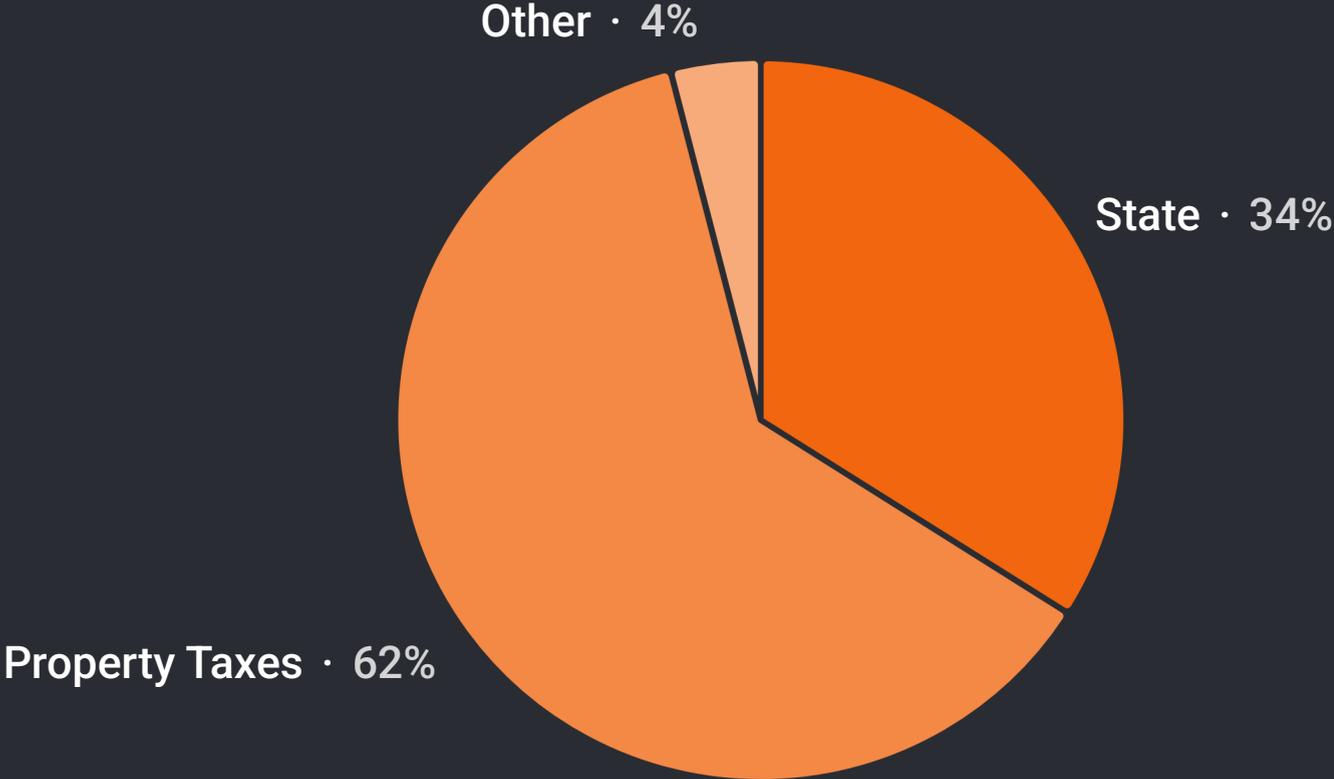
Our students are not just graduating. They are leaving Wayne Local Schools with advanced coursework and college credit and a strong start on what comes next, whether a **college, career, workforce, or military experience.**

