



REVISED BUDGET VOTE

BOARD ADOPTS REVISED BUDGET PROPOSAL: Reductions Made to Meet Tax Cap Criteria

The Saugerties Board of Education has adopted a revised budget of \$77,182,384, which is \$569,061 **less than** the first budget that was presented to voters on May 21. The proposition received 57.9% “yes” votes; however, a 60% approval was needed to pass. The new proposal, which was adopted by the Board of Education on June 4, was reduced to meet the Tax Cap criteria for a simple majority voter approval of 50% plus one. Polls will be open on Tuesday, June 18, from 6 AM to 9 PM, at a single polling location: the Saugerties Junior High School gymnasium, which is located at 310 Washington Ave. in Saugerties.

“The Board carefully considered all of the feedback from the Exit Poll, and the input provided through emails and conversations with community members,” said Superintendent Daniel Erceg, Ed.D. “The decision to make additional cuts was not an easy one. However, the risk of presenting a budget that did not meet community approval—which would result in an automatic contingency budget and require additional cuts of more than \$2.6 million—was far too great.”

REDUCTIONS TO REACH THE TAX CAP LEVEL

The revised budget includes all of the budget reductions included in the initial proposal presented to voters in May, plus an additional \$569,061 of cuts, which include the elimination of an assistant principal at the High School, a position in the Business Office, an athletic trainer, and three non-mandated teaching assistants. In addition, a counselor position will be reduced to part-time. Other new reductions include the elimination of non-essential technology purchases, District-sponsored field trips, modified sports, and armed security at Mount Marion, which will have a new security vestibule in place next school year. A new request for proposal (RFP) would also be executed to seek a Pre-K provider that does not require funding beyond the grant levels available. For a comprehensive list of all budget reductions, visit www.saugerties.k12.ny.us/budget.

OTHER BUDGET MODIFICATIONS TO PROVIDE MANDATED SERVICES

The budget also includes an additional speech therapist and physical therapist to provide mandated services to students in our buildings, as well as students who are ages 3, 4, or 5 and are not enrolled in school. Currently, there is a need for increased services in the community.

The cost of these positions is expected to be partially offset by reimbursements from Ulster County.

The revised budget also supports a full-time reading specialist to provide mandated specialized reading instruction for students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs). Having a dedicated staff member to provide these required services will reduce or eliminate the costs associated with after-school tutoring payments that the District currently incurs and will address increasing student need across the District.

TAXPAYER COST OF THE REVISED BUDGET

The proposed budget reflects a tax levy increase of 3.62%, which is at the allowable level calculated under the New York State Tax Cap formula for a simple majority voter approval. Many factors affect the specific impact the tax levy would have on an individual’s tax bill, such as assessed value, equalization rates, and any STAR or local Firefighter Exemptions the taxpayer may receive. The following estimates reflect the anticipated cost for a taxpayer without the STAR Exemption on homes with various assessed values.

Assessed Value	Monthly Increase	Annual Increase
\$200,000	\$9.17	\$110
\$300,000	\$13.75	\$165
\$400,000	\$18.33	\$220

CONTINUED ON BACK

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- Budget reduced to meet Tax Cap criteria
- Requires a simple majority voter approval
- Preserves Music, Art, Clubs, and all Varsity & JV Athletic programs
- Provides Social Workers & School Psychologists in each building
- Continues armed security at Cahill, Riccardi, Grant D. Morse, and the Junior/Senior High School

VOTE! TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2024 **NEW VOTE LOCATION!** 6 AM-9 PM JUNIOR HS GYM

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE BUDGET DOES NOT PASS?

If the revised budget is not approved, the District must adopt a contingency budget, which would result in cutting an additional \$1,957,018, eliminating many non-mandated opportunities for students, which could include Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, athletics, art, clubs, mental health supports, and all armed security. By law, all non-emergency capital updates, non-essential equipment purchases, and free public use of our buildings would also be eliminated.

WHY ARE WE VOTING AT THE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL?

Students will be in school on June 18 when the revised budget vote will be held. Consolidating to a single polling location on a campus that serves older students will help us to better secure the premises. In addition, the use of student-occupied spaces for voting at the elementary schools while school is in session is not feasible. The change also ensures that adequate parking for voters is available, and that school buses can safely operate during arrival and departure times. There is also an approximate \$4,200 cost savings associated with the change.

VOTING OPTIONS

All eligible voters are encouraged to participate in this important decision, either in person or by Absentee or Early Mail Ballot. Applications for these ballots are available in the Hildebrandt Building behind the Jr./Sr. High School until June 17, 2024. Completed ballots **must be received** by the District Clerk in the Hildebrandt Building by 5 PM on June 18, 2024.

Saugerties Central School District
Call Box A
Saugerties, NY 12477
845-247-6500
www.saugerties.k12.ny.us

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NEW VOTE LOCATION!

TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2024

6 AM-9 PM

JUNIOR HSGYM



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Additional details are available on our website at www.saugerties.k12.ny.us/budget. Questions can also be directed to Dr. Daniel Erceg by calling 845-247-6550, ext. 9001.

School District Budget Notice

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL	Budget Adopted for the 2023-2024 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2024-2025 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2024-2025 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$71,192,559	\$77,182,384	\$75,225,366
Increase/Decrease for the 2024-25 School Year		\$5,989,825	\$4,032,807
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		8.41%	5.66%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.12%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$44,185,168	\$45,785,658	
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)	\$44,185,168	\$45,785,658	\$44,185,168
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$1,002,427	\$1,185,105	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$43,182,741	\$44,600,553	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$43,182,741	\$44,600,553	
I. Difference: (G - H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$0	\$0	
Administrative component	\$6,943,498	\$6,878,259	\$6,878,259
Program component	\$57,426,065	\$62,776,032	\$60,919,014
Capital component	\$6,822,996	\$7,528,093	\$7,428,093

In the event the budget is defeated, the Board of Education must adopt a contingency budget, pursuant to Section 2023 of Education Law, in which the tax levy may not exceed the prior year tax levy and is subject to an administrative cap. By law, certain items are required to be excluded from the contingent budget, including equipment purchases, Capital Outlay project appropriations, non-represented personnel salary increases, and costs associated with community use of the school facilities.

** 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)

Description	Amount
No Separate Propositions	

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

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2024-2025 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption savings¹	\$471

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2024-25 by the qualified voters of the Saugerties Central School District, Ulster County, New York, will be held at Saugerties Junior High School in said district on Tuesday, June 18, 2024 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., prevailing time in the Saugerties Junior High School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.