

MAY 2014

# BUDGET ISSUE

**TIDINGS**  
FROM THE SAYVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
"THE FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS"  
SAYVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
NEWSLETTER VOLUME 29.3  
www.sayville.k12.ny.us

*In the Game of Limbo, players must successfully pass underneath the limbo bar to go on to the next round. In each successive round, the bar is lowered, and the game ends when no one can pass under the bar.*

## THIS IS NOT A GAME FOR SAYVILLE

For two consecutive years, Sayville has played this "limbo game" with the Tax Cap Levy, by staying within the cap. Each successive year, despite the District's cost-cutting measures, the State "lowered" the bar even more. Now at a 1.22% Tax Cap Levy, the "limbo bar" rests on the ground, leaving Sayville School District with difficult choices.

As fellow residents of Sayville, the members of the Sayville Board of Education are keenly aware of taxpayer fatigue. In addition, we are also concerned about our students' opportunities if we dismantle our educational programs. We have already cut spending. We have consolidated many programs. Now, the decisions we are forced to make—due to inadequate state funding, the GEA losses, and unfunded mandates—will put Sayville's competitive, public education in jeopardy.

After much deliberation, the Sayville Board of Education has finalized the 2014-2015 Proposed Budget that preserves our current programs and staff.

**With a spending increase of only 1.87% that translates into a 2.99% Proposed Tax-Rate increase, the average home assessed at \$40,000, before S.T.A.R. Exemptions, will see an estimated increase of \$18.34/month or \$220/year. However, for the first time, Sayville must pierce the 1.22% Tax Cap Levy, and as a result, will require a 60% majority to pass.**

We urge you to review this *Budget Issue of Tidings* carefully—especially page 6—and encourage you to attend the Public Hearing on May 13th, held in the High School Auditorium.

Also note that the May 20th School Budget Vote has a new location. It will be held in the Gymnasium located at the back of the Suffolk County Community College, Sayville Center at 30 Greene Avenue. Polls will open at 7 a.m. and close at 9 p.m.

As your Board of Education, we hope you will support our excellent public education programs that benefit and prepare our students for the future.



SINCERELY YOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION:  
John Verdone, PRESIDENT, Thomas Cooley, VICE PRESIDENT  
TRUSTEES: Norman deVenau, Maureen Dolan, Keith Kolar,  
Raymond J. Nelson and Deborah Van Essendelft

**PUBLIC HEARING**  
on the 2014-2015  
Proposed School Budget  
7:30 P.M.  
**Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>**  
Sayville High School Auditorium

