WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT

EDUCATING FOR THE FUTURE, ONE CHILD AT A TIME.

INITIAL 2026-27 DISTRICT BUDGET TO BE USED FOR THE 2026 ANNUAL MEETING

AUGUST 24, 2026

2026-27 Budget Calendar

May 11, 2026

- Board approval of the Budget Reconciliation Plan

May 18, 2026

- Committee approval of the initial 2026-27 budget

June 8, 2026

- School Board approval of the initial 2026-27 budget

August 24, 2026

- Share equalized value
- Set Annual Meeting date
- Recommendation for 2026-27 budget and tax levy

2026-27 Budget Calendar

September 14, 2026

- Approve the 2026-27 budget and tax levy for publication and presentation at Annual Meeting

September 28, 2026

- Regularly scheduled Committee Meeting
- Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing

October 13, 2026

- School Board approvals from September Committee meeting

October 27, 2026

- Adopt final budget
- Adopt district tax levy

Separate Agenda Items for the Initial 2026-27 District Budget

- Set Annual Meeting date
  - Item VII in agenda - ACTION
- Share Equalized Value estimates
  - Item VIII in agenda - NO ACTION NEEDED
- Recommendation for 2026-2027 Budget
  - Item IX in agenda - ACTION
- Recommendation for 2026-2027 Tax Levy
  - Item X in agenda - ACTION

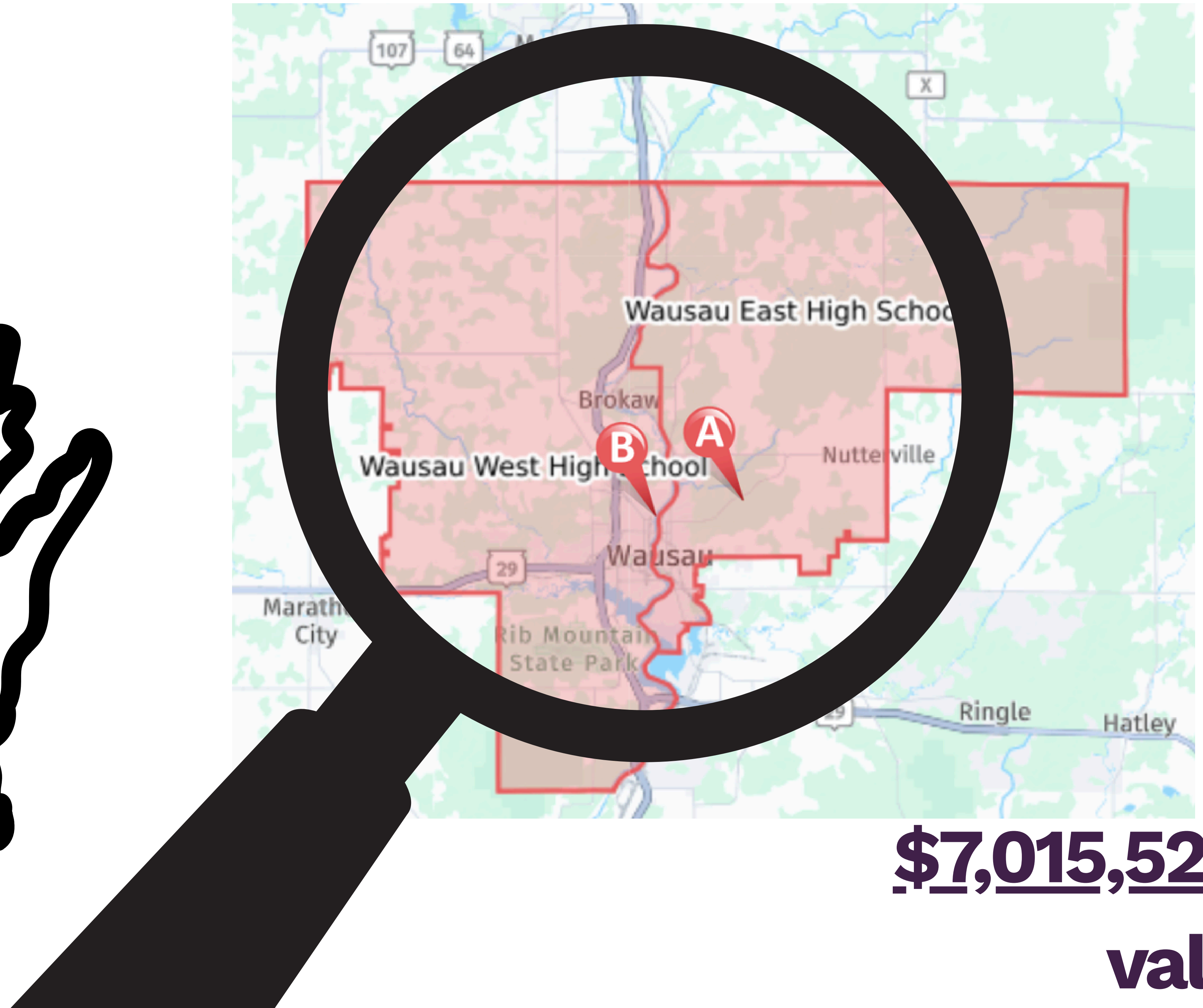
Set Annual Meeting Date

- **Item VII in agenda - ACTION**
  - Board action is necessary to establish the time, date, and place for the Annual Meeting and Budget hearing.

