

Upon motion of Bruce Knell, duly seconded by Wade Neal, the following Order was adopted:

ORDER

After full consideration thereof, The Board of Education of the County of Putnam, being of the opinion that the maximum levies for current expenses authorized by Article 8, Chapter 11, of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, will not provide sufficient funds for the payment of the general current expenses of schools in Putnam County, including expenditures for the purposes hereinafter stated, during the fiscal years beginning July 1, 2026, July 1, 2027, July 1, 2028, July 1, 2029, and July 1, 2030, and has ascertained that the amounts hereinafter shown in excess of the amounts raised by regular levies will be needed by The Board of Education of the County of Putnam during each of said five (5) fiscal years, and that an election should be held to increase such levies, in conformity with the law, hereby ORDERS and DECLARES:

1. The purposes for which such additional funds are needed is the payment of the general current expenses of The Board of Education of the County of Putnam, including for the purposes hereinafter set forth in the table below, and the approximate average annual amount considered necessary for each purpose, subject to variation from year to year as provided herein, are as follows:

<u>PURPOSE FOR WHICH ADDITIONAL FUNDS ARE NEEDED</u>	<u>AVERAGE ANNUAL AMOUNT FOR EACH PURPOSE</u>
<i>A. To continue to provide financial support for new buildings, building additions, renovations and repairs to existing buildings, land, improvements to existing land, operating expenses and equipping buildings</i>	\$3,000,000
<i>B. To continue to provide financial support toward employee salaries/benefits: Including, but not limited to 1) Local county salary supplements, substitute costs, and fixed charges 2) Extended employment for summer maintenance; 3) Overtime wages; 4) Extra-duty bus wages for academic and athletic trips; 5) Extra duty salary supplements for Curricular positions and Athletic positions; and 6) Dental and optical insurance</i>	\$16,317,921
<i>C. To continue to provide financial support of the following community organizations: Putnam County Public Library [\$191,600]; Putnam County 4-H [\$68,400]</i>	\$260,000

<u>PURPOSE FOR WHICH ADDITIONAL FUNDS ARE NEEDED</u>	<u>AVERAGE ANNUAL AMOUNT FOR EACH PURPOSE</u>
<i>D. To continue to provide for the purchase of instructional equipment/furniture, teaching supplies, textbooks and library books (to include print and electronic versions of all teaching materials)</i>	\$3,000,000
<i>E. To continue to provide and maintain a secure environment for students and employees in the schools: Including, but not limited to school resource officers and/or school security enhancements</i>	\$250,000
<i>F. To continue to provide for benefits to retired employees</i>	\$900,000
TOTAL	\$23,727,921

As noted above and in Section 3 hereof, the amounts set forth in the table above are the average annual amounts for each purpose. The actual amounts for each purpose will likely vary from one fiscal year to the next. If any item in the above-stated purposes is declared unconstitutional or invalid due to judicial or legislative action, then any affected funds will be distributed among the remaining constitutional and valid itemized purposes.

2. The Board of Education of the County of Putnam is hereby authorized and empowered to expend, during the term of this levy, the surplus, if any, accruing in excess of the above amounts needed for any of the above-stated purposes, plus excess collections due to increased assessed valuations, for the enrichment, supplementation, operation and improvement of educational services and/or facilities in the public schools of the County of Putnam.

3. The total amount necessary to carry out the above purposes, after making reasonable allowances for uncollected taxes and shrinkage, is \$118,639,605, or the average sum of \$23,727,921, annually. The actual amounts budgeted, as well as the amounts spent, for each purpose and in aggregate, likely will vary from one fiscal year to the next depending on the realized tax collections and the needs of the Putnam County School District, as determined by the Board with respect to each fiscal year and, further, are subject to downward adjustments (if any) required to be made for any fiscal year under W. Va. Code §18-9B-8. If the amounts budgeted by the Board for a specific purpose or purposes for a fiscal year are not able to be spent entirely in such fiscal year, then the unspent amount shall be carried over and spent on such specific purpose or purposes in subsequent fiscal years.

4. The separate and aggregate valuation of each class of taxable property within the Putnam County School District certified for the most recent fiscal year is as follows:

<u>CLASS OF TAXABLE PROPERTY</u>	<u>ASSESSED VALUATION</u>
Class I	\$.00
Class II (Less Homestead)	\$1,994,803,682
Class III	\$1,615,115,423
Class IV	\$256,548,037
AGGREGATE ASSESSED VALUATION	\$3,866,467,142

5. The proposed additional rate of levy in cents per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation on each class of property within the Putnam County School District for the fiscal years beginning July 1, 2026, July 1, 2027, July 1, 2028, July 1, 2029, and July 1, 2030, is as follows:

Class I	22.95
Class II	45.90
Class III	91.80
Class IV	91.80

6. The Board of Education of the County of Putnam reserves unto itself as the levying body the right and authority to reduce the rates of the excess levy should increased assessments produce funds beyond projected needs in any year specified in the levy call in accordance with section six-g, article eight, chapter eleven of the West Virginia Code.