**VOTE!**

**MAY 20<sup>th</sup>**

**NEW LOCATION:**

**Gymnasium in the  
Suffolk County Community  
College • Sayville Center  
30 Greene Avenue**

**Polls open 7 AM  
Polls close 9 PM**

2014-2015 ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET				2014-2015 PROGRAM BUDGET			
	<i>Current 2013-2014</i>	<i>Proposed 2014-2015</i>	<i>Budget Change</i>		<i>Current 2013-2014</i>	<i>Proposed 2014-2015</i>	<i>Budget Change</i>
Board of Education	\$23,895	\$23,895	\$0	<b>LEGAL SERVICES TOTAL</b>	\$187,357	\$190,167	\$2,810
District Clerk	10,809	11,009	200	In-service Training	89,200	91,036	1,836
District Meetings	27,581	28,336	755	Teaching-Day School	2,017,375	2,111,042	93,667
Superintendent's Office	328,951	337,647	8,696	General Instruction, K-5	6,577,477	6,682,221	104,744
Business Office	882,775	931,742	48,967	General Instruction, 6	1,124,642	1,158,768	34,126
Auditing Services	83,312	87,513	4,201	Language Arts-English, 7-12	1,664,674	1,681,822	17,148
Treasurer	11,559	11,787	228	Mathematics, 7-12	1,577,729	1,556,790	(20,939)
Admin Fees for Debt Service	2,500	2,500	0	Science, 7-12	2,148,667	2,129,695	(18,972)
Legal Services	62,000	62,930	930	Social Studies, 7-12	1,757,132	1,820,799	63,667
Personnel Office	333,482	347,990	14,508	Business Education, 6-12	116,426	222,415	105,989
Records Management	35,261	36,437	1,176	Technology Education, 6-12	837,955	764,946	(73,009)
Public Information	95,600	55,882	(39,718)	Home & Career Skills, 6-12	173,937	181,690	7,753
Printing Office	225,983	232,777	6,794	Health, 6-12	348,997	357,527	8,530
General Insurance	408,044	420,285	12,241	Alternative School, 10-12	113,006	113,217	211
School Association Dues	23,125	23,590	465	Schoolwide Instruction, 6-12	98,359	98,359	0
BOCES Services Admin	258,654	263,827	5,173	General Instruction, K-12	10,000	9,000	(1,000)
BOCES Rental Costs	158,938	162,117	3,179	Music, K-12	1,520,438	1,546,337	25,899
Curriculum Office	281,832	267,989	(13,843)	Art, K-12	790,564	839,539	48,975
Pupil Services Office	74,412	76,778	2,366	Physical Education, K-12	1,178,457	1,175,489	(2,968)
Special Education Office	497,258	520,665	23,407	Foreign Language, 6-12	1,286,712	1,352,559	65,847
Principals' Offices	2,482,758	2,865,483	382,725	Gifted & Talented, 4-12	119,165	122,408	3,243
Plant Operation & Custodial	100,843	116,920	16,077	Handicapped Pupils, K-12	9,257,146	9,571,232	314,086
Computer Instruction K-12	165,124	173,731	8,607	Speech Instruction, K-12	662,961	672,660	9,699
Adult Ed	72,528	72,997	469	Non-English Speaking, K-12	47,642	36,099	(11,543)
Summer School	12,518	13,154	636	Corrective Reading, K-12	891,857	921,440	29,583
Admin Benefits/Contractual Total	2,562,237	3,007,262	445,025	Occupational Education, 11-12	738,320	672,450	(65,870)
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE TOTALS</b>	<b>\$9,221,979</b>	<b>\$10,155,243</b>	<b>\$933,264</b>	Instructional Materials AV	243,443	251,770	8,327
				Library	704,647	694,366	(10,281)
				Computer Instruction, K-12	2,173,004	2,441,696	268,692
				Attendance, K-12	167,860	172,977	5,117
				Guidance, 6-12	885,662	910,232	24,570
				Health Services, K-12	511,909	517,297	5,388
				Diagnostic Screening, K-12	14,760	14,760	0
				Psychological Services, K-12	621,960	639,917	17,957
				Social Work Services, K-12	469,357	489,394	20,037
				Co-Curricular Activities	410,916	415,890	4,974
				Interscholastic Athletics	1,031,432	1,037,534	6,102
				Intra-murals	11,000	11,000	0
				Teaching-Adult Ed.	69,854	71,182	1,328
				Teaching- Summer School	71,292	72,108	816
				District Transportation Service	77,624	77,574	(50)
				Contract Transportation	3,465,712	3,535,656	69,944
				Public Transportation	2,300	2,300	0
				BOCES Transportation Service	32,200	33,166	966
				Community Recreation (Pool)	115,260	115,437	177
				Program benefits Total	18,413,266	18,109,184	(304,082)
<b>CAPITAL TOTALS</b>	<b>\$15,409,585</b>	<b>\$15,286,283</b>	<b>(\$123,302)</b>	<b>PROGRAM TOTALS</b>	<b>\$64,829,653</b>	<b>\$65,693,147</b>	<b>\$863,494</b>

**PROPOSED 2014-2015 BUDGET: \$91,134,673**

# THE 2014-2015 PROPOSED BUDGET SUMMARY

**PERCENT INCREASE IN SCHOOL TAX RATE: 2.99%**

WHICH IS ABOVE THE CALCULATED TAX LEVY CAP AND REQUIRES A 60% MAJORITY

<b>THREE-PART BUDGET</b>	<i>ADOPTED BUDGET 2013-2014</i>	<i>PROPOSED BUDGET 2014-2015</i>	<i>INCREASE/ (DECREASE)</i>
<b>ADMINISTRATION BUDGET</b>	<b>\$9,221,979</b>	<b>\$10,155,243</b>	<b>\$933,264</b>
<b>CAPITAL BUDGET</b>	<b>15,409,585</b>	<b>15,286,283</b>	<b>(123,302)</b>
<b>PROGRAM BUDGET</b>	<b>64,829,653</b>	<b>65,693,147</b>	<b>863,494</b>
<b>TOTAL SCHOOL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$89,461,217</b>	<b>\$91,134,673</b>	<b>\$1,673,456</b>