  - **<u>Recommended Motion:</u> To recommend to the Board of Education the approval of Monday, September 28, 2026, as the date for the 2026-2027 Budget Hearing and Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held at 5:00pm in the Nicholson Board Room at the Longfellow Administration Center, beginning with the Budget Hearing followed by the Annual Meeting.**

Share Equalized Value Estimates

- **Item VIII in agenda - NO ACTION NEEDED**
    - Equalized value respresents true property value on a consistent statewide basis without regard for local assessment or valuation practices.



= $7,933,831,700

reduced by
$918,305,445
TID Value

<u>$7,015,526,255</u> of true property value after the TID

Share Equalized Value Estimates

- **Item VIII in agenda - NO ACTION NEEDED**
    - School District equalized values are revealed in mid-October, so estimates are needed to establish the equalized mill rate estimates offered in the budget booklet.
    - Last year, property value in the District increased by 8.98%. This year, it is estimated to increase by 4.03%.
    - The District levies a tax to all eight municipalities within the school district boundaries based on each municipalities percentage of the total equalized value.

Share Equalized Value Estimates

- **Item VIII in agenda - NO ACTION NEEDED**

Estimate of 2026 Equalized Valuation for Tax Apportionment Wausau School District August 1, 2026						
Municipality	2025 Equalized Value Reduced by TID Value (WSD)	2025 Equalized Value Reduced by TID Value (ALL DISTRICTS)	Percent in District Reduced by TID Value	2026 Department of Revenue Towns and Villages (Marathon County ALL DISTRICTS)	2026 Equalized Value Reduced by TID Value (WSD)	Projected % Increase
City of Wausau	$ 3,892,235,167	$ 4,569,050,900	85.19%	$ 4,625,665,100	$ 3,940,463,078	1.24%
Town of Berlin	$ 121,430,657	$ 130,270,500	93.21%	$ 143,636,000	$ 133,889,206	10.26%
Town of Hewitt	$ 88,040,100	$ 88,040,100	100.00%	$ 94,985,500	$ 94,985,500	7.89%
Village of Maine	$ 433,137,700	$ 454,130,500	95.38%	$ 503,976,500	$ 480,679,501	10.98%
Village of Rib Mountain	$ 1,365,107,900	$ 1,372,752,700	99.44%	$ 1,464,844,000	$ 1,456,686,348	6.71%
Town of Stettin	$ 389,858,188	$ 471,883,700	82.62%	$ 519,475,500	$ 429,177,310	10.09%
Town of Texas	$ 222,102,300	$ 222,102,300	100.00%	$ 225,242,000	$ 225,242,000	1.41%
Town of Wausau	$ 232,037,991	$ 324,709,500	71.46%	$ 356,007,100	$ 254,403,312	9.64%
Totals	$ 6,743,950,003	$ 7,632,940,200		$ 7,933,831,700	$ 7,015,526,255	4.03%

Share Equalized Value Estimates

- **Item VIII in agenda - NO ACTION NEEDED**

from the Wisconsin Department of Revenue

WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT

TAX APPROPRIATION WORKSHEET FY 2026-27

	ESTIMATE CERTIFIED FULL VALUE	PERCENT	GENERAL FUND	DEBT SERVICE	COMMUNITY SERVICE	DISTRICT TOTAL
C. Wausau	$3,940,463,078	56.1677486%	$ 13,061,894.19	$ 11,254,961.42	$ 613,351.82	$ 24,930,207.43
T. Berlin	$133,889,206	1.9084699%	$ 443,817.54	$ 382,421.51	$ 20,840.49	$ 847,079.54
T. Hewitt	$94,985,500	1.3539326%	$ 314,859.06	$ 271,302.65	$ 14,784.94	$ 600,946.65
V. Maine	$480,679,501	6.8516528%	$ 1,593,362.14	$ 1,372,942.48	$ 74,820.05	$ 3,041,124.67
V. Rib Mountain	$1,456,686,348	20.7637502%	$ 4,828,641.25	$ 4,160,665.39	$ 226,740.15	$ 9,216,046.79
T. Stettin	$429,177,310	6.1175355%	$ 1,422,642.06	$ 1,225,839.17	$ 66,803.49	$ 2,715,284.72
T. Texas	$225,242,000	3.2106216%	$ 746,634.87	$ 643,348.24	$ 35,059.99	$ 1,425,043.10
T. Wausau	$254,403,312	3.6262898%	$ 843,299.13	$ 726,640.34	$ 39,599.08	$ 1,609,538.55
ALLOCATION	**$7,015,526,255**	**100.0000%**	**$ 26,702,987**	**$ 18,053,706**	**$ 1,092,000**	**$ 44,385,271**
Property Value Change	4.03%					

from the WSD Levy Adoption (near the end of October)

