



CHAUTAUQUA LAKE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

2024-2025 BUDGET NEWSLETTER
“A CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE”



BUDGET VOTE & SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

Tuesday, May 21, 2024 | 7 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Rotunda Lobby at the Main Entrance

MISSION STATEMENT

Chautauqua Lake Central School, in partnership with family and community, will provide educational opportunities for all students to achieve their highest potential in a safe, caring environment that prepares them to live, adjust and enjoy life in a changing world.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dear CLCS Community,

We are excited to share the latest edition of our school budget newsletter, representing our ongoing commitment to educational excellence and fiscal responsibility. As the Board of Education, we strive to ensure that every student receives a great education while remaining mindful of our financial obligations.

We recognize the importance of providing the necessary resources to our students and staff for their success. Thanks to the recent capital project, we have enhanced the safety and longevity of our school infrastructure and made substantial upgrades to our facilities. Furthermore, our district leadership team and faculty have made numerous adjustments to our academic programs, aimed at continuous growth and ensuring our position as a leading academic district in the region.

In recent years, CLCS has consistently ranked among the top-performing districts in the county for 3-8 state testing and Regents exams, as well as graduation rates. We ensure our students have access to a wide range of high quality programs in the areas of manufacturing, science, engineering, arts and technology to help them successfully pursue their intended college or career path.

For our young learners, the elementary building gives students all the benefits of a small school community, while providing proactive, student-centered academic and social emotional support. Through responsive intervention services, innovative curriculum, extra-curricular opportunities and a PBIS program that sustains a positive school culture, students develop into motivated learners early on. Students can also experience unique outdoor learning opportunities on our campus through our nationally certified schoolyard habitat and state recognized Maple Sugaring project.

This year, the proposed budget reflects a tax levy increase of 2.47%, which is less than half than the maximum allowable tax levy of 5.31%. This increase enables us to meet our contractual obligations while continuing to deliver an exceptional educational experience amidst an above-average inflationary environment over the past year.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the community for your unwavering support. Your commitment is instrumental in enabling us to provide the high-quality education that our students deserve. We look forward to continuing to work with you to provide our students with the best possible educational environment.

**Sincerely,
Board of Education,
Chautauqua Lake CSD**

**Michael Ludwig, President
Travis Bensink, Vice President
Jessup Baker
Andrea Munsee-Wellman
Jennifer Obert
Kenneth Shearer, Jr.
Zach Stahlsmith**



PROPOSITIONS FOR VOTE

PROPOSITION NO. 1 - BUDGET

RESOLVED, that the budget for the Chautauqua Lake Central School District, Chautauqua County, New York, for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025 as presented by the Board of Education is hereby approved and adopted in the amount of \$24,439,487 and the required funds therefore are hereby appropriated and the necessary real property taxes required shall be raised by a tax on the taxable property in said District to be levied and collected as required by law.

LONG-RANGE GOALS

District Goal #1 School Culture & Climate

All students and staff will contribute to a supportive and positive environment that promotes integrity, tolerance, and respect for self and others. A focus will be placed on constructive community interaction and strengthening student interactions.

District Goal #2 Student Safety & Quality of Life

All students and staff will model and encourage safe, socially appropriate skills and healthy lifestyles. A balance of social, emotional, physical, and mental awareness aligned learning activities will lead to a comprehensive understanding of independence and empathy.

District Goal #3 Student Achievement & Leadership

All staff will provide highly effective, engaging, differentiated instruction, and extracurricular activities in which students will actively participate to their fullest potential. Students will graduate with the life skills, leadership qualities, and technological abilities necessary to succeed in their future endeavors.

District Goal #4 Real-World Applications & Citizenship

All staff will develop curriculum and instruction that enables students to explore, learn, and grow as individuals. Students will engage in hands-on learning experiences that reinforce a successful transition to college and/or career while properly preparing them to be good citizens.

District Goal #5 Collaboration & Communication

All students and staff will engage in activities that promote collaboration and foster positive communication and growth. Opportunities will be provided for students to work together using active listening and effective communication skills that embrace diverse perspectives.

