



RENSSELAER

CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

25 Van Rensselaer Drive, Rensselaer, New York 12144

2019
MAY
BUDGET NEWS

BUDGET VOTE Tuesday, May 21 12 noon – 9 p.m. Auditorium Foyer

What am I voting on?

Voters will decide on the following items:

- A \$26,569,790 budget for the 2019-20 school year
- Lease of three school buses
- 2 Board of Education Positions

VOTER QUALIFICATIONS: All voters must be United States citizens, age 18 or older on Election Day. Voters must be residents of the Rensselaer City School District for 30 days immediately prior to Election day and registered to vote.

Applications for absentee ballots will be obtainable between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays, from the Office of the Rensselaer County Board of Elections. The Rensselaer County Board of Elections must receive completed applications at least seven (7) days before the annual vote. Absentee ballots must be received by the Rensselaer County Board of Elections not later than 5:00 p.m., prevailing time, on Tuesday, May 21, 2019.

The vote of propositions shall be by ballot registered upon voting machines or by absentee ballot. The hours during which the polls shall be kept open shall be from 12:00 – 9:00 p.m., prevailing time, or for as long thereafter as necessary to enable qualified voters who are in the polling place by 9:00 p.m. to cast their ballots.

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www.rcsd.k12.ny.us

Dear Residents of Rensselaer,

Thank you for the warmest of welcomes in my first year here. As a new superintendent, I feel honored to become a part of a community with so much civic pride and commitment to improvement. We are in an exciting time of changes for education, and we intend to work to improve our quality of education despite some fiscal challenges.

The Board of Education has approved a budget of \$26,569,790 to present to the voters for the 2019-20 school year. We have been working hard to take advantage of any operational efficiencies and cost saving partnerships that we could identify that would not have a negative impact on our students. We know that balancing the needs of the taxpayers with the needs of students is a big responsibility and we take it seriously.

The proposed tax levy increase is \$364,653 (4.98%). As you are aware, the 2% tax cap does not equate to a 2% tax levy. The factors associated with calculating the tax cap often have a significant impact on the actual tax levied. The capital exclusions portion of the tax cap has affected the tax levy over the past two years. This budget proposal is affected by a shift in PILOT (Payment In Lieu Of Taxes) revenue that causes an increase on the tax cap calculation for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

We realize that the levy is high, but we want to keep in perspective that the 5-year average increase is only 0.77%. With a 0% in 2015 and a -11% in 2017, the tax levy has been less than stable, but has not increased significantly over time. Also note that the proposed levy does not exceed the calculated tax cap.

Our district has been utilizing fund balance for seven years. This is not a sustainable practice. Our long-term goal continues to be to reduce and eliminate the dependence on fund balance before that money runs out. We want to look ahead and avoid future erratic tax levy changes while providing the highest quality education for the children of the community.

If you have any questions regarding this or any other aspect of the budget, please feel free to email me at jkardash@rcsd.k12.ny.us or call me at 518-465-7509 and I would be happy to help. The Board asks for your support in continuing to provide a high-quality education for the children of our community.

FIVE-YEAR SCHOOL TAX LEVY AVERAGE IS 0.77%

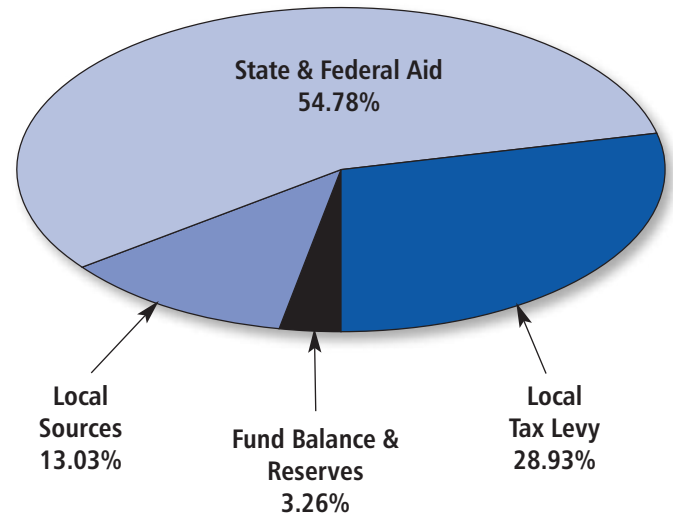


Rensselaer City School District Two-Year Budget Comparison

REVENUES: Where the money comes from...