Share Equalized Value Estimates

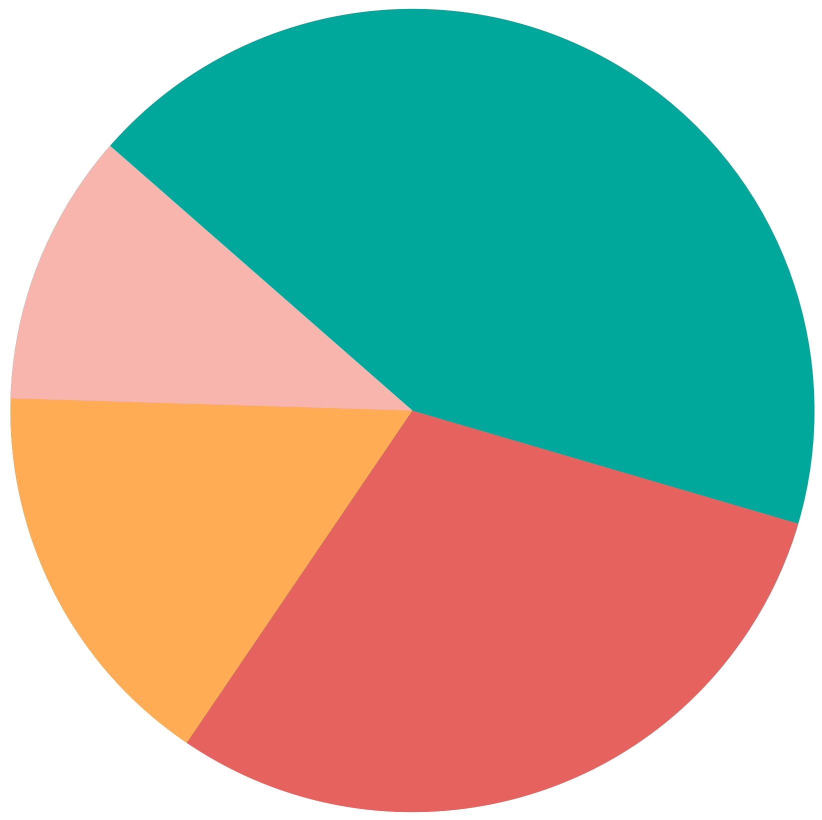
- **Item VIII in agenda - NO ACTION NEEDED**
  - District estimated equalized values allows all municipalities to share in the responsibiliity of the tax burden of supporting the school district.

	CERTIFIED FULL VALUE	PERCENT
C. Wausau	$3,940,463,078	56.1677486%
T. Berlin	$133,889,206	1.9084699%
T. Hewitt	$94,985,500	1.3539326%
V. Maine	$480,679,501	6.8516528%
T. Rib Mountain	$1,456,686,348	20.7637502%
T. Stettin	$429,177,310	6.1175355%
T. Texas	$225,242,000	3.2106216%
T. Wausau	$254,403,312	3.6262898%
ALLOCATION	$7,015,526,255	100.0000%

Share Equalized Value Estimates

- **Item VIII in agenda - NO ACTION NEEDED**
    - Each municipality passes this levy on to the individual property owners (home/business) based on their respective assessment practices.

V. Maine	**$480,679,501**	6.8516528%



your municipality has local control on how it taxes residential and businesses

Share Equalized Value Estimates

- **Item VIII in agenda - NO ACTION NEEDED**
  - It is beyond the control of the District, whether individual tax payers have increases or decreases in their tax bill from their individual municipality; District control lies only in the total school tax levy.

  - For mill rate estimate purposes, the equalized value of property is assumed to increase evenly across the District for 2026-2027.

Recommendation for 2026-2027 Budget

- **Item IX in agenda - ACTION**
  - Board approval is needed to provide proper notices and develop all necessary documents, including the District budget book, for presentation at the Annual Meeting and available prior to that event.
  - Following the September 28th Board meeting, the budget book will be available on our website. A draft version of the budget book is available in BoardBook documents.
  - Work will continue on the budget as priorities continue to develop and as the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and the Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR) reveal more data regarding available revenue.