District Goal #6 Innovative Programs & Opportunities

All students will participate in programs that are dynamic and relevant to the demands of the outside world. The staff will actively design and integrate opportunities and partnerships that employ relevant learning experiences for students while furthering our destination district status.



2024-2025 BUDGET AT A GLANCE

Budget Total

EXPENDITURES	
Salary/Benefits	\$15,670,481
Equipment/ Supplies	\$990,265
Contractual/BOCES	\$5,021,341
Debt Service (Capital Improvements)	\$2,757,400
TOTAL	\$24,439,487

REVENUES	
Local Funds	\$2,145,308
State/Federal Aid	\$8,248,551
Designated Fund Balance	\$985,000
Tax Levy/Tax Items	\$13,060,628
TOTAL	\$24,439,487

UNDERSTANDING YOUR SCHOOL TAXES

These Three Numbers Affect Your Tax Rate:

1. The Tax Levy from the school district
 - From the budget approved by district voters
 - The greater the levy, the higher the tax rate
 - Set by district voters at the May Budget Vote
2. The Equalization Rate set by New York State
 - Brings the assessed value up to full value if no re-evaluation has been done by the township
 - The lower the equalization rate, the higher the full value and your tax rate
 - Fixed in August by New York State Property Tax Division
3. The Total Assessed Value of the District set by the tax assessors of the towns
 - From home improvements, new construction, etc.
 - The more improvements, the higher the assessed value and the lower the tax rate
 - As set by town assessors in June



Fiscal Responsibility with Student Programming in Mind

The 2024-25 budget proposal has been developed over several months, taking into account various aspects of school programming while remaining mindful of our taxpayers. For the twelfth consecutive year since the implementation of the tax cap law, the proposed budget adheres to the Maximum Allowable Tax Levy without exceeding it. In fact, it entails a tax increase below the maximum allowable threshold. This budget allocates resources to uphold and enhance the core programs and services integral to the district's mission. Our commitment to maintaining high-quality facilities with educational opportunities for students remains a top priority. This budget aims, among other objectives, to:

- Offer a dynamic and diverse elementary school experience that encompasses both academic support and enrichment opportunities
- Provide secondary school students with a wide range of academic choices, including numerous college-credit courses, elective selections, and various honors and Advanced Placement (AP) offerings
- Ensure compliance with all state and federal mandates while prioritizing the safety and well-being of students and staff
- Sustain building and facility enhancements in alignment with the district's five-year plan
- Provide co-curricular and athletic programs that align with our overarching goals and priorities

UNDERSTANDING THE NYS PROPERTY TAX CAP

Calculation: 2024-2025 Tax Levy Limit and Maximum Allowable Tax Levy

Per NYS State Education Department / NYS Comptroller guidelines

Prior Year Tax Levy	\$12,743,546
Tax Base Growth Factor, if any	x1.0028
Subtotal	\$12,779,228
Plus Payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTS) 2023-24	+2,316
Less Taxes levied for exclusions during 2023-24	-
Adjusted Prior Year Tax Levy Subtotal	\$12,781,544
Allowable Levy Growth Factor (lesser of 2% or CPI)	x1.0200
Subtotal	\$13,037,175
Less Payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTS) 2024-25 (projected)	-2,316
Available Carryover (if any)	+\$94,568
"Tax Levy Limit" or Tax Levy Subtotal	\$13,129,427
Plus 2024-25 School Year Exemptions	+\$290,694
Maximum Allowable Tax Levy (requiring simple majority approval of more than 50% of voters)	\$13,420,121

Property Tax Cap: Chapter 97 of the Laws of 2011

Understanding the Calculation: Tax Levy Limit and Maximum Allowable Tax Levy

The Calculation of the "Tax Levy Limit" and "Maximum Allowable Tax Levy" worksheet above has been used in developing the proposed 2024-25 School Budget. The calculated \$13,420,121 "maximum allowable tax levy" is a \$676,575 (or 5.31%) increase over the 2023-2024 tax levy of \$12,743,546. (Note: The Board's proposed budget is below the maximum allowable tax levy at \$13,058,312.)