7. For each fiscal year beginning on and after July 1, 2026, The Board of Education of the County of Putnam shall reduce the levy rates proportionately for all classes of property when increased assessed valuations, excluding appraisal or valuation due to new construction or improvements to existing real property, including beginning recovery of natural resources and newly acquired personal property, would cause an increase of more than four percent in the total projected property tax revenues from the previous year's projected property tax revenues. In that event the levy rate shall be reduced so as to cause such rate to produce no more than one hundred and four percent from all classes of property, excluding appraisal or valuation from new construction or improvements to existing real property, including beginning recovery of natural resources and newly acquired personal property, of the previous year's projected property tax revenues from all property.

8. The years to which the additional levy shall apply, if authorized by the voters, are the fiscal years beginning July 1, 2026, July 1, 2027, July 1, 2028, July 1, 2029, and July 1, 2030.

9. The question of such additional levies shall be submitted to a vote in the Putnam County School District, which embraces Putnam County, West Virginia, at an election to be held in said county on Tuesday, May 14, 2024.

10. If a majority of the voters at an election to be held on May 14, 2024, approves the proposed additional levies for the fiscal years beginning July 1, 2026, July 1, 2027, July 1, 2028, July 1, 2029, and July 1, 2030, the said The Board of Education of the County of Putnam will not issue bonds as provided by Section 16, Article 8, Chapter 11 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended.

11. In the event The Board of Education of the County of Putnam shall obtain additional money by grant or otherwise from the state or federal government, or from any agency of either, or from any other source, for the purposes aforesaid, such additional money may be used either in substitution for, or in addition to, the sums obtained from such additional levies as The Board of Education of the County of Putnam may from time to time determine.

12. The Board of Education of the County of Putnam is hereby authorized and empowered to expend, during the term of this levy, the surplus, if any, accruing in excess of the amounts needed for any of the above-stated purposes, or for the enrichment, supplementation and improvement of educational services and/or facilities in the public schools. Provided, however, that subject to the expenditure of such surplus funds for purposes associated with legal and contractual obligations, surplus funds (in an amount representing the difference in the maximum levy rate allowed by law and a 95% levy rate) shall be dedicated to new buildings, building additions, renovations and repairs to existing buildings, and equipping buildings.

13. In the event that the actual amount collected is less than the approximate annual amounts allocated for the above-stated purposes for any one or more fiscal years, the Board is hereby authorized and empowered to determine in its discretion (i) which one or more of the above-stated purposes shall be reduced for each such fiscal year and (ii) the amount of each such reduction for such fiscal year; provided, however, that the total of all such reductions shall not exceed the amount of such collection shortfall each year and; provided, further, that if any such reduction for one or more of the above-state purposes is necessary, then subject to downward adjustments (if any) required to be made for any fiscal year under W. Va. Code §18-9B-8, the funds allocated for Purposes B and F set forth in the table of purposes and average annual amounts above shall be the last purposes considered by the Board for a reduction in funds in the event of a shortfall.

14. Notice of said election to authorize such additional levies shall be given by publication of notice thereof at least once a week for two successive weeks within fourteen (14) consecutive days next preceding the election in *The Hurricane Breeze*, the newspaper of general circulation in Putnam County.

15. The official ballot to be used in the election herein provided shall be in form as follows:

OFFICIAL BALLOT

Election to Authorize Additional Levies
According to the Order of The Board of Education
of the County of Putnam entered on February 5, 2024

An election to authorize additional levies for the fiscal years beginning July 1, 2026, July 1, 2027, July 1, 2028, July 1, 2029, and July 1, 2030, in the total amount of \$23,727,921 annually, for the purpose of paying the general current expenses of The Board of Education of the County of Putnam, including for the purposes hereinafter set forth in the table below; all according to this Official Ballot and the Order of the Board entered on February 5, 2024, and as more particularly described below.

The approximate average annual amount considered necessary for each purpose, subject to variation from year to year as provided herein, is set forth as follows:

<u>PURPOSE FOR WHICH ADDITIONAL FUNDS ARE NEEDED</u>	<u>AVERAGE ANNUAL AMOUNT FOR EACH PURPOSE</u>
<i>A. To provide for new buildings, building additions, renovations and repairs to existing buildings, operating, and equipping buildings</i>	\$3,000,000
<i>B. To continue to provide financial support toward employee salaries/benefits: Including, but not limited to 1) Local county salary supplements, substitute costs, and fixed charges 2) Extended employment for summer maintenance; 3) Overtime wages; 4) Extra-duty bus wages for academic and athletic trips; 5) Extra duty salary supplements for Curricular positions and Athletic positions; and 6) Dental and optical insurance</i>	\$16,317,921
<i>C. To continue to provide financial support of the following community organizations: Putnam County Public Library [\$191,600]; Putnam County 4-H [\$68,400]</i>	\$260,000
<i>D. To provide for the purchase of instructional equipment/furniture, teaching supplies, textbooks and library books (to include print and electronic versions of all teaching materials)</i>	\$3,000,000