Stats from the Waynesville High School Class of 2025



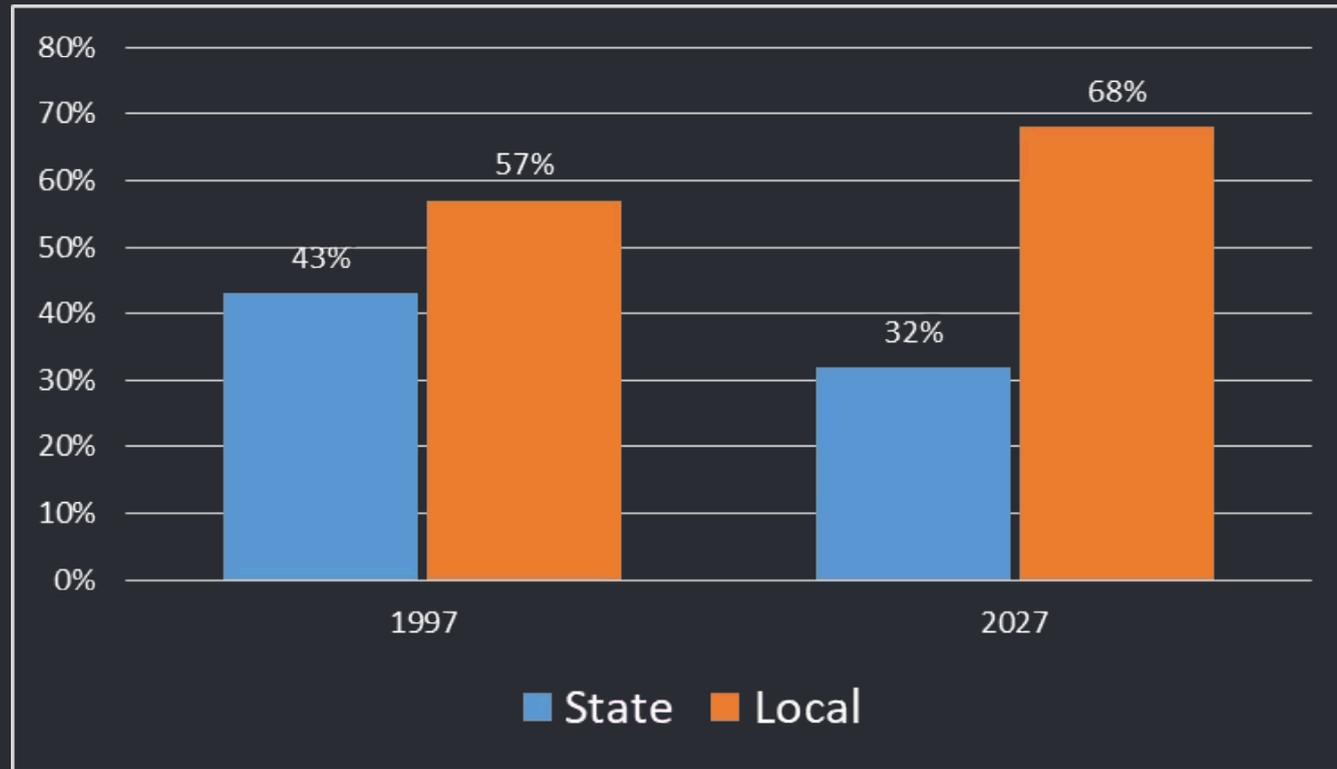
Of Wayne Local's 140 graduates, 52 — more than 37% — earned a weighted GPA above 4.0. That level of achievement speaks to both the rigor of their educational experience and the strong foundation Wayne Local provides to help students succeed.

Wayne Local Schools - General Fund Revenue Sources



State vs. Local Share of Funding

Over the past few decades, the state's share of funding has declined dramatically — while the burden on local taxpayers has risen from 57% to 68%. Ohio school funding has steadily shifted from the state to local taxpayers.



State Funding Budget Process

Governor's Executive Budget
Governor Submits 2-year Budget Plan to Legislature in odd years

Public Input & Review
Central Connecting Element

Governor Signs Budget
Governor signs the bill, may issue line-item vetoes, and the budget takes effect.