Additionally, tax rates paid by individual taxpayers may differ greatly from one household to another, based on such factors as equalization rates and updated assessments.



SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2023-24 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2024-25 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 24,337,410	\$24,439,487	\$23,976,295
Increase/Decrease for the 2023-24 School Year		\$102,077	-\$361,115
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		0.42 %	-1.48%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.2%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$12,743,546	\$13,058,312	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$0	\$0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$0	\$0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$0	\$0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$12,743,546	\$13,058,312	\$12,743,546
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$0	\$290,694	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$12,838,114	\$13,129,427	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$12,743,546	\$12,767,618	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$94,568	\$361,809	
Administrative Component	\$1,985,284	\$1,996,293	\$1,985,043
Program Component	\$17,398,442	\$17,426,972	\$17,035,530
Capital Component	\$4,953,684	\$5,016,222	\$4,955,722

* Items which are statutorily considered non-contingent expenses include: student supplies; community use of building and grounds; and certain equipment purchases (pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law).

** Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)

Description	Amount
N/A	N/A

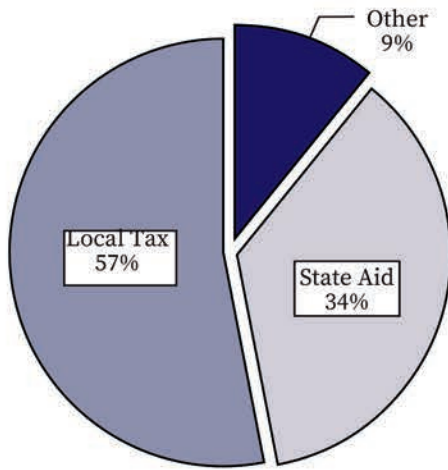
A detailed copy of the proposed 2024-25 budget, which includes the School Report Card and Tax Exemption Report, can be obtained at the District Office by scheduling an appointment (716-753-5808) or accessing the Budget Page on our website, www.clake.org.

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$253

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2024-25 by the qualified voters of the Chautauqua Lake Central School District, Chautauqua County, New York, will be held at Chautauqua Lake Central School in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 between the hours of 7:00am and 8:30pm, prevailing time in the Rotunda Lobby at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

1. The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

SUMMARY OF ANTICIPATED REVENUES 2024-2025



To meet the **Proposed Operating Budget** of \$24,439,487 the district has projected the following anticipated revenues:

State Aid includes Basic Operating Aid as well as a number of categorical aids, including BOCES Aid, Transportation Aid, Excess Cost Aid, Textbook, Building and Miscellaneous Aids.

Other Revenues include Charges for Services, Tuition, Student Fees, Interest Earnings, Sale of Excess Property and Equipment, Prior Year Refunds, and Interfund Revenues.

Local Tax includes Real Property Tax Payments in Lieu of Taxes, and Interest/Penalties on delinquent tax payments.

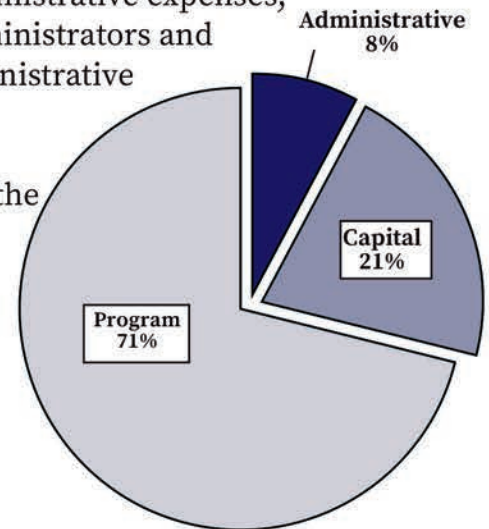
SUMMARY OF ANTICIPATED EXPENSES 2024-2025

The **Administrative** component includes office and central administrative expenses, travel expenses, salaries and benefits for all certified school administrators and supervisors who spend a majority of their time performing administrative or supervisory duties.