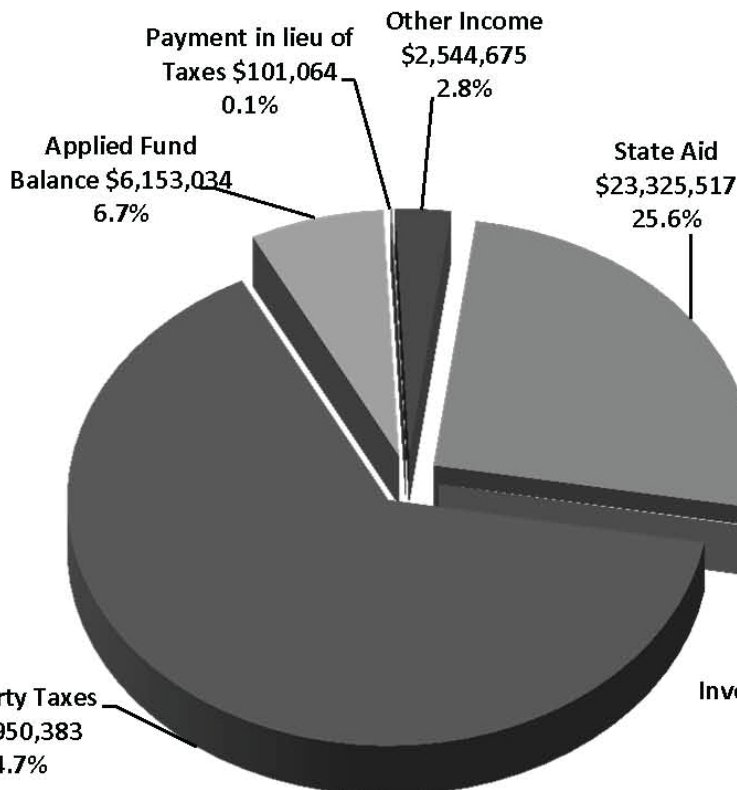
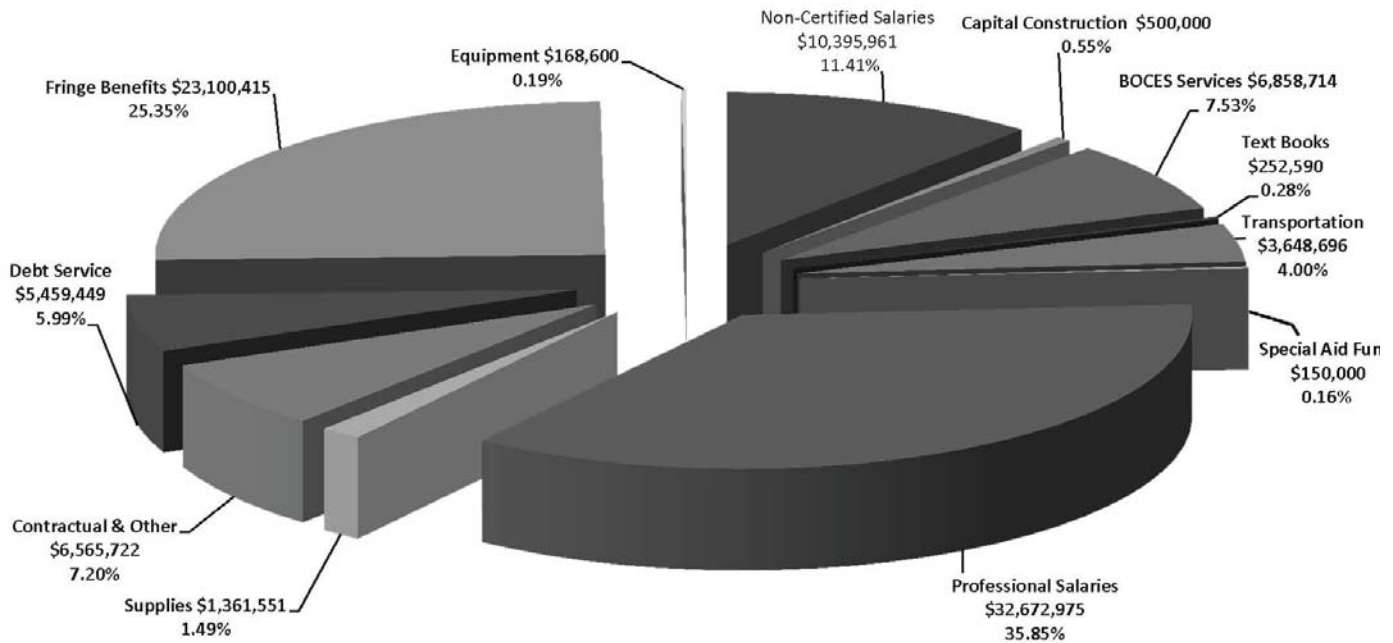
**PERCENT INCREASE IN SCHOOL BUDGET: 1.87%**