House Review & Approval

House Debate, Amend & Vote

Senate Review & Approval

Senate Debate, Amend & Vote

Conference Committee

Resolve Differences between House & Senate

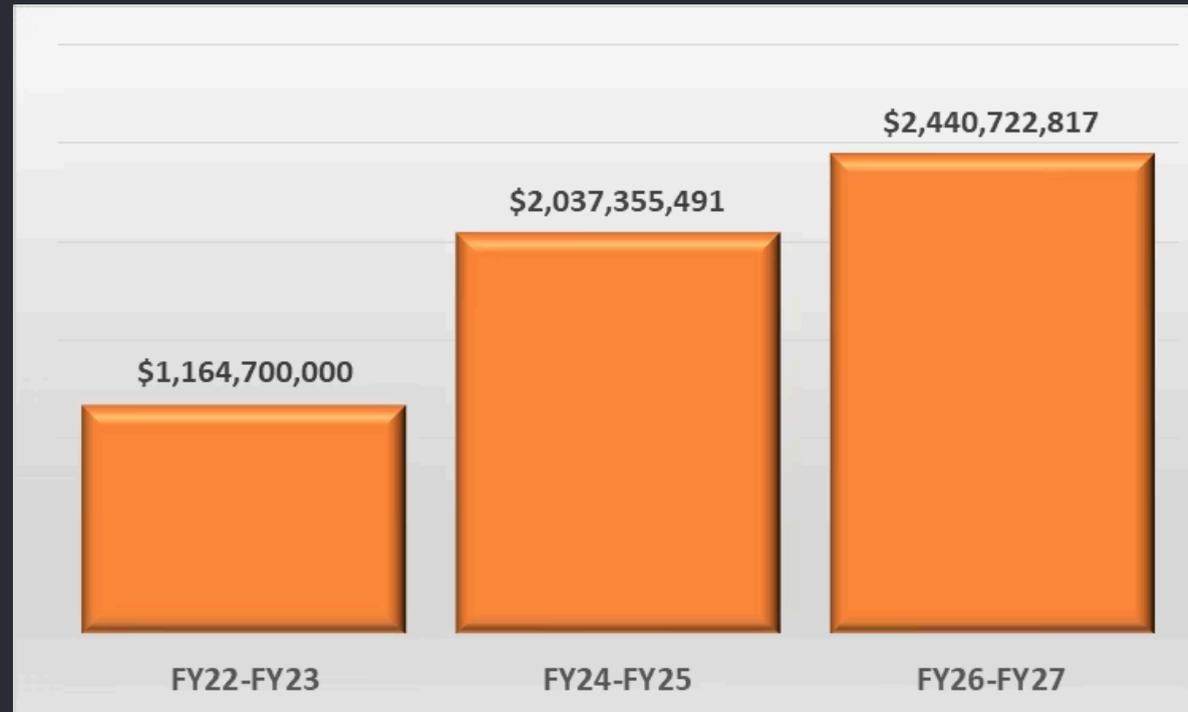
Final Budget Passed

Approved by House & Senate

Ohio Vouchers: A Growing Drain on Public Funding

The FY26-FY27 biennium budget projects voucher spending to hit \$2.44 billion, more than twice as much as FY22-FY23.

Every dollar for vouchers is a dollar diverted from public education.



State Biennium Budget for FY26–FY27

This represents a continued phase-in of the "Fair School Funding Plan," with a 1.8% increase in 2026 and a 2.5% increase in 2027.

 Fair School Funding Plan State Share (FY26) 11.89% – dropping to 10% going forward \$1,542,501	 FY20 Guarantee State Share - Funding will maintain FY2020 Level \$4,088,138	 Performance Supplement Earned as a 5-star high- performing district \$91,399
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Wayne Local Schools is considered a wealthy district by state formula – allowing the state to expect the local taxpayers can and will support the cost of a high-quality education.

Local Funding - What does that mean?

Property Taxes

To understand our property tax situation, it helps to understand two laws that have shaped school finance in Ohio for more than 50 years.

HB 920 — Passed in 1976

HB 920 limits automatic tax growth as property values rise.

- **Voted levies stay flat** as values increase
- Effective millage drops, so revenue stays the same
- Only **new construction** adds revenue

The 20-Mill Floor

The 20-Mill Floor gives districts a key safeguard.

- At 20 mills, rates **cannot be reduced further**
- Rising values **do generate more revenue**

Levy History - General Operation Levies Passed in 1976, 1985, and 2009 (renewed as a continuing levy in 2014). Due to these two bills, the district has not needed additional levies.

Legislative Changes

These bills significantly reshape school district property tax revenue and financial reporting, reducing both collections and local control.

HB 129 — 20-Mill Floor Recalculation

Beginning in TY27, fixed-sum levies will count toward the 20-mill floor. Wayne Local Schools is estimated to drop to 5.92 inside mills, moving us off the floor and limiting future revenue growth.

HB 335 — Inside Millage Cap

Inside millage will now be capped during reappraisals using the GDP Deflator. That means even unvoted millage will grow more slowly as property values rise.

HB 186 — Caps Reappraisal Increases at Inflation

Inflation is measured by the GDP Deflator (GDP-D) for districts at the 20-mill floor.