Also included are expenditures associated with the operation of the Board of Education, Superintendent's Office, general administration, the school business office, any consulting costs not directly related to district services or programs, and all other administrative activities.

The **Capital** component includes debt service payments and maintenance costs, and BOCES capital/rent costs.

The **Program** component of the budget includes the salaries and benefits of teachers and any school administrators and supervisors who spend a majority of their time performing teaching duties. All transportation operating expenses are included, as well as all instructional costs, such as textbooks, classroom supplies, field trips, instructional equipment, student support services, extracurricular and interscholastic sports programs.



MEET THE CANDIDATES

Listed Alphabetically

JESSUP BAKER

If you would, please share your view on the role of an elected school board member and why you are running. If elected, what will be your top five priorities?

The role of an elected school board member is first and foremost to collaborate and work in tandem with the other members of the board to develop a shared vision for the district and set policies that align with the districts resources and budgetary constraints, while advocating for all students of the district and their education. As a 2008 graduate of CLCS and now parent of 2 young children, I know firsthand how the many unique educational and extracurricular activities offered at CLCS have a positive impact on our students.

If elected, my top five priorities will be:

- (1) Ensuring that the district continues to offer a wide breadth of educational opportunities to best prepare students for whatever path they choose to follow post-graduation.
- (2) Ensuring that students continue to test highly on standardized tests, as well as other measures of student achievement.
- (3) Ensuring the district stays fiscally responsible and is a good steward for taxpayer's dollars.
- (4) Assisting the district in collaborating with various local manufacturers and alliances to build support for the districts incredible STEM & Manufacturing Lab with a focus on allowing as many students as possible across the county access to the educational opportunities offered within CLCS.
- (5) Help maintain the upbeat culture of positivity and community that is present at CLCS.

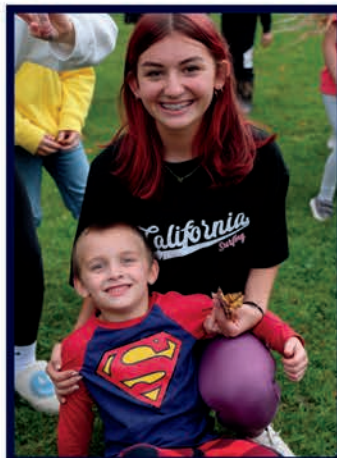


Chautauqua Lake strives to be a “destination district” for families and students who are looking for a place to reside. What do you know about Chautauqua Lake that makes it a great school district?

CLCS has become a destination district due to extensive and varied academic, extracurricular, and athletic opportunities offered at the world class campus and facilities.

How could your professional experiences and background support our students and district goals?

I spent the first ten years of my career working in various roles involved in the machining and manufacturing realm, from entry level through tool & die work involving both CAD design and CAM aided CNC programming, before transitioning into a manager of that department and engineering team. Since July of 2021, I have been President of Jamestown Plastics and oversee all facets of an organization that encompasses 140 employees across 3 divisions and 3 states. This includes day-to-day operations, financial aspects & budgeting, personnel management, building improvements, equipment capital expenditures, regulatory and legal compliance, and contract review. As well as developing a forward-looking strategic business plan that ensures continued growth and prosperity. Many of these skills and experiences directly correlate with the ability to support the district's students and goals.



MEET THE CANDIDATES

What do you believe are the most important areas to consider when developing the school budget? What are your thoughts and feelings on shared services?

The most important areas to consider when developing the district budget are ensuring that there is an efficient allocation of resources to offer students the best educational experience possible while verifying there are no wasteful or overlapping expenditures. As well as limiting increases in the tax levy when possible. Shared services can play an important role in reducing the districts expenditures and/or bring in additional revenue and should be supported and implemented in instances where it is mutually beneficial.

Personal Information

Being a graduate of CLCS, in combination with the professional experiences and skills listed above, speak to my familiarity with the district and qualifications to serve as board member.

