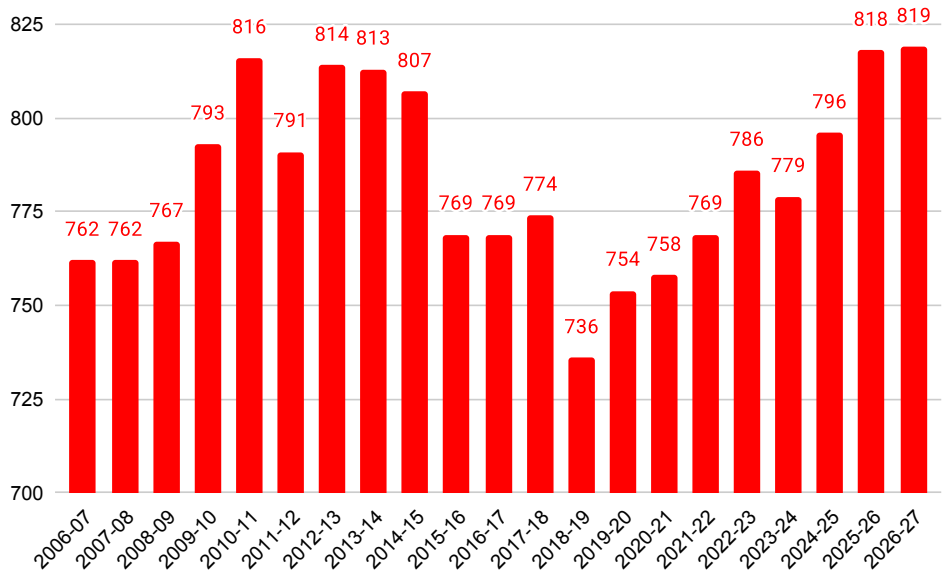
Certified enrollment

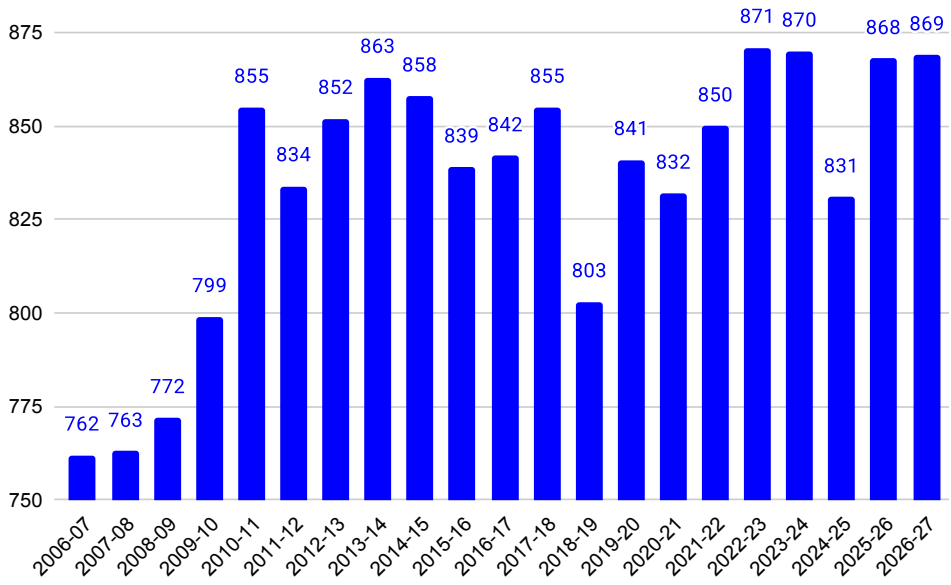
Certified enrollment includes West Branch K-12 children attending West Branch Community Schools, plus those who open-enroll out of the district, or are dual-enrolled. This figure affects per-pupil state aid the school district receives.



Source: West Branch Community School District — Graphic by Gregory R. Norfleet

Total enrollment

Total enrollment includes certified enrollment, pupils who open-enroll into the district, and preschool children. West Branch gets half of per-pupil money for preschoolers and receives per-pupil money from other districts for their open-enrolled pupils.



Source: West Branch Community School District — Graphic by Gregory R. Norfleet

West Branch Schools enrollment goes up one

At first, West Branch numbers dropped, but now steady

By Gregory R. Norfleet
gregory.norfleet@westbranchtimes.com

Last month, West Branch Community Schools recorded a dip in enrollment for the 2026-27 school year, according to the superintendent.

