



RENSSELAER

CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

25 Van Rensselaer Drive, Rensselaer, New York 12144

2020

JULY
BUDGET NEWS

BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, July 28

Auditorium Foyer

12 Noon – 9 p.m.

What am I voting on?

Voters will decide on the following items:

- A \$27,182,434 budget for the 2020-2021 school year
- Lease of two school buses

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, July 28, 2020. 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.

Members of the Rensselaer City School District Community,

We recognize that the timing of the current fiscal situation is horrible. While we knew it would be difficult, we felt that we had to try to offer a budget that did not eliminate student opportunities. We heard loud and clear from the voters that the district’s revenue deficit cannot be solved that fast.

In putting together a multi-year solution, the district had to make further reductions to mitigate losses. While we were forced to eliminate non-mandated expenses like sports and extra-curricular activities, it is our hope that these are temporary reductions and that there are innovative ways to preserve these opportunities for the students this year. We hope that future budgets will maintain our comparatively low tax rate while supporting our students in every way that we can.

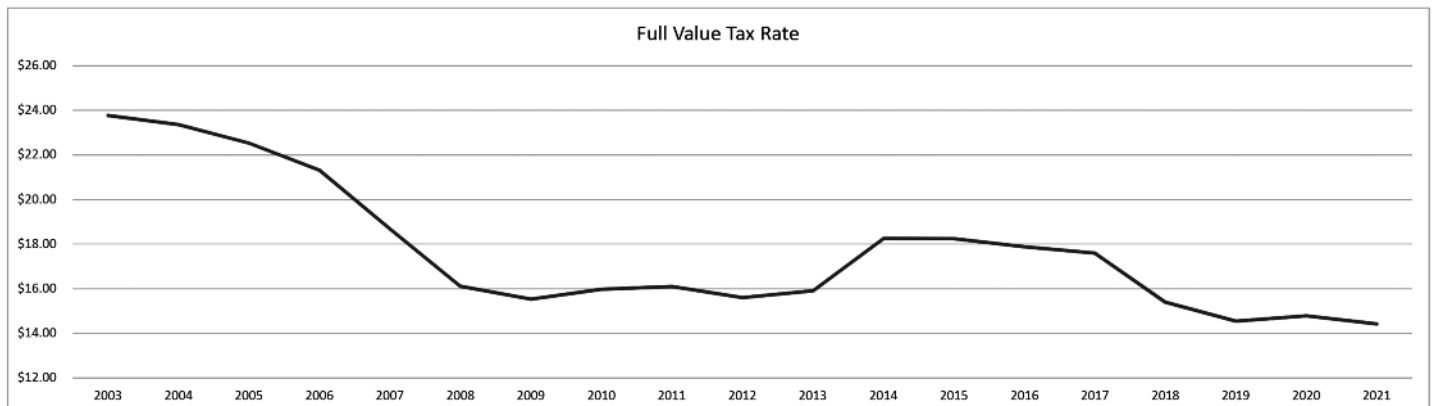
When the voters are asked to weigh in on something this important, it is our responsibility to make sure that everyone can make an informed vote. We have created a webpage that we continue to update in an effort to answer the questions, concerns, and assumptions that we hear from the community. This resource has history, examples, comparisons, and a tax calculator to see exactly how much the proposed budget would affect each taxpayer. Please visit our webpage and click on the green link at the top to see this information:

<https://www.rcsd.k12.ny.us>

Over the next two weeks, my plan is to schedule times that I will be at local restaurants to share a cup of coffee with anyone that wants to talk about the budget. Sometimes a real conversation is far more informative than a graph or report. Please keep an eye out on our webpage and Facebook page for these times and dates.

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 will do my best to find answers. The Board asks for your support in continuing to provide educational opportunities for the children of our community.

Historical Tax Rates



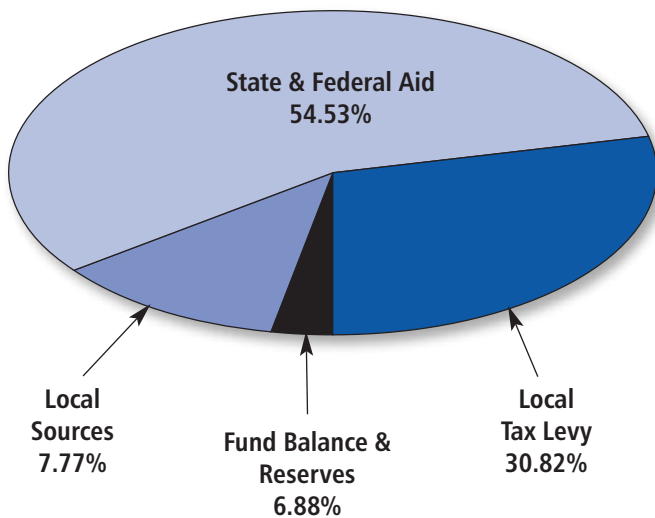
Rensselaer City School District Two-Year Budget Comparison

REVENUES:

Where the money comes from...

Source of Funds	2019-2020 Budget	2020-2021 Proposed
Local Property Tax Levy	\$7,685,344	\$8,377,025
State and Federal Aid	\$14,555,511	\$14,822,229
Local Sources*	\$1,801,155	\$2,113,006
Fund Balance & Reserves	\$2,527,780	\$1,870,174
Totals:	\$26,569,790	\$27,182,434

*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, etc.