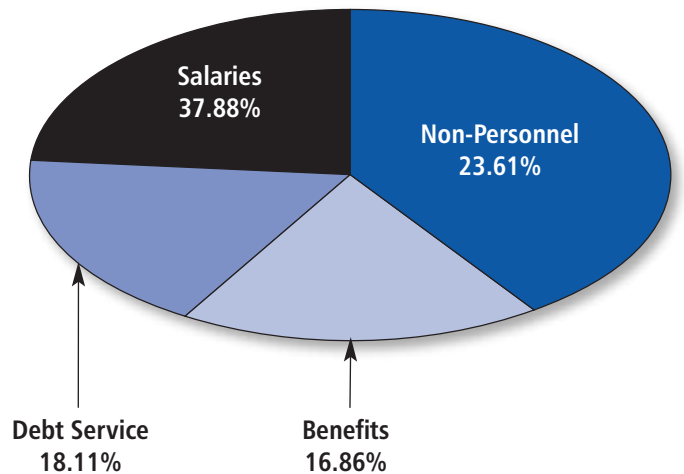
Source of Funds	2018-2019 Budget	2019-2020 Proposed
Local Property Tax Levy	\$7,320,892	\$7,685,344
State and Federal Aid	\$13,919,709	\$14,555,511
Local Sources*	\$4,027,259	\$3,462,268
Fund Balance	\$362,346	\$866,667
Totals:	\$25,630,206	\$26,569,790

*Other Local Sources includes payments in lieu of taxes, interest penalties, charges for services, day school tuition, use of facilities, refund of prior-year expenses, transfer of funds, etc.



EXPENSES: How the money is spent...

Expense Category	2018-2019 Budget	2019-2020 Proposed
ADMINISTRATION:		
Board of Education	\$30,924	\$41,263
Central Administration	\$226,968	\$206,408
Finance Services	\$370,013	\$411,342
Legal/Public Information	\$123,003	\$100,720
Central Services	\$537,390	\$566,028
Supervisory/Improvement	\$473,289	\$475,694
Fringe Benefits	\$375,779	\$366,225
Administration Total	\$2,137,366	\$2,167,680
CAPITAL:		
Operation & Maintenance	\$1,431,369	\$1,454,069
Certiorari/Judgments	\$33,000	\$30,000
Debt Service	\$4,811,300	\$4,812,900
Fringe Benefits	\$371,534	\$382,662
Capital Total	\$6,647,203	\$6,679,631
PROGRAM:		
Regular Instruction	\$5,467,937	\$5,961,343
Special Education	\$4,997,475	\$5,074,350
Occupational Education	\$225,897	\$215,643
Library/Technology	\$509,584	\$617,752
Student Services	\$1,198,516	\$1,281,436
Transportation	\$607,065	\$791,708
Interfund Transfers	\$50,000	\$50,000
Fringe Benefits	\$3,789,163	\$3,730,247
Program Total	\$16,845,637	\$17,722,479
Total District Budget:	\$25,630,206	\$26,569,790