But a second look at the numbers, shared at the November meeting Board of Education meeting, showed an increase of one pupil.

Superintenendent Marty Jimmerson told the school board at its Oct. 12 meeting that enrollment fell for the third time since he started with the district since he arrived in 2018.

"My first year, that (drop) was our largest — we were down 38 students," he said. "I think we're going to be close to 15 to 16 students down."

Further, open-enrollment in — those coming from other schools — decreased by seven while open-enrollment out is up by about five students.

Certified enrollment will decrease by about five or six students, but "served enrollment" will drop by 15 or 16, Jimmerson said.

"This is not normal for us," he said. "The caveat to all this is that the state passed a bill last year that they have two count dates now, so one in October and one in January."

However, at the school district's Nov. 9 meeting, Jimmerson reported that the total enrollment will increase by one pupil, but the "served enrollment" will decrease by 17.

Certified enrollment from the past five years:

- 2022-23 — 786 pupils
- 2023-24 — 779 pupils
- 2024-25 — 796 pupils
- 2025-26 — 818 pupils
- 2026-27 — 819 pupils

Jimmerson noted that the school district counted the certified enrollment (also known as "actual enrollment) four days in a row and came up with four different numbers, with a 40-pupil swing in that short time:

Oct. 23: 779
Oct. 24: 796
Oct. 25: 818
Oct. 26: 819

"Total enrollment" is the number of pupils who live inside the school district, whether they attend West Branch or not. "Served enrollment" represents the number of pupils who physically sit in West Branch classrooms.

Total enrollment numbers over the past five years:

- 2022-23 — 871 pupils
- 2023-24 — 870 pupils
- 2024-25 — 831 pupils
- 2025-26 — 868 pupils
- 2026-27 — 869 pupils

Likewise, the school district counted "served enrollment four days in a row to show that the number of children sitting in class fluctuated by 51 pupils:

Oct. 23: 817
Oct. 24: 831
Oct. 25: 868
Oct. 26: 851

"A lot of that is attributed to open-enroll-out numbers, (which) are up 12, and our open-enroll-in numbers, (which) are down seven," he said.

If the school district's numbers increase in mid-January, the state takes the average of the two numbers, he said. And the same if the January number goes down or stays the same.

"We're one of the fastest-growing districts in the state, so this was not necessarily planned on," Jimmerson said in October. "But we're still significantly more."

At that meeting, he reminded the board that the district contracted for an enrollment study a few years ago. That predicted West Branch would grow by 100 children within 10 years.

"I think we're still up, even with these numbers, we're close to 40 or 50 within three years (of the study)," the superintendent said in October. "And with the new (housing) construction happen-

Enrollment Page 7

ALL PUBLIC NOTICES CAN BE FOUND AT IOWAPUBLICNOTICES.COM

Cedar county board

BOARD PROCEEDINGS
(FOLLOWING IS A SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES.FULL TEXT OF DAY'S MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION AT AUDITOR'S OFFICE OR ON OUR WEBSITE—WWW.CEDARCOUNTY.IOWA.GOV)
TIPTON, IOWA
October 27, 2026
Cedar County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. October 27, 2026 with following members present: Bixler, Barnhart, Gaul, Kaufmann, and Chairperson Bell. Minutes reported by Deputy Auditor Hamdorf. Members of public were also present.
Board viewed correspondence from various agencies.
It noted following Handwritten Disbursement issued on 10/23/2026 to Cedar County Treasurer for Midwest Group Benefits, Inc. for an electronic deposit: #447284 for $2,079.45-self funded medical claims.
Moved by Gaul seconded by Bixler to approve agenda.
Ayes: All
Chairperson Bell addressed public for comments. There were none.
Moved by Barnhart seconded by Kaufmann to approve Board Minutes of October 20, 2026.
Ayes: All
Moved by Bixler seconded by Kaufmann to approve Claim Disbursements #447152 - #447283 paid on 10/22/2026.
Ayes: All
Board reported on Outreach/Committee Meetings they attended.
Board discussed issue regarding Cedar County Freedom Rock site and it being used for political use. Committee has sent letters to both political parties and asked them to refrain from using that location as they are 501(c)(3) but it is still being used. Consensus of Board to check with County Attorney.
Auditor Welch presented Board with dental renewal options. She presented current plan along with ISAC rates and different tiers and rates.
Moved by Barnhart seconded by Bixler to go with ISAC for dental insurance.
Ayes: All
Moved by Gaul seconded by Kaufmann to approve a utility permit for Alliant Energy for Hoover Highway Bridge replacement and waive $100 fee.
Ayes: All
Moved by Kaufmann seconded by Bixler to adjourn at 9:20 a.m., to November 10, 2026.
Ayes: All

