

Adirondack Central School District  
 110 Ford Street  
 Boonville, NY 13309-12000  
 October, 2023

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
 US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 Utica, NY  
 Permit #566

## Local Box Holder Rural & Star Routes

**PLEASE EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE**



# ADIRONDACK

## Central School District

### SPECIAL VOTE

October 2023

Dear Adirondack Central School District Community Members,

Included in this mailing is information regarding a Special Vote to take place in the District on October 24, 2023 (Noon-8 PM). The District was awarded an EPA grant that will pay for the majority of 3 electric buses and the electrical needs associated with 3 buses. Voter approval is required for the District to move forward, since it involves a capital purchase, and there is a small local share remaining. Our goal is to provide you with necessary facts concerning this vote. The District will also utilize *the Boonville Herald*, *Rome Sentinel*, and *The Moose* to share information with all stakeholders regarding information about this vote. If you have any questions, you are welcome to contact me at any time. Information will also be on the District website, under *Electric Bus Vote 2023*.

We encourage you to please vote on October 24th.

Sincerely yours,  
 Kristy McGrath, Superintendent  
 315-942-9200 x1800 or [kmcgrath@adirondackcsd.org](mailto:kmcgrath@adirondackcsd.org)

**Board of Education**  
 Michael Kramer, Almada Sturtevant, Bruce Brach, Maureen Healt, Robert Healt, Abby Podkowka, and Keith Redhead

## VOTE

**Tuesday, October 24**

**Noon - 8 PM**

**Middle/High School**  
 Multi-Purpose Room (Gym Entrance)  
 8181 State Rt. 294, Boonville, NY

## PUBLIC HEARING

**Wednesday, October 11**

**7 PM**

Prior to regular Board meeting  
**West Leyden Elementary Cafeteria**  
 1157 Fish Creek Rd., West Leyden, NY

### WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THIS VOTE:

- (3) Leonard Type C, 64 Passenger, Electric Buses
- (3) Level 2 Chargers
- Electrical Upgrades to the Bus Garage

EPA Grant	\$ 1,185,000
Trade-In of 3 Gas/Diesel Buses	\$ 27,500
<b>Total Local Cost</b>	<b>\$ 117,238</b>

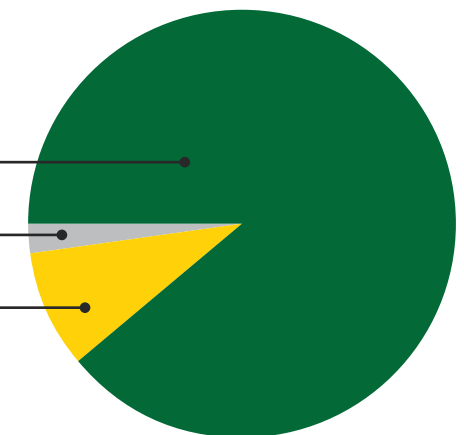
↳ (will be less than this, since our transportation aide is 73.9%)

**Total Cost \$ 1,329,738**

**EPA Grant**  
89.1%

**Trade-In Value**  
2.1%

**Local Cost**  
8.8%



Please contact Michelle Freeman, District Clerk, for any questions regarding an absentee ballot  
 315-942-9200 x1800 or [mfreeman@adirondackcsd.org](mailto:mfreeman@adirondackcsd.org)

## FAQs

### 1. What is the timeline in NY for electric buses?

Starting in July 2027, districts can no longer purchase gas or diesel buses and will need to purchase zero emission buses. Starting in July 2035, districts must have their entire fleet converted to zero emission and cannot drive gas or diesel buses/vehicles.

### 2. How many buses does Adirondack have in its fleet?

Adirondack currently has 30 total vehicles in its transportation fleet. There are 25 full-size buses, 4 smaller buses, and 1 Suburban.

### 3. Why is Adirondack proposing to buy 3 electric buses now?

In August of 2022 the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) put out their first round of grant funding. Leonard Bus, who we purchase buses from, applied on our behalf. Through a lottery, we were awarded the grant for 3 electric buses. The grant pays \$375,000 towards each bus, as well as \$20,000 for each bus to pay for the charger and any electric upgrades needed. Therefore, financially by utilizing the grant, we will only pay 8.8% of what the full cost would be, and 91.2% of the cost is covered by the EPA grant and trade-ins. Second, the District would like to get 3 buses and chargers to begin learning about electric buses in a small scale way. This gives us time to become educated first-hand on the pros/cons and ins/outs of the electric buses before we are required to purchase them in four years.