HB 309 — Budget Commission Authority

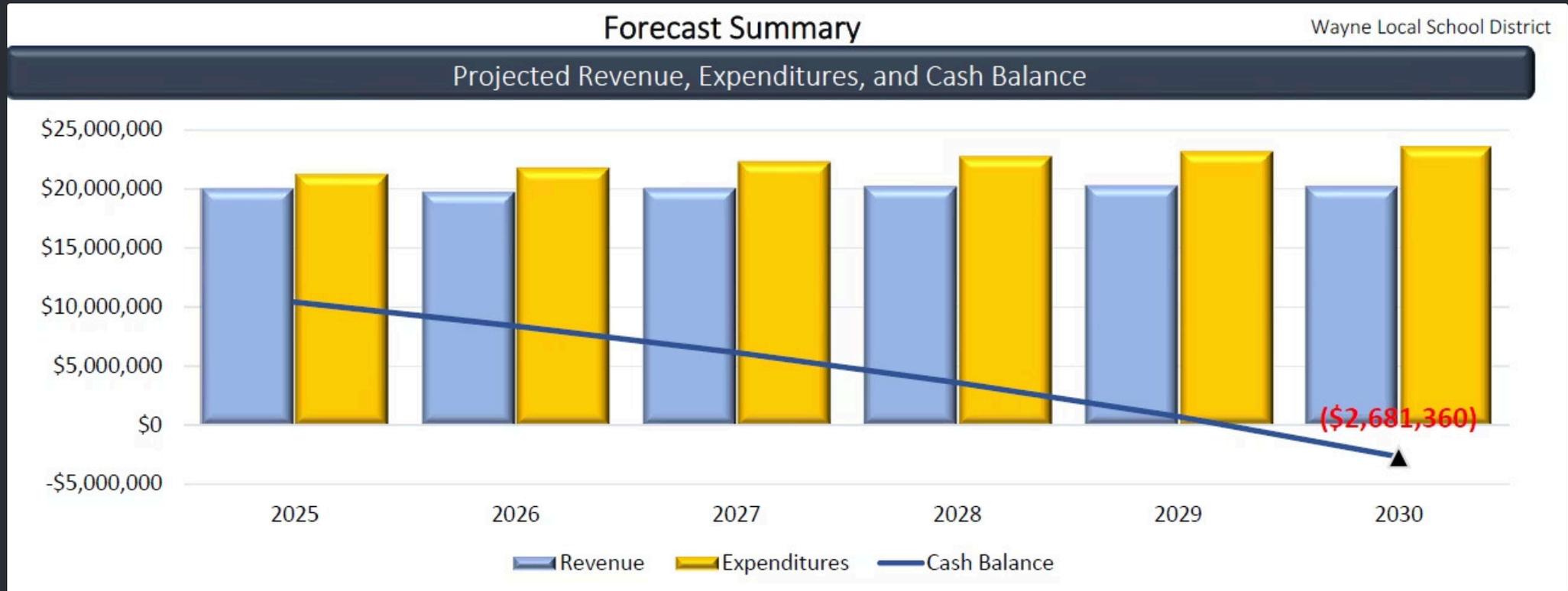
County Budget Commissions can now reduce collections on voter-approved levies if they believe a district has excess funds. This weakens school district financial independence.

HB 96 — Forecast Reporting Changes

The required forecast window was shortened from five years to four. That removes the “cliff year” from standard reports and can make the outlook appear less severe.

February 2026 Forecast Summary

This table shows Wayne Local Schools' five-year financial outlook. Even with renewal and new levy revenues, expenditures outpace revenues and the ending balance turns negative by FY2030.