<b>BUDGET REVENUES</b>	<i>ADOPTED BUDGET 2013-2014</i>	<i>PROPOSED BUDGET 2014-2015</i>	<i>INCREASE/ (DECREASE)</i>
<b>STATE AID</b>	<b>\$23,607,272</b>	<b>\$23,325,517</b>	<b>(\$281,755)</b>
<b>PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>101,064</b>	<b>101,064</b>
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>	<b>2,554,151</b>	<b>2,544,675</b>	<b>(9,476)</b>
<b>INVESTMENT INCOME</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>
<b>APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>6,013,438</b>	<b>6,153,034</b>	<b>139,596</b>
<b>PROPERTY TAX LEVY</b>	<b>57,236,356</b>	<b>58,950,383</b>	<b>1,714,027</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$89,461,217</b>	<b>\$91,134,673</b>	<b>\$1,673,456</b>

<b>ESTIMATED SCHOOL TAX RATE</b>	<i>ADOPTED BUDGET 2013-2014</i>	<i>PROPOSED BUDGET 2014-2015</i>	<i>INCREASE/ (DECREASE)</i>
<b>ESTIMATED TAX RATE-HOMESTEAD (PER \$100 OF ASSESSED VALUE)</b>	<b>18.347</b>	<b>18.896</b>	<b>0.55</b>

# 2014-2015 PROPOSED BUDGET EXPENDITURES & REVENUES

## YOUR TAX DOLLAR Expenditures



*The two Pie Charts (above and below) show the breakdown of the 2014-2015 Proposed Budget's Expenditures and Revenues.*

## YOUR TAX DOLLAR Revenues

# NEW YORK STATE RULES REGARDING THE CONTINGENCY BUDGET

Should the Proposed Budget fail the first time...

New York school boards may decide to:

- put up the same budget for revote;
- put up a revised budget for revote;
- or adopt a Contingency Budget.

\*\*\*\*\*IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT Sayville BOE's plan **to revise** the budget ON PAGE 6.\*\*\*\*\*

The most drastic change affects budgets that **fail twice** because school districts must adopt a Contingency Budget with a ZERO percent increase on the current tax levy. Under a Contingency Budget there are **TWO** spending cap limitations:

## 1. ADMINISTRATIVE CAP

ADMINISTRATIVE CAPS are determined by taking the ratio between the Administrative and Program Budgets, plus determining the 'lesser' of the calculated Administrative Caps for 2013-14 or the defeated 2014-15 Budget. (See chart below.)

ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET CAPS		
ACTUAL 2013-2014	PROPOSED 2014-15	CONTINGENT BUDGET
14.22%	15.46%	<b>14.22%</b>

Therefore, under a Contingency Budget, the Administrative Cap can be no more than 14.22%

## and 2. ZERO PERCENT TAX LEVY CAP

On a Contingency Budget, Sayville School District would have to cut \$1,714,027 from instructional/support programs, and staffing to achieve a ZERO PERCENT TAX LEVY INCREASE (See below).

### To Achieve 0% Increase What Would Be Cut?

#### Non-contingent Items

- ADMINISTRATIVE Budget** ..... -\$855,000
- Staffing, nonessential supplies, equipment, travel, etc.
- PROGRAM Budget**..... -\$289,027
- Staffing, student supplies, new equipment, athletics, cocurricular, summer school, increased class size, etc.
- CAPITAL Budget** ..... -\$570,000
- NO Community-Use of Buildings and Grounds (unless paid), staffing reductions, capital projects, etc.

## CONTINGENCY BUDGET CONTAINS

1. Various expenditures that are:
  - legal,
  - specifically authorized by mandates or statutes, and
  - maintain educational programs, preserve property, & maintain the health & safety of students & staff;
2. Reductions in Noncontingent Items: Nonessential supplies, equipment, travel
3. Reductions in Program Budget: staffing, student supplies, new equipment, athletics, cocurricular, summer school;
4. Increased class size;
5. Restrictions for Community use of Buildings & Grounds.

