



WSD FY26  
**BUDGET**



## ENDS STATEMENT

All students will graduate from the Winooski School District (WSD) college and career ready at a cost supported by a majority of the Winooski community. WSD students will lead healthy, productive and successful lives and engage with their local and global community.

# BUDGET ADOPTION TIMELINE

|   |   | Date            | Focus  | Notes |
|---|---|-----------------|--|-------|
| 1 | BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS, CONTEXT, AND BASELINE | 10/09 and 11/13 | FY25 Budget Context Presentation, 2 Parts  |       |
|   |   | 20-Nov          | Presentation of Budget Version I: Three scenarios: Level Funding, Level Services, and Inflationary Increase. Implications of each. |       |
| 2 | BUDGET PRESENTATION                       | 4-Dec           | Budget Q & A, Presentation of Budget Version II, Modeling Tax Rate with Forecasted Yield and CLA                                   |       |
|   |   | 11-Dec          | Budget Q & A, Presentation of Budget Version III   |       |
|   |   | 18-Dec          | Budget Q & A, Presentation of Budget Version IV  |       |
|   |   | 2-Jan           | Board receives Tax Rate model with January CLA, <i>Special meeting scheduled if needed</i>   |       |
| 3 | BUDGET ADOPTION                           | 8-Jan           | Adopt Budget   |       |
| 4 | ANNUAL REPORT, WARNING, AND VOTE          | 10-Jan          | Annual Report Ready to Print   |       |
|   |   | 12-Jan          | Budget Flyer to Printer  |       |
|   |   | 22-Jan          | Post Annual Meeting Warning  |       |
|   |   | 29-Jan          | Annual Report Distributed  |       |
|   |   | 12-Feb          | Budget Flyer Distributed   |       |
|   |   | 3-Mar           | Annual Meeting   |       |
|   |   | 4-Mar           | Budget Vote  |       |

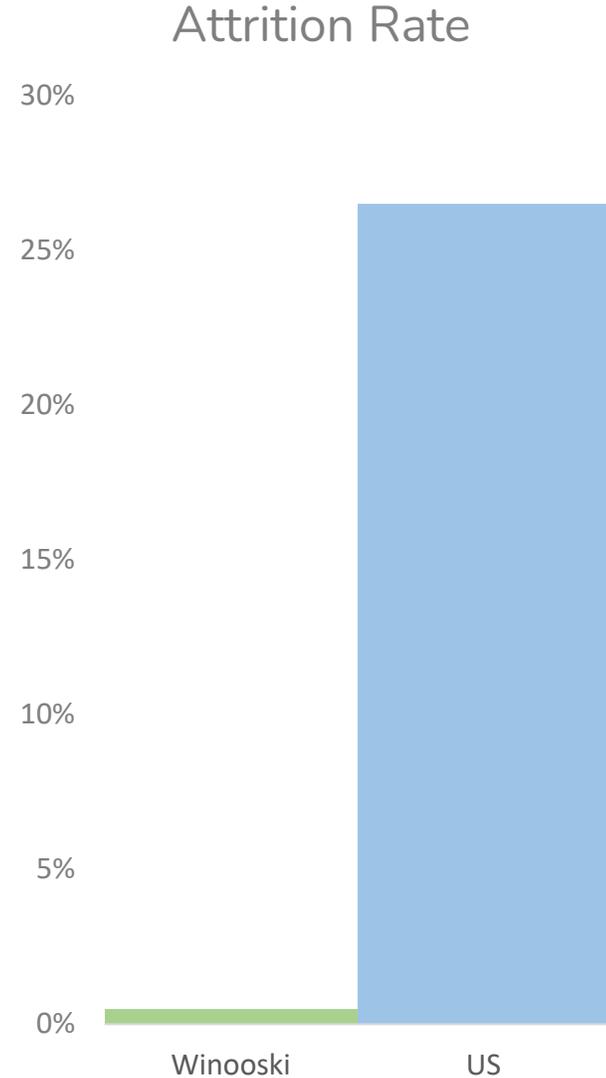
# EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC

- Timeline of Budget Adoption
- A District Budget
- Education Spending
- The Role Of the Board



# WINOOSKI'S UNUSUAL RETENTION RATES OF LICENSED STAFF

- Substantially low attrition rate
  - less than 1% vs 23-30% for similar demographic schools (2022-2023 school year, ERStrategies.org)
- Substantially small number of retirements
- Even without accounting for demographics, the average Winooski teacher has been in the district for longer than the state or national averages
  - The margin gets substantially larger if we exclude new programs (Pre-K, ESSER) and Special Education, or if we compare to similar demographics.
  - If we include all newly-created positions, Winooski still come above with 10 years tenure average, compared to 8 in the nation and 9 in the state (Most recent NCES analysis).