### 4. How long does a fully charged battery stay charged?

#### How do weather and terrain impact the battery charging capabilities?

We anticipate a fully charged battery to get 135 miles. It is true that cold/hot weather, and variable terrain, can affect the battery. However, there are internal mechanisms to maintain optimal battery temperature, and there is regenerative braking which allows incremental charging, to help off-set this. We currently have at least 10 bus runs that travel less than 100 miles.

### 5. What happens if the battery doesn't last?

The batteries are warrantied for 8 years, 175,000 miles. We typically/currently need to rotate buses out within 8-9 years based on rusting/erosion of the frame.

### 6. How much is this going to impact taxes?


Taxes for the 2023-24 school year have already been levied, so you will not see an increase to your taxes this year. The local cost of this proposition is \$117, 238. However, Adirondack receives 73.9% in transportation aid back from the state, so our local cost is much less.

### 7. Is this going to impact Boonville Municipal and their ability to service others?

The current transformer to the Bus Garage meets the electrical needs for the 3 buses. For charging, there will be software to assist with the most efficient charging. For example, the charging will be at non-peak times when possible. Each bus uses approximately 16.6kW to charge, which is equivalent to the draw of 2 residential car chargers.

### 8. Are the fire departments prepared to deal with an accident involving an electric bus?

The District is facilitating meetings and communications with all fire departments located within the District to understand the training they have received so far, and to partner with any preparedness needs they may have. The first meeting is scheduled for October 4, 2023.




**NY ELECTRIC BUS TIMELINE**

*Starting July 2027, we can no longer purchase gas/diesel buses; July 2035 we can no longer drive gas/diesel buses.*



**WHY ARE WE VOTING?**

*This vote will determine if Adirondack accepts or declines the \$1.185 million EPA grant we are awarded.*



Level 2 AC Charger

## FAQs Contd.

### 9. What happens if the power goes out, and the buses cannot charge?

Currently, our Bus Garage has a generator available, but it will be limited/inconsistent in its ability to fully charge the 3 buses. We currently have 2-3 buses that could become available for a run in the event of an emergency. These buses do special runs, with varying times, so we could alter them if necessary in an emergency.

### 10. If this proposition is approved, what is the timeline?

The District has already been approved for extensions to the EPA grant, as the original timeline was to submit orders in April 2023. If this proposition is approved by the voters on October 24th, we will promptly submit the purchase orders for the buses and chargers, and work with the State Education Department on the project to make electrical upgrades to the Bus Garage. We anticipate it being Spring or Summer 2024 when the electric buses are operational.

### 11. If this proposition is not approved, what happens next?

The District will not move forward and inform the EPA that we are declining the grant award. The District will need to continue to strategize how it will implement the electric bus initiative in future years, since the electric buses cost close to three times as much as gas buses, and we will need to plan for the electrical upgrades. There may be other grant options available in the future, either EPA, Truck Voucher incentives, and/or others.

### 12. What other districts are using electric buses?

184 buses across NY were funded in round 1 of the EPA grant that we are part of, for a total of \$69.62 million dollars. Examples of other schools who were awarded the grant with Leonard Bus include Chatham (5 buses), Fabius-Pompey (approved for 5 and opted to get 1), Monticello (1 bus), Naples (2 buses), and Norwood-Norfolk (1 bus, deciding on it). In our BOCES Region, Alexandria School District is utilizing 2 electric buses.

### 13. Are there other pros/cons or cost analysis to consider?

There is a savings on engine oil, fuel systems, transmission, air filters, aftertreatment, injectors, etc. for electric buses. In addition, a bus that drives 135,000 total miles will use approximately \$70,875 in its life in gas (6 miles/gal and \$3.15/gal). There will still be the cost of charging the bus, but it will be less expensive than the gas cost. Currently there are no insurance premium increases to the District with electric buses, but this may be something that happens in the future.



## KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

*Our intention is not to argue or challenge people's beliefs on whether NY should or should not be moving to electric vehicles. The District wants to give you the facts on the timeline and grant, so we can do this in the most effective way. We believe that transitioning on a small-scale basis will help us to be more prepared and educated as this implementation takes place in the next few years.*



## FINANCIAL SAVINGS

*We are getting close to \$1.33 million dollars of purchases/work for a local cost of \$117,238 (and then we get a majority of this paid back in transportation aid).*



TEAM ADIRONDACK



Leonard Type C, 64 Passenger, Electric Bus