Rensselaer City School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2018-19 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2019-20 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2019-20 School Year *				
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$25,630,206	\$26,569,790	\$26,459,573				
Increase/Decrease for the 2018-19 School Year		\$939,584	\$829,367				
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.67%	3.20%				
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.44 %					
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount, Net of Reserve							
	\$ 7,320,892	\$ 7,685,344					
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)	\$ 7,320,892	\$ 7,685,344	\$7,575,127				
F. Total Permissible Exclusions							
	\$ 2,622,838	\$ 2,687,256					
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions							
	\$ 4,985,201	\$ 4,998,089					
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)							
	\$ 4,985,201	\$ 4,998,089					
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **							
	\$ 0	\$ 0					
Administrative Component							
	\$ 2,137,366	\$ 2,167,680	\$ 2,155,074				
Program Component							
	\$ 16,845,637	\$ 17,722,479	\$ 17,630,842				
Capital Component							
	\$ 6,647,203	\$ 6,679,631	\$ 6,673,658				
<p>• Should the 2019-20 proposed budget be defeated by the voters twice (in both May and June), the Board of education would be obligated to adopt a contingency budget. A contingency budget requires that the tax levy be no greater than the levy of the prior year. After eliminating approximately \$110,000 in non-contingent expenditures, the budget would need to be reduced. A possible, but not the final, allocation of the contingent budget are reflected in the third column of this "notice" labeled "Contingency Budget for the 2019-20 School Year".</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Description</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>** List 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)</p>				Description	Amount		
Description	Amount						

NOTE: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to:
emscmgts@nysed.gov

Under the Budget Proposed
for the 2019-20 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹

\$ 478

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2019-2020 by the qualified voters of the Rensselaer City School District, Rensselaer County, New York, will be held at the Rensselaer City School District campus in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, between the hours of 12:00 noon and 9:00pm, prevailing time, at which time the polls will be open to vote by voting machine. The campus is located at 25 Van Rensselaer Drive.

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

POSTAL CUSTOMER

BOARD OF EDUCATION

John Mooney, President
Jennifer Haggerty, Vice President
Dana Endres
Vanessa Salsbury
Timothy Spath

Superintendent:
Joseph Kardash

www.rcsd.k12.ny.us

Produced by Questar III Communications Service

BUDGET VOTE
Tuesday, May 21
12 noon – 9 p.m.
Auditorium Foyer

Rensselaer City School District Budget Propositions

PROPOSITION #1

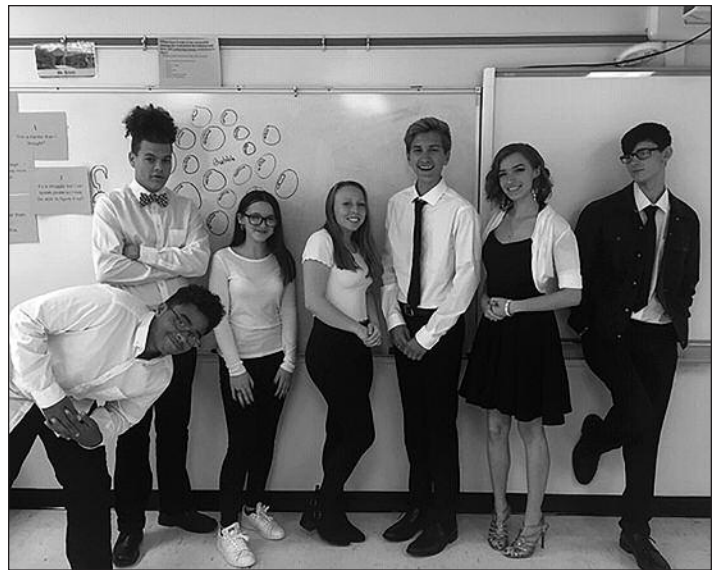
SHALL the Board of Education of the Rensselaer City School District be authorized to spend the sum set forth in the budget in the amount of \$26,569,790 during the 2019-2020 school year and to levy the necessary tax therefore.

YES _____ NO _____

PROPOSITION #2

SHALL the Board of Education of the Rensselaer City School District, pursuant to Chapter 472 of the Session Laws of 1998, be hereby authorized to lease and expend therefore, including costs incidental thereto and the financing thereof, an amount not to exceed the estimated maximum cost of sixty thousand (\$60,000) dollars, and for a term not to exceed five (5) years, the following motor vehicles: two (2) sixty-six passenger school buses and one (1) 24-passenger wheel chair bus; AND, that such sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax collected in annual installments; and that in anticipation of such tax, obligations of the District shall be issued.

YES _____ NO _____



PROPOSITION #3

Election of Board of Education members:
(Vote for 2)

1. Lark Rutecki
2. Dana Endres