

Le Roy Central School District 2026 Bus Purchase Public Vote

March 17, 2026

2 p.m. - 7 p.m. in the Wolcott Street School Media Center

PROPOSITION 1

Le Roy Central School residents are being asked to authorize the district to purchase new school buses for transporting children in an amount not to exceed \$1,100,000, of which \$600,000 will be paid from the District's 2019 Capital Reserve Fund. This proposition will authorize the purchase of six (6) 66-passenger diesel and/or gasoline engine buses. All six (6) vehicles to be purchased will include a two-way radio and built in video surveillance equipment.

New York State does reimburse for such school bus purchases over the 5 year period after purchasing. The Le Roy Central School District's reimbursement ratio is currently 90%, thus the taxpayers would be responsible for the remaining 10%. The District's plan is to borrow the \$500,000 needed and align the debt repayment with the reimbursement period.

Public schools across New York State have been mandated to begin transitioning to a 100% zero-emission fleet of school buses by 2035. The mandate also states that schools will not be able to purchase fossil fuel powered school busses after 2027. Therefore, as we prepare our fleet for this pending mandate, we are seeking to purchase these six (6) replacement diesel/gasoline busses to allow time to thoughtfully transition to this electric vehicle mandate by 2035.

These new EV buses have an estimated cost of \$500,000 each and will have an estimated useful battery life of 7 years. This mandate will also require school districts to update their bus garage repair/parking facilities in order to accommodate the additional required needs for charging and repairing these new electric buses.

Le Roy CSD had an architectural study performed last year on our current bus garage in order to determine what would be needed in order to implement this mandate over a multi-phase construction plan. It was determined it would cost roughly \$3,200,000 in phase 1 to retrofit our current electric infrastructure in order to begin installing charging stations for EV buses as well as to update the building's fire suppression system as required. Phase 2 and 3 would add additional charging stations at an estimated cost of \$2,750,000. None of these infrastructure upgrades can even begin without an additional public referendum to authorize this construction.

What Does This Mean for Taxpayers?

This proposition to purchase six (6) buses will result in **NO ADDITIONAL TAX IMPACT** after factoring in the New York State Aid reimbursement for school buses, any resale or trade value of current buses being replaced and the remaining costs would will be withdrawn from the District's 2019 Capital Reserve Fund.