# IF THE PROPOSED BUDGET FAILS on May 20th...

## THE SAYVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION'S PLAN

The Sayville Board of Education will reduce the failed Budget by \$1,013,755 to meet the 1.22% Tax Cap Levy and put this Revised Budget up for revote on June 17th. This revote requires a simple majority. To reach the Cap, Sayville must "dig out" by reducing *SIX* elementary school FULL-TIME positions and eliminating programs that would have the least impact on our current High School students. The District will make cuts by:

- Re-districting the three elementary schools and consolidating staff as a K-1 Center, a 2-3 Center, and a 4-5 Center. (This requires one additional large bus.)
- Eliminating Assistant Varsity Coaches (except Swimming or Spring Track)
- Eliminating all JV & MS Assistant Coaches
- Eliminating Secondary Summer School
- Eliminating Curriculum Leadership
- Eliminating positions: clerical, custodial, aides, monitors, security, tech support, and lab managers
- Decreasing 0.8 FTE at secondary level.

..... IF THE BUDGET FAILS TWICE, NO VOTER APPROVAL IS NECESSARY. ....

SAYVILLE IMMEDIATELY GOES ON CONTINGENCY (Contingency is explained on page 5 of this newsletter). The **impact** of Contingency is severe. It **reduces** the current School Budget by **\$1,714,027**. Contingency budget is a 0% increase on the prior year 'tax levy'—not the tax rate! **COMBINED WITH THE CUTS LISTED ABOVE** to meet the Tax Cap Levy, Contingency will require Sayville Schools to **additionally**:

**Reduce Middle School's 9-Period Day to 8 with loss of:**

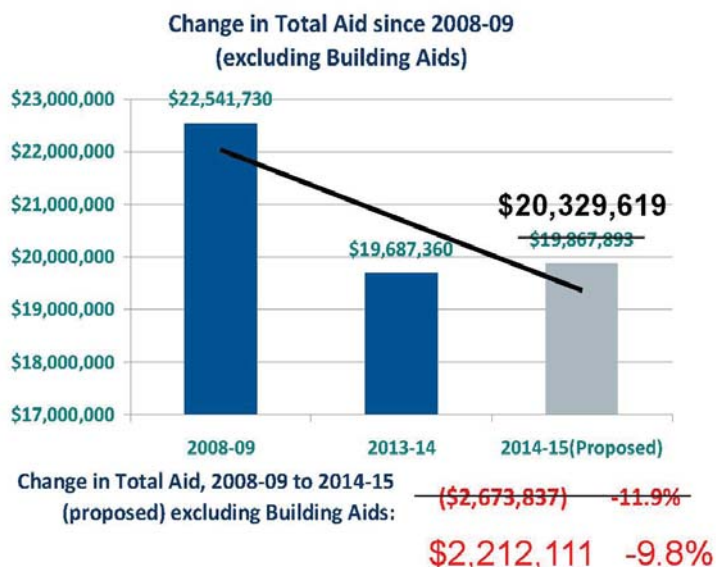
- Band, Orchestra, and Chorus before or after school
- Eliminate Studio Art Acceleration
- Biology Lab before or after school
- Eliminate: Current Issues, MST, Planetarium, Pathways for Success,
- Communication Skills, Computer Applications, Wellness and Computer Elective

**Reduce High School's 9-Period Day to 8 with:**

- Reduction: NINE FTE of Electives
  - AP Courses will not run across disciplines
- Eliminate Middle School Sports, an Administrative position and support staff

## The State Aid Reality Check!

(crossouts indicate updated information from Governor's 2014-2015 Final Budget)



### History of aid lost to Gap Elimination Adjustments

2010-11:	(\$2,064,648)
2011-12:	(\$3,777,104)
2012-13:	(\$3,403,822)
2013-14:	(\$3,198,942)
2014-15 (Proposed):	<del>(\$3,118,969)</del>
	<b>(\$2,746,932)</b>

### WATCH THE GAP!

NYS has taken over  
\$20 million in Aid  
from Sayville!

SOURCE: Compiled by the Council from NYS Education Department School Aid data; data for years prior to 2013-14 are as estimated at time state budget was enacted.

# ALSO ON THE BALLOT

## SAYVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Budget: Tax Levy	Estimated Homestead Tax RATE PER \$100
2014-2015 • \$56,400	2014-2015 • \$0.018
2013-2014 • \$55,145	2013-2014 • \$0.018

## SAYVILLE LIBRARY

Budget: Tax Levy	Estimated Homestead Tax RATE PER \$100
2014-2015 • \$3,692,405	2014-2015 • \$1.1836*
2013-2014 • \$3,644,285	2013-2014 • \$1.1681

\*based on Public Library's projections

(All Tax Rates are expressed per \$100 of Assessed Valuation.)