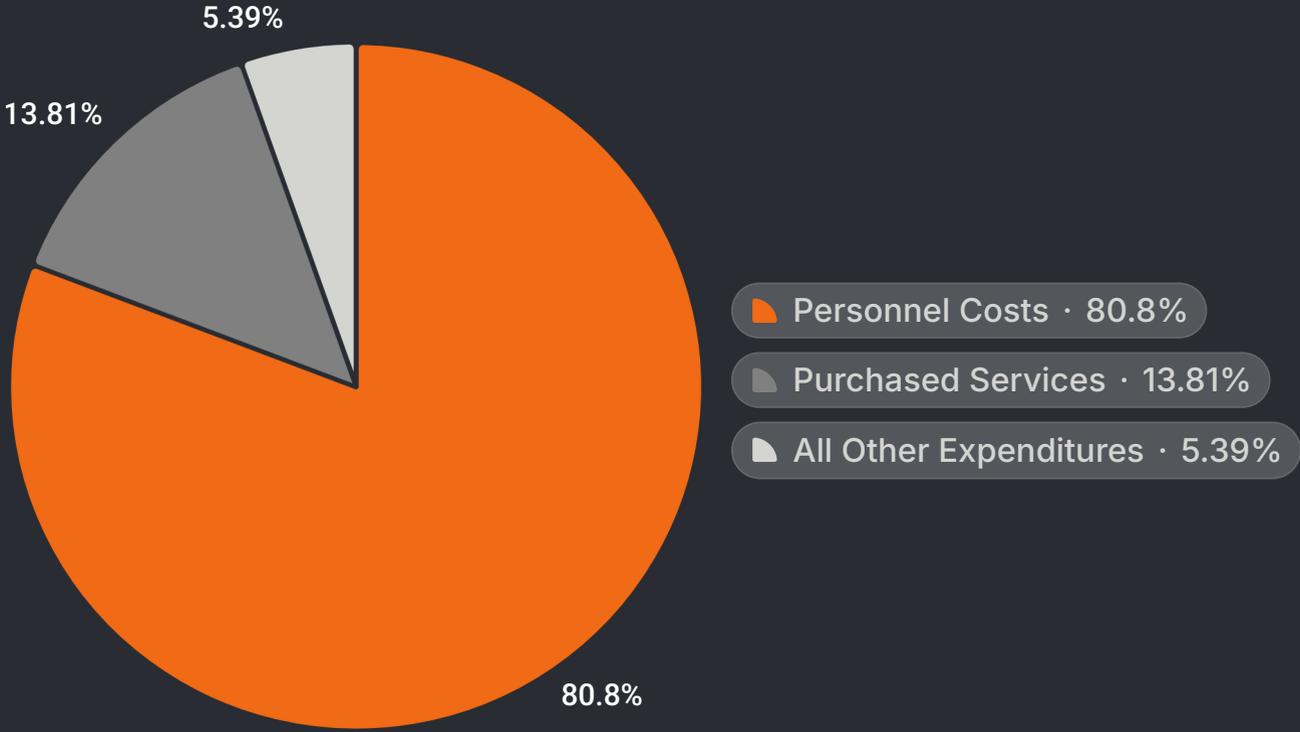
Days of Cash on Hand – Current Forecast

Days of cash on hand measures how long the district could operate if revenues stopped. Wayne Local Schools is headed toward just **11 days of cash in 2029** and a negative cash position by 2030, meaning the district would be unable to meet payroll and operational obligations.



☐ **Why this matters:** A public school district maintaining about **60 days of “true cash balance”** (often called cash reserves) at year-end is generally considered a sign of **financial stability and responsible stewardship.** (to GASB 54) At 11 days, even a small delay or standard expense becomes a crisis. At -41 days, the district cannot function without outside intervention.

How Your Tax Dollars Are Spent



Personnel Costs
80.81%

Purchased Services
13.81%

All Other Expenditures
5.39%

What We Have Done

Cost Saving Measures - Personnel

2023-2024 Changes

ADDED

- 2 Teachers on Assignment
- Curriculum Consultant (part-time)
- 1 Paraprofessional
- Technology Director

REDUCED

- Contract for Technology Director
- 12 Resignations/Retirees replaced with less expensive staff

Net Savings = \$31,203

2024-2025 Changes

ADDED

- Director of Student Services/Special Education (previously contracted)
- Communications Coordinator
- Preschool Consultant (part-time)
- ½ Preschool/ ½ Kindergarten Teacher
- Bus Driver
- Secretary for Student Services/Athletics

REDUCED

- Contract with WCESC for Special Education Coordinator
- 10 Resignations/Retirees

Net Savings = \$153,383

2025-2026 Changes

ADDED

- Director of Operations
- WES Intervention Tutor
- WMS Counselor
- 6th Grade Teacher
- English as a Second Language (ESL) Teacher

REDUCED

- Business Manager (interim, part-time)
- Math Teacher WMS
- Foreign Language Teacher
- Preschool Teacher
- Band Teacher
- Teacher on Assignment Position
- Preschool Consultant
- Computer Technician
- EMIS Coordinator
- 5 Resignations/Retirees
- Mental Health Therapist - WCESC

Net Savings = \$519,636

The Cost to Educate A Wayne Local Student



The Average Cost for One Student for One School Day =
\$86

Average Cost to Educate One Student Per Year = \$13,208

3.5% above the state average

With a Performance Index of 102.9, WLS is ranked

44th out of 607 schools in the state

Is Wayne Local among the 20% of public districts with the lowest operating expenses per pupil?	✘
Is Wayne Local among the 20% of public districts with the highest academic performance index scores?	✔



Our Path Forward: Next Steps

The most powerful thing our community can do right now is **make your voice heard**.

