

## **LAURENS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

### **NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING, BUDGET VOTE, BOARD ELECTION, BUS/VEHICLE PURCHASE, CREATION OF CAPITAL RESERVE FUND, and CAPITAL PROJECT**

NOTICE is hereby given that a public budget hearing of the qualified voters of the Laurens Central School District, Otsego County, Laurens, NY, will be held in the MPR at the Laurens Central School Building located at 55 Main Street, Laurens, NY 13796 in said District, on May 6, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the annual meeting of the qualified voters of the Laurens Central School District, towns of Laurens, et al, Otsego County, NY, will be held at the Laurens Central School located at 55 Main Street, Laurens, NY 13796, in the said District on Tuesday, May 20, 2025. Voting will take place between the hours of 12:00 and 8:00 p.m. at which time the polls will be opened to vote by ballot (either machine or paper) on the following Propositions:

1. To adopt the annual budget of the School District for the fiscal year 2025-2026, and to authorize the requisite portion thereof to be raised by taxation on the taxable property of the District.
2. To elect one (1) member of the Board for a five-year term commencing July 1, 2025, and expiring on June 30, 2030, Incumbent, Margaret Wikoff.
3. To authorize the Laurens Central School District to undertake the acquisition of one (1) sixty-five (65) passenger school bus with the total cost not to exceed \$178,657.78 for the purpose of transporting students to both regular and special programs. The source of funds shall be the District's Bus Reserve Fund.
4. To allow for the creation of the District's "2025 Reserve Fund" (the "Fund"), with the ultimate amount of the Fund to be \$3,000,000 and the probable term of the Fund to be ten (10) years, in order to allow the District to manage its purchases for the District's programs as in the past, as well as allow for any remaining funds in the 2009 Reserve Fund to be transferred to the newly created Fund.
5. To authorize the Laurens Central School District to undertake a district wide capital project consisting of: the reconstruction and renovation of, and the construction of improvements and upgrades to, various District buildings and facilities (and the sites thereof) to implement various health, safety, accessibility and code compliance measures and various other measures included and generally described in (but not to be limited by) the Project Plan that was referred to in the public notice of the vote on this proposition (the "Project"), and to expend therefor, including for preliminary costs and costs incidental thereto and to the financing thereof, an amount not to exceed the estimated maximum cost of \$11,515,000; (b) the Board is authorized to expend toward such Project \$950,000 from the District's Capital Reserve Fund; (c) a tax is hereby voted in an amount not to exceed \$10,565,000 to finance the balance of the estimated maximum cost of the Project, such tax to be levied and collected in installments in such years and in such amounts as shall be determined by the Board; (d) in anticipation of such tax, obligations of the District are hereby authorized to be issued in an aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$10,565,000, and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on such obligations

as the same shall become due and payable; and (e) New York State Building Aid funds expected to be received by the District are anticipated to offset a substantial part of such costs, and such funds, to the extent received, shall be applied to offset and reduce the amount of taxes herein authorized to be levied

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that an Environmental Assessment Form has been completed for the Project, which is an unlisted action under the State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA"), a thorough review of the Project's potential environmental impacts has been undertaken, it has been found that the Project will not result in a significant adverse impact on the environment, and a reasoned elaboration of the SEQRA review and findings has been provided in a Negative Declaration.

AND FURTHER NOTICE is hereby given that a copy of the statement of the amount of money which will be required to fund the School District's budget for 2025-2026, exclusive of public monies, may be obtained by any resident of the District during business hours during the 14 days preceding the date of the annual meeting and election, and on the date of the election at the Laurens Central School main office or district office (except Saturday, Sunday, or holidays).

AND FURTHER NOTICE is hereby given that petitions nominating candidates for the office of member of the Board of Education shall be filed with the Clerk of said School District at her office in the Laurens Central School, not later than Monday, April 21, 2025, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Each petition shall be directed to the Clerk of the District, and shall be signed by at least 25 voters of the District, and must state the name and residence of the candidate. The petition must also identify the specific seat for which the candidate is running, including the name of the incumbent, and the length of the term of office to be filled. Candidates may be nominated for only one vacancy.

AND FURTHER NOTICE is hereby given that the applications for absentee ballots will be obtainable between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays, from the District Clerk. Completed applications must be received by the District Clerk at least (7) days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election if the ballot is to be picked up personally by the voter at the District Office. Absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk not later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

A list of persons to whom absentee ballots are issued will be available for inspection to qualified voters of the District in the office of the District clerk between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. during each of the five days prior to the election, except Sundays, and said list will be posted at the polling place at the election. Any qualified voter present in the polling place may object to the voting of the ballot upon appropriate grounds for making his/her challenge and reason therefore known to the Inspector of Election before the close of the polls.

AND FURTHER NOTICE is hereby given that the applications for early mail ballots will be obtainable between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays, from the District Clerk, no earlier than 30 days before the election. Completed applications must be received by the District Clerk at least (7) days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election if the ballot is to be picked up

personally by the voter at the District Office. Early mail ballots must be received by the District Clerk not later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

A list of persons to whom early mail ballots are issued will be available for public inspection in the office of the District clerk between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. during each of the five days prior to the election, except Sundays, and said list will be posted at the polling place at the election. Any qualified voter present in the polling place may object to the voting of the ballot upon appropriate grounds for making his/her challenge and reason therefore known to the Inspector of Election before the close of the polls.

AND FURTHER NOTICE that military voters who are qualified voters of the School District may apply for a military ballot by requesting an application from the District Clerk at (607) 432-2050, or [pweir@laurencs.org](mailto:pweir@laurencs.org). For a military voter to be issued a military ballot, the District Clerk must have received a valid ballot application no later than 5:00 pm on April 25, 2025. In a request for a military ballot application or ballot, the military voter may indicate their preference for receiving the application or ballot by mail, facsimile transmission or electronic mail.

AND FURTHER NOTICE is hereby given, that any proposition that is required to be included for vote shall be submitted in writing by means of a petition signed by at least 25 qualified voters, stating the residence of each signer, which proposition shall be filed with the Clerk not later than April 21, 2025, unless a greater number of days is required by statute. Any proposition shall be rejected by the Board of Education if the purpose of the proposition is not within the powers of the voters or where the expenditure of monies is required for the proposition, and such proposition fails to include the necessary specific appropriation.

Pamela J Weir, District Clerk  
Laurens Central School  
March 20, 2025