Jon Bell, Chairperson
Nicki Welch, Auditor
WBT 46

Cedar county claim

10/22/2026
General Basic Fund
852.48-Access Systems Leasing-copies
475.65-Alliant Energy-elec
46.98-Amazon Capital Services-labels
418.79-AT&T Mobility-phone
934.30-Aureon Alliance Connect, LLC-phone
1254.40-Baker Paper-ice melt
265.73-Bob Barker Company-clothing
17750.00-Cedar County Fair Assoc-FY26/27
1367.42-Cedar County Health Fund Emplo-ins
158.00-Central Iowa Distributing-sanitary
744.98-Conservative Publishing-ad clinic
12825.11-Consolidated Management Co-meals
733.10-Mike Dauber-Monthly Svc
702.76-Diamond Drugs, Inc-meds
573.94-Eastern IA Light&Power-elec
29.87-Hale Printing-decals
44.00-Patricia Hamann-mil
180.25-Heartland Shredding Inc-shred
28.97-Hermsen Automotive LLC-repair tire
48.70-Robin Housley-mil
48.70-Shelly Howsare-mil
142.23-OptumInsight-book
250.00-Iowa Law Enforcement Academy-training
70.12-Johnson County Sheriff-subpoena
16.00-Alex Koch-meal
9.75-Language Line Services-interpreatation
1617.13-Mail Services, LLC-newsletter
525.00-Mainstay Systems of Iowa LLC-scanner
49.80-Michael Male-mil
336.28-Martin Bros Dist Co Inc-soap
11.83-McKesson Medical – Surgical-medical
162.01-Menards-piping
53.05-ODP Business Solutions, LLC-paper
170.00-Parkside Service-oil chg
1100.00-Reserve Account-postage
200.00-Joshua Pruitt, MD-Case fee
3181.00-River Bend Transit-2nd qtr
1173.85-Sanofi Pasteur Inc-fluzone
1035.52-Secondary Road Fund-fuel
134.57-Austin Sorgenfrey-uniform
614.00-Spengler Auto Repair Inc.-valve
600.00-Mark Stastny-well
1017.50-State Hygienic Laboratory Univ-samples
54.20-Michael Stigers-mil
814.80-Top Quality Mfg., Inc-gloves
173.82-Vestis-mats/mops
1696.86-VISA/Bankers Bank-renewal
490.05-West Branch Times-min
230.95-Wex Bank-fuel
American Rescue Plan Act Fund
1740.39-Menards-wood
General Supplemental Fund
15310.16-Election Systems & Software-Layout
8583.00-Office of State Pub. Defender-Indigent Defense Fund
206.00-Thomson Reuters-West Payment-info chrg
Pioneer Cemetery
200.00-Beine & Abel Law Firm-Easement
County Attorney Court Fees
270.00-Racheal Lilienthal-mil
Rural Services Basic Fund
31.20-AT&T Mobility-phone
147.11-Hermsen Automotive LLC-oil chg
3467.06-Waste Management of Iowa-20yd roll
EMS-Essential Srv(Ambulance)
1000.00-DRSE, LLC-EMS Contract
714.71-Henry Schein-meds
2360.20-Station Automation Inc-maint
Secondary Road Fund
4699.65-Advantage FS, Inc-Oil
132.57-Alliant Energy-Utilites-Clarence
93.60-Altorfer Inc-Parts
30.49-Aureon Alliance Connect, LLC-Phone
341.47-Gregery Bell-Safety
314.46-Isaac Brennan-Safety
10163.50-Calhoun-Burns & Assoc-Consultant fees
18767.51-Cedar County COOP-Diesel-Springdale
417.00-Central Iowa Distributing-Sundry