Wayne Local Schools has three options to address our financial situation.



Significant Cuts

Wayne Local Schools to reduce \$2 million from budget; approximately 10% of our staff members



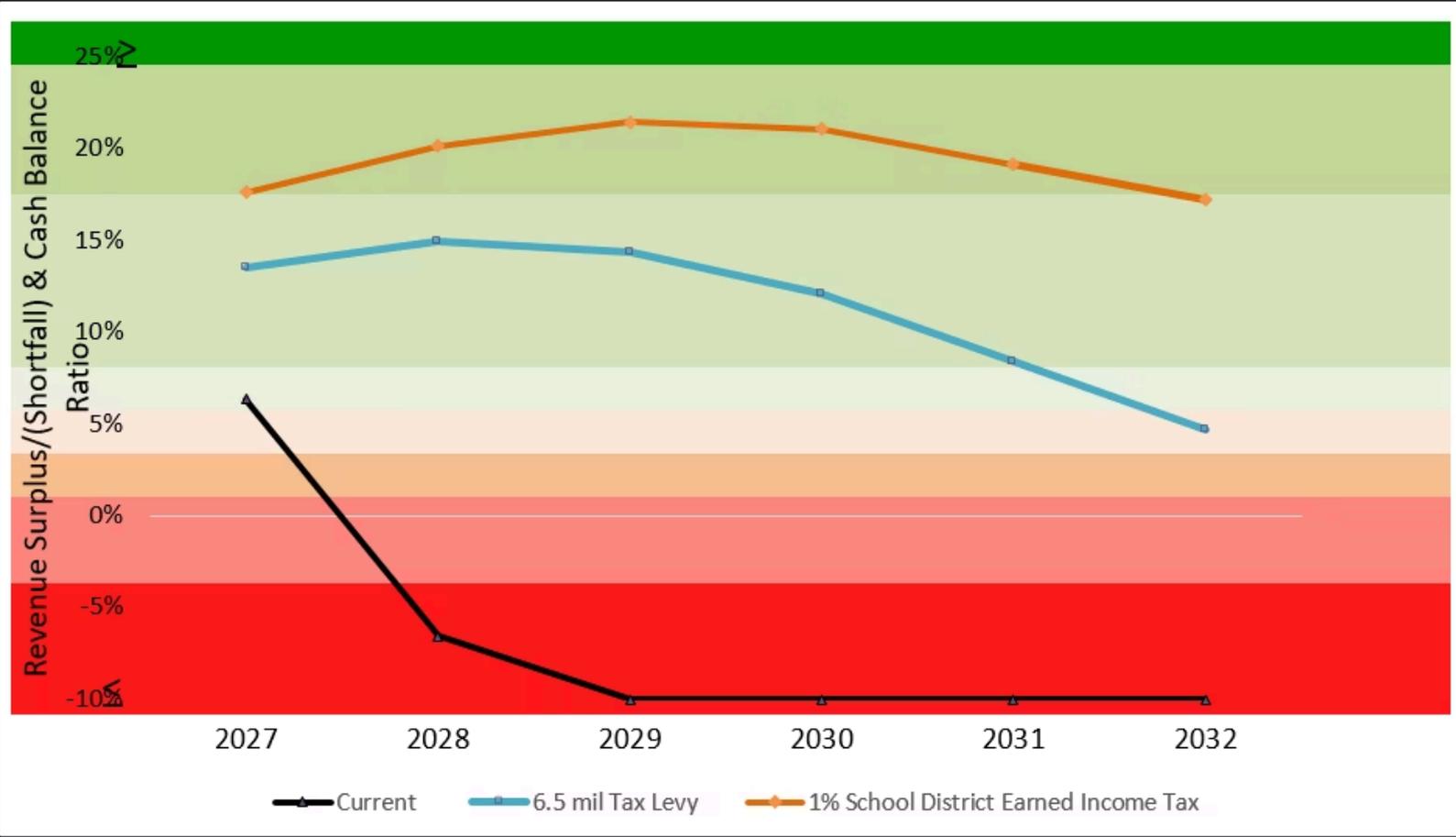
Property Tax Levy



Income Tax Levy

School district earned income tax

Fiscal Year Levy Life Indicator



We want to hear from you.

Thank You

Sam Ison, Superintendent
Carolyn Huber, Treasurer

Board Members:

Amanda Garrett (President)
David Hurley (Vice President)
Nicole Bouch
Richie Bowling
Danny Manley