<u>PURPOSE FOR WHICH ADDITIONAL FUNDS ARE NEEDED</u>	<u>AVERAGE ANNUAL AMOUNT FOR EACH PURPOSE</u>
<i>E. To provide and maintain a secure environment for students and employees in the schools: Including, but not limited to school resource officers and/or school security enhancements</i>	250,000
<i>F. To provide for benefits to retired employees</i>	\$900,000
TOTAL	\$23,727,921

As noted above and in the next paragraph, below, the amounts set forth in the table above are the average annual amounts for each purpose. The actual amounts for each purpose will likely vary from one fiscal year to the next. If any item in the above-stated purposes is declared unconstitutional or invalid due to judicial or legislative action, then any affected funds will be distributed among the remaining constitutional and valid itemized purposes.

The actual amounts budgeted, as well as the amounts spent, for each purpose and in aggregate, likely will vary from one fiscal year to the next depending on the realized tax collections and the needs of the Putnam County School District, as determined by the Board with respect to each fiscal year and, further, are subject to downward adjustments (if any) required to be made for any fiscal year under W. Va. Code §18-9B-8. If the amounts budgeted by the Board for a specific purpose or purposes for a fiscal year are not able to be spent entirely in such fiscal year, then the unspent amount shall be carried over and spent on such specific purpose or purposes in subsequent fiscal years.

The proposed additional rate of levy in cents per one hundred dollars of assessed valuations on each class of property within Putnam County School District for the fiscal years beginning July 1, 2026, July 1, 2027, July 1, 2028, July 1, 2029, and July 1, 2030, is as follows:

Class I	22.95
Class II	45.90
Class III	91.80
Class IV	91.80

In the event The Board of Education of the County of Putnam shall obtain additional money by grant or otherwise from the state or federal government, or from any agency of either, or from any other source, for the purposes aforesaid, such additional money may be used either in substitution for, or in addition to, the sums obtained from such additional levies as The Board of Education of the County of Putnam may from time to time determine.

The Board of Education of the County of Putnam is hereby authorized and empowered to expend, during the term of this levy, the surplus, if any, accruing in excess of the amounts needed for any of the above-stated purposes, or for the enrichment, supplementation and improvement of educational services and/or facilities in the public schools. Provided, however, that subject to the expenditure of such surplus funds for purposes associated with legal and contractual obligations, surplus funds (in an amount representing the difference in the maximum levy rate allowed by law and a 95% levy rate) shall be dedicated to new buildings, building additions, renovations and repairs to existing buildings, and equipping buildings.

In the event that the actual amount collected is less than the approximate annual amounts allocated for the above-stated purposes for any one or more fiscal years, the Board is hereby authorized and empowered to determine in its discretion (i) which one or more of the above-stated purposes shall be reduced for each such fiscal year and (ii) the amount of each such reduction for such fiscal year; provided, however, that the total of all such reductions shall not exceed the amount of such collection shortfall each year and; provided, further, that if any such reduction for one or more of the above-state purposes is necessary, then subject to downward adjustments (if any) required to be made for any fiscal year under W. Va. Code §18-9B-8, the funds allocated for Purpose B and F set forth in the table of purposes and average annual amounts above shall be the last purpose considered by the Board for a reduction in funds in the event of a shortfall.

The Board of Education of the County of Putnam reserves unto itself as the levying body the right and authority to reduce the rates of the excess levy should increased assessments produce funds beyond projected needs in any year specified in the levy call in accordance with section six-g, article eight, chapter eleven of the West Virginia Code.

For each fiscal year beginning on and after July 1, 2026, The Board of Education of the County of Putnam shall reduce the levy rates proportionately for all classes of property when increased assessed valuations, excluding appraisal or valuation due to new construction or improvements to existing real property, including beginning recovery of natural resources and newly acquired personal property, would cause an increase of more than four percent in the total projected property tax revenues from the previous year's projected property tax revenues. In that event the levy rate shall be reduced so as to cause such rate to produce no more than one hundred and four percent from all classes of property, excluding appraisal or valuation from new construction or improvements to existing real property, including beginning recovery of natural resources and newly acquired personal property, of the previous year's projected property tax revenues from all property.


INSTRUCTION TO VOTERS

Those favoring the additional levies shall mark after "For the Levies"; those against such levies shall mark after "Against the Levies."

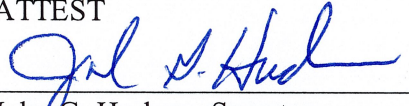
For the Levies ☐
Against the Levies ☐

-----END OF FORM OF OFFICIAL BALLOT -----

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE
COUNTY OF PUTNAM

By 
G. Robert Cunningham, Its President

ATTEST


John G. Hudson, Secretary