EXPENSES:

How the money is spent...

Expense Category	2019-2020 Budget	2020-2021 Proposed
ADMINISTRATION:		
Board of Education	\$41,263	\$42,247
Central Administration	\$206,408	\$210,018
Finance Services	\$411,342	\$422,772
Legal/Public Information	\$100,720	\$100,500
Central Services	\$566,028	\$599,792
Supervisory/Improvement	\$475,694	\$507,710
Fringe Benefits	\$366,225	\$416,882
Administration Total	\$2,167,680	\$2,229,921
CAPITAL:		
Operation & Maintenance	\$1,454,069	\$1,369,416
Certiorari/Judgments	\$30,000	\$30,000
Debt Service	\$4,812,900	\$4,809,400
Fringe Benefits	\$382,662	\$354,887
Capital Total	\$6,679,631	\$6,563,703
PROGRAM:		
Regular Instruction	\$5,961,343	\$5,724,897
Special Education	\$5,074,350	\$5,415,802
Occupational Education	\$215,643	\$234,830
Library/Technology	\$617,752	\$573,605
Student Services	\$1,281,436	\$1,029,531
Transportation	\$791,708	\$1,109,056
Interfund Transfers	\$50,000	\$50,000
Fringe Benefits	\$3,730,247	\$4,181,089
Program Total	\$17,722,479	\$18,318,810
Total District Budget:	\$26,569,790	\$27,182,434

What if?

This is a comparison to demonstrate what it would look like if the district had not approved a -11.1% tax levy for 2017. Comparing 2019 and 2020 tax years, taxpayers will pay 5% less with an approved 9% tax levy for the 2020-2021 school year.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total paid over 5 yrs
If the district raised taxes 2% instead of -11.1%	\$1,000	\$1,020	\$1,104.97	\$1,159.99	\$1,102.01	\$5,386.96
Current Timeline	\$1,000	\$889	\$963.05	\$1,011.01	\$1,102.01	\$4,965.07
2019 to 2020 Tax difference:						-5.00%

*This is an example for every \$1,000 paid in taxes as of 2016.

Rensselaer City School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2019-20 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2020-21 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2020-21 School Year *										
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$26,569,790	\$27,182,434	\$27,028,974										
Increase/Decrease for the 2020-21 School Year		\$612,644	\$459,184										
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.31%	1.72%										
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.81 %											
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount, Net of Reserve	\$ 7,685,344	\$ 8,377,025											
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)	\$ 7,685,344	\$ 8,377,025	\$7,685,344										
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 2,687,256	\$ 2,553,100											
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 4,998,089	\$ 4,877,269											
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$ 4,998,089	\$ 5,823,925											
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 0	(\$ 946,656)											
Administrative Component	\$ 2,167,680	\$ 2,299,921	\$ 2,208,113										
Program Component	\$ 17,722,479	\$ 18,318,810	\$ 18,260,158										
Capital Component	\$ 6,679,631	\$ 6,563,703	\$ 6,560,703										
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should the voters defeat the 2020-21 proposed budget for the second time, 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 \$128,000 in non-contingent expenditures, the budget would be further reduced. A possible, but not the final, allocation of the contingent budget is reflected in the third column of this “notice” labeled, “Contingency Budget for the 2020-21 School Year”. 													
<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>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Description</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> </tbody> </table>		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 2020-21 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹

\$ 466

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2020-2021 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, July 28, 2020, 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

Lark Rutecki, President
Jennifer Haggerty, Vice President
Dana Endres
James Preston
Vanessa Salsbury

Superintendent:
Joseph Kardash

www.rcsd.k12.ny.us

Produced by Questar III Communications Service

BUDGET VOTE
Tuesday, July 28
Auditorium Foyer
12 Noon – 9 p.m.

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 \$27,182,434 during the 2020-2021 school year and to levy the necessary tax therefore. Adoption of this budget requires a tax levy increase of \$691,681, which exceeds the statutory tax levy increase limit of negative \$254,976 for this school fiscal year and therefore exceeds the state tax cap and must be approved by sixty percent of the qualified voters present and voting.

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 forty five thousand (\$45,000) dollars, and for a term not to exceed five (5) years, the following motors vehicles: two (2) seventy-two passenger school buses; 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 _____

Impact on Your Taxes

House Value	2019-20 Taxes	ESTIMATED Proposed 2020 Taxes	ESTIMATED Additional Cost	ESTIMATED Weekly Cost
\$100,000	\$1,342	\$1,442	\$100	\$1.92
WITH STAR	\$876	\$965	\$89	\$1.71
Enhanced STAR	\$292	\$333	\$41	\$0.79
\$150,000	\$2,012	\$2,163	\$151	\$2.90
WITH STAR	\$1,547	\$1,686	\$139	\$2.67
Enhanced STAR	\$963	\$1,054	\$91	\$1.75
\$200,000	\$2,683	\$2,884	\$201	\$3.87
WITH STAR	\$2,217	\$2,407	\$190	\$3.65
Enhanced STAR	\$1,633	\$1,775	\$142	\$2.73

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter

 www.facebook.com/rencscsd

 www.twitter.com/RensselaerCSD

www.rcsd.k12.ny.us