I was involved at the inception of the Manufacturing Club supporting the efforts of Randy Stuart and Jay Baker in making their vision a reality at CLCS. I have been serving since December of 2022 as a member of the CLCS school board.

Serving on the CLCS school board has been a wonderful introduction to serving this great community thus far, and as my young children grow, I look forward to becoming more involved in other facets of community activities.

My wife, Christina and I are proud parents of Jack (22 months) and Noelle (6, Kindergarten).



PROCEDURES FOR ABSENTEE OR EARLY MAIL BALLOTS

The Board of Education authorizes the District Clerk (or board designee) to provide absentee or early mail ballots to qualified district voters. Absentee or early mail ballots may be used for the election of school board members and for adoption of the annual budget and referenda.

A district voter must request in advance an application for an absentee or early mail ballot. The application must be received by the District Clerk at least seven days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election if the voter will be picking up the ballot in person.

An absentee or early mail ballot must reach the office of the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on the day of the election. A list of all persons to whom absentee and early mail ballots have been issued shall be maintained by the District Clerk and made available for public inspection.

Any district resident who needs an absentee or early mail ballot, and is qualified to vote in this election, should contact the District Clerk's Office, 100 N. Erie Street, Mayville, NY 14757 (716-753-5808) to request an application.



MEET THE CANDIDATES

Listed Alphabetically

MICHAEL LUDWIG

If you would, please share your view on the role of an elected school board member and why you are running. If elected, what will be your top five priorities?

To establish policies, create a responsible budget, ensure education standards are met, and represent the community's interests while holding the school district to those set benchmarks.

I've proudly served on the school board for years with unwavering dedication to ensure every child in our district receives an excellent education, whether through advanced classes or career-focused programs. I will strive to keep tax increases minimal and will never support a budget that exceeds the tax cap.

1. Continue to press for low cost, high quality, and meaningful education that is applicable to today.
2. Explore new and novel ways to deliver education to bring out the very best from every child.
3. Have all students and staff contribute to a supportive and positive environment that promotes integrity, tolerance and respect for self and others.
4. To never go above the tax cap and hold any tax increases to the absolute minimum to deliver premium education.
5. Make CLCS the example for Chautauqua in the classroom, arts, community service and the sports field while being a leader in instructional program in areas of academic, school-to-work, STEM and other vocationally oriented programs.



Chautauqua Lake strives to be a “destination district” for families and students who are looking for a place to reside. What do you know about Chautauqua Lake that makes it a great district?”

I take pride in supporting our robust STEM and Manufacturing education program, tailored for students aspiring to pursue engineering or related fields in college or to secure high-paying jobs post-graduation. We offer numerous credits bearing classes within our cutting-edge Manufacturing complex, supported by our partnerships with Rochester Institute of technology and Jamestown Community College, granting students valuable college credits. Our program features real word equipment akin to what students will encounter in college and industry settings nationwide.

Moreover, CLCS boasts over 25 college credit courses, 35+ electives, and numerous honors and AP offerings, reflecting our commitment to expanding educational opportunities. Exciting new courses like Foundation of Education II, Grow: Leadership 1 & Engage Leadership II, and VEX Robotics (an expansion of our Project Lead the Way curriculum) will be introduced next year.

I'm delighted to report that CLCS ranks among the top academically performing schools not only in Chautauqua County but also across WNY. Our outstanding performance in 3-8 ELA math, and science, as well as impressive Regents results, solidify our reputation as a leading educational institution.

Recognizing the importance of a well-rounded education, I advocate for a diverse range of co-curricular opportunities and athletic programs. CLCS offers 16 varsity-level sports and over 15 co-curricular clubs, ensuring our students have avenues for personal growth an enrichment beyond academics.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

How could your professional experiences and background support our students and district goals?

As a current school board member, my focus is on fostering a positive school culture that ensures students thrive in a safe environment. At CLCS, I advocate for practical, real-world education alongside challenging opportunities for high-achieving students. I believe in nurturing future community leaders who value giving back.