## Operational Budget

Board-Directed Target Range(3-5%)

# \$33,306,812

Actual Percent Increase: 4.18%

**TOTAL REDUCTION: \$971,134**

## HOW WILL WE GET THERE?

- **JFK:** 2 FTEs, 1 Licensed, 1 Non-licensed
- **ML:** Adjust 1 YR liaison to SY, 1 FTE to 0.60 FTE
- **SPED & PreK:** 1 FTE and reduction of contracted services
- **Operations and IT:** 2 FTEs and 600K reduction from current budget
- **HS:** 1 FTE Social Studies, various other reassignments that result in additional 1-2 FTE reductions and a shift of CFP funded positions

## WHAT DO WE STILL AFFORD?

- \$300K in debt reserve fund (yearly)
- \$300K in personnel from IDEA B (3 Support Staff and 1 Licensed Staff)
- 12% Increase in Health Insurance (\$473K)
- Already-Negotiated Salary Increases for Support Staff: 3.5%
- Adapting to building operations cost increase \$180K
- \$75K Additional Capital Reserve Funds (\$150K total)

# DECEMBER 1 LETTER

|                          | FY 24    | FY 25           | FY26*           |
|--------------------------|----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Homestead Property Yield | \$15,443 | <b>\$9,452</b>  | <b>\$8,553</b>  |
| Income Yield             | \$17,537 | <b>\$10,300</b> | <b>\$12,260</b> |
| Non-Homestead Property   | \$1.391  | <b>\$1.442</b>  | <b>\$1.791</b>  |

**\*Statewide Adjustment in for FY 26:** Note that the Homestead Property Yield and Non-Homestead rate reflect the statewide adjustment, which means the actual numbers were first multiplied by the statewide CLA (72%). Therefore, comparison from year to year should not be made based on this calculation.

Winooski's CLA for this year (112%) is then divided by the same statewide CLA (72%).

# HOMESTEAD TAX RATE

**Equalized Homestead Tax Rate:** with a town's CLA and the Assessment Value of the property, this rate is used to calculate final tax liability.

Equalized  
**H.T.R.** =

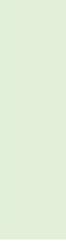
$$\frac{ES}{WLTM}}{SAY_{[SCLA*Y]}}$$



**Education Spending:** Total budget approved by voters minus offsetting revenues.



**Weighted Long Term Membership (or LTWADM):** the average membership over two school years. Weights are added to this number to calculate **WLTM**.



**Statewide Adjusted Yield** is the "Yield" multiplied by the statewide average Common Level of Appraisal. The "Yield" alone is "the amount of **Per Pupil Education Spending** that would result if the **Homestead Tax Rate** were \$1.00 per \$100 of equalized education property value..." In FY2025, for every \$9,893 a district spends per LTWADM, its equalized homestead tax rate will be \$1.00.

# FINAL HOMESTEAD TAX

**Equalized Homestead Tax Rate:** This is explained in the previous slide. It is calculated by taking the district's Per Pupil Ed Spending and dividing it by the Yield (which is in turn multiplied by the **S-CLA** starting this year).

Assessed Value of the Property

$$H.T. = \left( \frac{H.T.R.}{SACLA [CLA/SCLA]} \right) \left( \frac{AV}{100} \right)$$

**SA-CLA: State-adjusted Common Level of Appraisal** calculated first for a municipality by taking the Grand List Value and dividing it by the Fair Market Value (sale price for prior 3 years) of its properties. A CLA under 100 will increase the tax rate. Then this value is divided by the statewide average CLA.

## FACTORS CAN CHANGE

|                               | FY26    | Relation to Last Budget | Impact to Our H.T. Rate | Typical Change Until Adoption* |
|-------------------------------|---------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Homestead Property Yield [SA] | \$8,553 | Increase                | Positive                | Minor                          |
| CLA [SA]                      | 156%    | Increase                | Positive                | Minor**                        |
| LTWADM                        | 2,167   | No Change               | Positive/NC             | Unknown***                     |

\*Assuming that the legislature will change nothing.

\*\*Equalization Study Results are not in yet, and usually are reported to towns by early January.

\*\*\*We receive our LTWADM from the Agency of Education. We expect to receive them within the next few weeks and before adoption. We do not expect major changes based on the enrollment and demographic numbers we last reported.

## OPERATIONAL BUDGET OPTIONS FY-26

|          |                                  | Total Local Budget | Program or personnel Additions? | Layoffs | Reduction Through Attrition? | Other Service Reductions ? | Program Redesigns ? | Probable Tax Rate Impact*           | Notes  |
|----------|----------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|---------|------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
|          | FY 25                            | \$31,970,907       |                                 |         |                              |                            |                     |                                     |  |
| <b>1</b> | Level Services (7.2% Increase)   | \$34,277,947       | NO                              | NO      | YES                          | NO                         | YES                 | Likely to decrease to <b>\$1.09</b> | All services remain relatively the same except for small savings through retirements and efficiency-based reconfigurations.  |
| <b>2</b> | Level Funding (no increase)      | \$31,827,404       | NO                              | YES     | YES                          | YES                        | YES                 | Likely to decrease to <b>\$1.01</b> | Some services are reduced, multiple positions are cut, and significant program reconfigurations take place to adapt to a deficit of 2.4 million.                       |
| <b>3</b> | Board-Directed 3-5% Range (4.2%) | \$33,306,812       | NO                              | YES     | YES                          | YES                        | YES                 | Likely to decrease to <b>\$1.06</b> | Some services are reduced, multiple positions are cut through layoffs, some positions are reduced via attrition, and program reconfigurations take place across sites. |

\*Absent significant legislative changes to the education funding system or

- Significantly higher district spending than initially reported
- Significant change in LTWADM calculation from the state
- Significant change in CLA by the time the Equalization Study is released.



THANK YOU