117.69-Gary Chapman-Safety
73.95-City of Mechanicsville-Utilities
333.31-City of Tipton-Utilities-54 Lemon
200.00-Coleman Moore Company-fast patch
33455.00-Diamond Mowers-New equipment
1595.92-Eastern Iowa Tire Inc-Tires
100.90-Electronic Engineering Co Inc-Radios
1115.05-Finkbiner Equipment Co-credit
90.94-Michel Foulks-Safety
13.50-Grainger Parts Inc. W.W. Grang-Tools
27578.97-Great Lakes Salt Company-Materials
153.00-H & H Auto-Alignment
3974.00-Ia Dept of Transportation-HMA recert-Schroeder
270.00-Iowa State University-Winter Maint Worksho
279.90-J.J. Nichting Company-Parts
93.32-Thiesen's-Supplies
306.38-Cody Kuehl-Safety
287.54-Liqui-Grow of Tipton-Seed & Fertilizer
1257.67-Genuine Parts Company Inc NAPA-Batteries
901.61-P&K Midwest, Inc.-Filters
94.00-Phelps the Uniform Specialists-Sundry
22.91-Reserve Account-Postage
607.35-Quill Corp-Supplies
60.10-Sinclair Tractor-Filters
80.96-SJ Smith Co-Welding
2597.28-Truck Country of Iowa Inc-Parts
1259.90-Unified Contracting Serv. Inc.-Clarence tank
9615.47-Wendling Quarries Inc-Credit
Transfer Station Fund
16.99-Brand New Engines-oil
766.43-Cintas Corporation-uniforms
5268.84-Goodyear Commercial Tire-tires
3057.29-Secondary Road Fund-fuel
1236.00-Weikert Iron-ewaste
Cedar Co Health Fund
5831.42-CEDAR COUNTY TREASURER ACH MED-self funded med
8350.96-Delta Dental Plan of Iowa Paym-ins
875.50-Midwest Group Benefits-admin
159077.96-Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue-ins
Conservation Trust Fund
105.98-Brothers Market, LLC-Provisions
41.79-VISA/Bankers Bank-Dry Goods
Commissary Fund
25.97-VISA/Bankers Bank-charger
Reserve Officer Fund
217.70-Uniform Den Inc-uniforms
Debt Service Fund
42252.50-UMB Bank, N.A Attn: Trust Fees-Interest
Early Childhood Ia-Cedar/Jones
610.00-Bennett Comm. School-scholarships
250.00-Durant Community Schools-scholarships
324.00-Express Printing & Design-signs
6972.38-Grant Wood AEA-CART
4882.73-Hawkeye Area Community Action-Head Start
666.09-Sherri R. Hunt-mil
3622.05-Jones County Auditor-Salary
640.00-Little Panther Preschool-Scholarships
4693.06-Lutheran Services in Iowa-PAT-LSI
640.00-Olin Community School-Scholarships
570.00-Sacred Heart Preschool-Scholarships
555.00-St. Patrick's Preschool-Scholarships
225.00-Tipton Comm Schools-scholarships
7179.03-Young Parents Network-PAT-YPN
Jnt Disaster Serv.Fund
222.07-AT&T Mobility-phone
396.73-Dwayne Brown-meal/hotel
Recorder'S Records Mgt.
128.00-Gordon Flesch Company-copies
E911
200.00-Aureon Alliance Connect, LLC-data
376.65-Dubuque County 911-elec
35.04-CenturyLink Lumen-data
Assessor
273.99-Access Systems-copies
250.00-East Central Dist.of Assessors-dues
430.00-IAAO-membership
156.00-Willson & Pechacek PLC-legal svc