Recommendation for 2026-2027 Budget

- **Item IX in agenda - ACTION**
  - **Budget Opportunities**
    - The additional $325 per pupil categorical aid will remain flat for the upcoming year within the state biennial budget.
    - The successful 2021 referendum did increase the revenue limit by $500 per pupil.
    - Special Education reimbursement is projected to be around 37%.
    - Completion of first year of community led school consolidation effort has continued to allow for identifying efficiencies with staffing.

Recommendation for 2026-2027 Budget

- **Item IX in agenda - ACTION**
  - **Budget Opportunities (continued)**
    - Salary increases included in this budget are 2.63% per employee group.
      - Nutritional Services: 2.63%
      - Administrative and Educational Support: 2.63%
      - Maintenance and Custodial: 2.63%
      - Teachers: 2.63%
      - Municipal: 2.63%
      - Administration: 2.63%
    - Health insurance premiums increase by 10%.
    - The budget *projection* presented here is a balanced budget.

Recommendation for 2026-2027 Budget

- **Item IX in agenda - ACTION**
  - **Debt Repayment Strategies**
    - Historically, the District has utilized defeasance to prepay on capital debt to help stabilize the mill rate and overall levy.
    - District defeased $18.9M in 2025-2026 per board approval on June 8, 2026.
    - Decreases in state aid and an increase in the revenue limit have increased the projected general fund levy by 3.3% for 2026-2027.

Recommendation for 2026-2027 Budget

- **Item IX in agenda - ACTION**
  - **Budget Challenges**
    - Higher health insurance costs led to a premium increase for the 4th year in a row.
    - The rate of inflation continues to be greater than revenue limit funding adjustments.
    - Our balanced Fund 10 budget does not account for approximately $5M of deferred maintenance needed to address the continued needs of maintaining our buildings/district properties.

Recommendation for 2026-2027 Budget

- Item IX in agenda - ACTION
  - Total General Fund Budget

	2025-26	2026-27	Change	% Change
EXPENSES	$117,366,124	$118,307,108	$940,984	0.40%
REVENUE	$117,366,124	$118,307,108	$940,984	0.40%

  - Total Revenue Limit

ACTUAL 2025-26	PROJECTED 2026-27	Change	% Change
$101,532,903	$103,015,780	$940,984	0.79%

  - State General Aid

ACTUAL 2025-26	PROJECTED 2026-27	Change	% Change
$77,977,610	$75,312,316	**-$2,665,294**	**-3.48%**

Recommendation for 2026-2027 Budget

- **Item IX in agenda - ACTION**
  - During the next two months, the following factors tthat inpact the final budget will be revealed:
    - Final staffing for 2026-2027, most positions are currently filled
    - Certified District property value
    - State equalization aid final certification
    - 3rd Friday pupil count certification
    - Wisconsin Parent Choice Program voucher costs

- **Recommended Motion: To recommend to the Board of Education a preliminary 2026-2027 General Fund budget of $118,307,108 for expenses and $118,307,108 for revenue, for presentation at the Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing.**

Recommendation for 2026-2027 Tax Levy

- **Item X in agenda - ACTION**
  - The mill rate has steadily decreased over time and is projected to slightly decrease again from $6.58 to $6.54 per $1,000 of equalized value.
  - The continued increase in property values contributes to the flat mill rate while the full tax levy is projected to remain relatively stable, with an increase of 4.03%.
  - The budget includes continuation of the defeasance and debt prepayment strategy that has been successful in stablilizing the mill rate and saving taxpayers millions of dollars over the last several years.
  - Board will be presented with debt service levy.

Recommendation for 2026-2027 Tax Levy

- **Item X in agenda - ACTION**
  - Mill rate represents tax per $1,000 of equalized property value (rounded values are displayed)

PROPOSED 2026-2027 TAX LEVY					
Wausau School District					
Fund	Estimated 2026-27 LEVY	FINAL 2025-26 LEVY	DOLLAR INCREASE	PERCENT CHANGE	EQUALIZED MILL RATE
GENERAL FUND **	$ 26,702,987	$ 23,255,150	$ 3,447,837	14.83%	3.81
DEBT SERVICE FUND 38	1,114,344	1,113,613	731	0.07%	0.16
DEBT SERVICE FUND 39	16,939,363	18,924,508	(1,985,145)	-10.49%	2.40
COMMUNITY SERVICE Fund 80	1,092,000	1,092,000	-	0.00%	0.16
TOTAL	$ 45,848,693	$ 44,385,271	$ 1,463,422	3.30%	6.54

  - **Recommended Motion:** **To recommend to the Board of Education the projected tax levy of $45,848,693 for presentation at the Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing.**

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