## PUBLIC NOTICE REGARDING REGISTER INSPECTION

*Any person shall be entitled to have his/her name placed upon the register of the School District, provided that at the time he/she is known or proven to the satisfaction of the District Clerk to be then or thereafter entitled to vote at said Annual School District Meeting to be held on May 20, 2014. Said Register will be filed in the Office of the School District Clerk, 99 Greeley Avenue, Sayville, New York, and will be open for inspection on each of the five days prior to and the day set for the meeting or election, (except Sunday, and on Saturday by appointment only, by calling 244-6510) between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.*

## WATCH THE GAP!

**What is the GAP ELIMINATION ADJUSTMENT?** The GEA is an annual aid "take back" by the state to balance the state budget and has significantly reduced the total amount of State Aid to Sayville Schools for the past five years: The State has taken over \$20 million from the Sayville taxpayers over a five-year period. **(See chart on opposite page.)**

Write or call your State Senator (Zeldin or Boyle), Assemblyman Garbarino, and write Governor Cuomo! Demand that they **eliminate** the **GAP ELIMINATION ADJUSTMENT (GEA)**.

## CANDIDATES FOR... BOARD OF EDUCATION TRUSTEES Seats (3-year Term)

THOMAS COOLEY | UNOPPOSED

DEBORAH VAN ESSEDELFT | UNOPPOSED

## LIBRARY TRUSTEES Seat (5-year Term)

JOHN WHITBREAD | UNOPPOSED

The 2014-2015 Proposed Spending Plan of \$91,134,673 represents a 1.87% increase over the current school year, and a projected tax-rate increase of 2.99%, which is **OVER** the 1.22% Calculated Tax Cap Levy, requiring a 60% majority.

## CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS!

- GarbarinoA@assembly.state.ny.us
- <http://www.nysenate.gov/senator/lee-m-zeldin>
- pboyle@nysenate.gov
- <http://www.governor.ny.gov/contact/GovernorContactForm.php>

**The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo**  
Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224


# TIDINGS

FROM THE SAYVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

LINDA A. MITTIGA, SAYVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER & DISTRICT WEBSITE EDITOR

DR. WALTER F. SCHATNER  
**SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**  
99 GREELEY AVENUE  
SAYVILLE, NEW YORK 11782

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
SAYVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
School Tax Code 566

 **VOTE!**  
**MAY 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**NEW LOCATION:**  
**Gymnasium in the**  
**Suffolk County Community**  
**College • Sayville Center**  
**30 Greene Avenue**  
**Polls open 7 AM**  
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**PUBLIC HEARING**  
on the 2014-2015  
Proposed School Budget  
**7:30 p.m.**  
**Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>**  
Sayville High School  
Auditorium

\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*\*  
Postal Customer

**SUMMARY OF THE**  
**2014-2015**  
**PROPOSED BUDGET**

This fiscally responsible spending plan is a complete budget package that:

- Preserves existing instructional and support programs;
- Has a Proposed Tax-Rate increase of 2.99%;
- Continues to provide our students with educational opportunities and challenges that will help them succeed.

**VOTING REQUIREMENTS**  
TO BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE ON  
**TUESDAY, MAY 20<sup>TH</sup>**  
ONE MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

1. Be a U.S. citizen.
2. Be 18 years of age or older.
3. Be a resident of the Sayville School District for at least 30 days prior to the voting date.
4. Be registered to vote in the Sayville School District.

NOTE: General election registration qualifies residents.

**REGISTRATION** Registration for new residents, residents who have moved within the district, and residents who have not voted in a Sayville School District election since January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 can register either:

1. Until Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at the Administration Building on 99 Greeley Avenue, Sayville, NY, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

OR

2. On Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> for Evening Registration which is between the hours of 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. in the LOBBY at SAYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL, West Sayville, NY 11796

### TRANSPORTATION POLICY

The Proposed Budget reflects the revised Board of Education transportation policy for elementary students which was passed by Referendum in May of 2012.



Students in the following grades, as indicated, are eligible to receive transportation.

GRADE	DISTANCE
K-5	Beyond 1/2 mile
6-12	Beyond 1 1/2 miles

No transportation is provided for students traveling to any school beyond 15 miles.