472364.30--Grand Total
WBT 46

Hertz Real Estate Services

LAND FOR SALE

CEDAR CO. – NEW LISTING! 66.00 acres located 8 miles NE of West Liberty. Mixed use farm with cropland and mature timber. **$7,750/acre.**

DES MOINES CO. – 3.34 acres located on the southwest side of Mediapolis. Includes 2.49 CRP acres. **$50,000.00**

JONES CO. – NEW LISTING! 162.47 acres located 1 mile southwest of Cascade. 111.31 crop acres with a 48.60 CSR2. Also includes a 4-bed, 1-bath house, machine shed and other outbuildings. **$12,750/acre.**

JONES CO. – NEW LISTING! 72.90 acres located 1 mile southwest of Cascade. 71.52 crop acres with a 67.80 CSR2. **$17,950/acre.**

JONES CO. – NEW LISTING! 196.19 acres located 4 miles west of Wyoming. 170.60 crop acres with an 81.20 CSR2. Additional 15.95 acres in CRP. **$14,250/acre.**

LINN CO. – NEW LISTING! 35.24 acres located SE of Cedar Rapids. Potential building site with 7.50 crop acre, mature timber and pasture. **$14,950/acre.**

LINN CO. – 76.50 acres NE of Marion along IA-13. 71.30 crop acres with a 91.20 CSR2. **$22,500/acre.**

LINN CO. – 160.00 acres NE of Marion. 158.11 crop acres with a 92.00 CSR2. **$20,500/acre.**

LINN CO. – PRICE REDUCED! 41.00 acres with attractive, 3 bed/2 bath home & buildings. Located 6 mi. N of Marion.
1350 Waubeek Rd., Central City ~~$1,050,000.00~~ **$950,000.00**

MOUNT VERNON • 319-895-8858 • WWW.HERTZ.AG
all acres are "more or less" unless noted
also offering professional farm management & appraisal

STATE OF IOWA
2026
FINANCIAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR ENDED
JUNE 30, 2026 CITY OF WEST BRANCH, IOWA
DUE: December 1, 2026

16201600800000
CITY OF WEST BRANCH
PO Box 218
WEST BRANCH IA 52358-0218
POPULATION: 2509

NOTE - The information supplied in this report will be shared by the Iowa State Auditor's Office, the U.S. Census Bureau, various public interest groups, and State and federal agencies.

ALL FUNDS

	Governmental (a)	Proprietary (b)	Total Actual (c)	Budget (d)
Revenues and Other Financing Sources				
Taxes Levied on Property	2601341		2,601,341	2,601,043
Less: Uncollected Property Taxes-Levy Year	0		0	0
Net Current Property Taxes	2,601,341		2,601,341	2,601,043
Delinquent Property Taxes	390		390	0
TIF Revenues	641,746		641,746	644,630
Other City Taxes	440,724	0	440,724	437,569
Licenses and Permits	91,111	0	91,111	65,000
Use of Money and Property	61,857	14,884	76,741	30,800
Intergovernmental	1,397,528	0	1,397,528	1,364,086
Charges for Fees and Service	316,938	2,091,860	2,408,798	2,558,313
Special Assessments	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	74,867	551	75,418	21,400
Other Financing Sources, Including Transfers in	5,632,199	690,122	6,322,321	7,338,550
Total Revenues and Other Sources	11,258,701	2,797,417	14,056,118	15,061,391
Expenditures and Other Financing Uses				
Public Safety	995,812		995,812	1,340,167
Public Works	701,805		701,805	869,732
Health and Social Services	0		0	0
Culture and Recreation	688,769		688,769	846,442
Community and Economic Development	305,304		305,304	362,279
General Government	310,261		310,261	367,338
Debt Service	914,428		914,428	941,653
Capital Projects	3,944,014		3,944,014	5,114,827
Total Governmental Activities Expenditures	7,860,393	0	7,860,393	9,842,438
Business type activities		1,732,444	1,732,444	3,138,755
Total All Expenditures	7,860,393	1,732,444	9,592,837	12,981,193
Other Financing Uses, Including Transfers Out	973,778	934,265	1,908,043	2,052,795
Total All Expenditures/and Other Financing Uses	8,834,171	2,666,709	11,500,880	15,033,988
Excess Revenues and Other Sources Over (Under) Expenditures/and Other Financing Uses	2,424,530	130,708	2,555,238	27,403
Beginning Fund Balance July 1, 2025	6,266,161	2,247,583	8,513,744	6,560,222
Ending Fund Balance June 30, 2026	8,690,691	2,378,291	11,068,982	6,587,625

NOTE - These balances do not include the following, which were not budgeted and are not available for city operations:

Non-budgeted Internal Service Funds	Pension Trust Funds
Private Purpose Trust Funds	Agency Funds

Indebtedness at June 30, 2026	Amount	Indebtedness at June 30, 2026	Amount
General Obligation Debt	8,700,000	Other Long-Term Debt	0
Revenue Debt	9,053,000	Short-Term Debt	0
TIF Revenue Debt	0		
		General Obligation Debt Limit	19,394,041