With four children and three grandchildren, I cherish each child's unique God given gifts and talents, promoting their growth in a supportive environment. I understand the diverse needs of our community through my 21-year career as a Physician Assistant, providing compassionate care and emotional support. Serving on the school board allows me to apply these experiences to benefit our community.

What do you believe are the most important areas to consider when developing the school budget? What are your thoughts and feelings on shared services?

Manage the school budget to prioritize educational opportunities, maintain facilities, upgrade technology, support extracurricular activities, and provide professional development for staff, ensuring a high-quality education at Chautauqua Lake.

I strongly support shared services like the CLCS tuition agreement with Ripley, which enhances educational opportunities and attracts top-tier teachers while keeping us below the tax cap. As our communities' populations decrease, collaborating with neighboring districts is crucial to sustaining our high educational standards. CLCS will remain a leader in fostering these collaborations.



What particular life experiences or skills qualify you to serve as a school board member?

My career has centered on addressing others' physical and emotional needs, which has directly informed my role on the school board. Drawing from experiences in the Armed Forces and as a Physician Assistant, I listen to all stakeholders' concerns to make decisions benefiting our school district, children, and taxpayers. Serving on the board is an extension of my lifelong commitment to community service.

In what school/district activities have you been involved?

Along with being active in numerous after-school activities with my kid's classes over the years, I am involved with several committees including the Budget Task Force and Building committees at school.

In what community activities (e.g., Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, volunteer emergency responder, youth athletic organizations, committee work, church, etc.) have you been involved?

I volunteer at my local church including teaching classes. For 20+ years I have been a preceptor, educating young PA and medical students. Additionally, I participate in the annual Polar Plunge in Mayville to raise funds for the local food bank.

Are/were you the parent of child(ren) in the Chautauqua Lake Central School District? If so, please give names(s), grade(s), and approximate dates attended:

I have two children Isaac in 10th and Eliana who is in 8th. I have two grandchildren currently attending as well, Rozie in 2nd and Silas who is 1st. I have two daughters who have graduated Amber and Charity.

Chautauqua Lake Central School
100 N. Erie Street
Mayville, New York 14757-9798

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Area Code 716

School Safety Tip Line	753-5803
Superintendent's Office	753-5808
Elementary School Office, Pre-K-6	753-5841
Secondary School Office, 7-12	753-5881
Counselor, Pre-K-6	753-5846
Guidance Office, 7-12	753-5887
Health Office	753-5819
District Registrar	753-5910
Student Services Office	753-5877
Transportation Department	753-5901
Cafeteria Office	753-5824
Business Office	753-5874
Buildings and Grounds	753-5825

www.clake.org



WHAT YOU WILL BE VOTING ON

BUDGET PROPOSITION: RESOLVED, that the budget for the Chautauqua Lake Central School District, Chautauqua County, New York, for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025 as presented by the Board of Education is hereby approved and adopted in the amount of \$24,439,487 and the required funds therefore are hereby appropriated and the necessary real property taxes required shall be raised by a tax on the taxable property in said District to be levied and collected as required by law.

Voting for School Board Members: This year there are two, "three-year terms" to be filled (July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027). Candidates who have filed the required board petition by the deadline of April 22, 2024, are in order as they will appear on the ballot: Michael Ludwig and Jessup Baker.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR VOTERS

According to education law, to be qualified to vote in a school district election, a person must be:

1. A citizen of the United States
2. (At least) Eighteen (18) years of age
3. A resident within the school district for a period of at least thirty (30) days immediately preceding the day of the election*

*A person may have only one legal residence, which is normally determined by a combination of the following:

1. The place that he or she votes in a federal, state or local election
2. The place where he or she pays income taxes
3. The place where his or her automobile is registered

Each voter must affirm legal residency within the Chautauqua Lake Central School District.
Photo identification is preferred.

OPTICAL SCAN VOTING MACHINES

District voters will again use optical scanning machines when they vote on Tuesday, May 21st. The machines are also in use in Chautauqua County for other elections. Poll workers will be available to assist anyone unfamiliar with this voting method. Each voter must affirm legal residency within the Chautauqua Lake Central School District. Photo identification is preferred.