



Eastchester Eagle

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE EASTCHESTER UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

**A Spanish version of this newsletter is available upon request at the District Clerk's Office.
Please contact Jeanette Messina at (914) 793-6130 ext. 4211**

Una versión en español de este boletín está disponible a solicitud en la Oficina del Secretario del Distrito. Comuníquese con Jeanette Messina al (914) 793-6130 ext. 4211

Dear Eastchester Community Members,

We turn our attention to this spring's annual budget vote in the context of a COVID-19 pandemic that is affecting life in unprecedented ways. The critical task of setting a budget that supports the programs and services necessary to meet the needs of Eastchester students in grades K-12 has certainly been complicated by the effects of the current pandemic. The challenge of providing the resources necessary to increase excellence while remaining fiscally responsible in a time of fiscal uncertainty resulted in just a few key budget goals for the 20-21 school year:

- Maintain current programs and class sizes
- Meet some of our most critical infrastructure needs
- Comply with the tax cap

Our District's State Aid revenue stream has for years remained flat at a rate that is under 50% of the amount promised, resulting in chronic underfunding to the tune of about \$4 million per year. This ongoing Foundation Aid situation continues to constrain our ability to fund programs and services that would fuel greater levels of educational excellence for the benefit of Eastchester's children. I want to thank the hundreds of citizens who took the time to write to elected officials to advocate for our fair share of aid. Nonetheless, given the current situation with state revenues, our budget assumes flat or decreasing Foundation Aid for 2020-21.

The budget being proposed this year carries forward what is currently in place. The only proposed additions are:

- Increase one nurse position from 10-months to 12-months - approximately \$4,000
- Increase one special education position at EHS by .02 - approximately \$17,000
- Security enhancement - approximately \$65,000

Included in the budget is a Transfer to Capital of \$1,500,000 to partially replace gymnasium roofs at the Middle and High Schools, along with other projects identified in the District's Five-Year Capital Plan.

Of critical importance, by the Governor's Executive Order, this year's vote will be strictly by mail-in ballot. Ballots (including a postage-provided, pre-addressed envelope) will be mailed to all registered voters following the May 27th Budget Hearing and must be returned no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 9, 2020.

You will be asked to vote on the annual budget as well as elect three members to serve as Board of Education trustees. You can find more details about the proposed budget on our website, at <https://district.eastchesterschools.org>.

I thank you in advance for your participation and wish you all the best.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert Glass, Superintendent of Schools

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget
\$88,835,000

Budget to Budget Increase
1.4%

Tax Levy Increase
1.78%

SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE

There will be NO in-person voting due to the COVID-19 emergency. All ballots must be received or dropped off to the District Clerk at the Central Office building located at 580 White Plains Road no later than June 9, 2020 at 5 p.m.



2020-21 Revenue Summary

REVENUE CATEGORY	2019-20 BUDGET	2020-21 PROPOSED BUDGET	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
Property Taxes	\$75,043,000	\$76,380,000	\$1,337,000	1.8%
Other Revenues	\$4,160,000	\$3,755,000	\$(405,000)	-9.7%
State/Federal Aid	\$7,900,000	\$8,200,000	\$300,000	3.8%
Assigned Fund Balance	\$500,000	\$500,000	–	0.0%
Transfer from Debt Service	–	–	–	0.0%
GRAND TOTALS	\$87,603,000	\$88,835,000	\$1,232,000	1.4%

2020-21 Expenditure Summary

BUDGET CATEGORY	2019-20 BUDGET	2020-21 PROPOSED BUDGET	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
Administration	\$3,276,740	\$3,319,134	\$42,394	1.3%
Facilities/Operations/Security	\$5,946,016	\$6,725,557	\$779,541	13.1%
Instruction	\$48,459,463	\$48,871,598	\$412,135	0.9%
Transportation	\$3,479,917	\$3,498,986	\$19,069	0.5%
Employee Benefits	\$18,996,820	\$19,119,216	\$122,396	0.6%
Debt Service	\$5,744,044	\$5,600,509	\$(143,535)	-2.5%
Transfers to Other Funds	\$1,700,000	\$1,700,000	–	0.0%
GRAND TOTALS	\$87,603,000	\$88,835,000	\$1,232,000	1.4%

Projected Tax Bill Impact

NOTE: The budget to budget increase is \$1,232,000. The tax levy increase, which reflects the impact on a homeowner's tax bill, is 1.78%, which is tax cap compliant.

NOTE: This projection assumes a total static assessment base. A change in assessments as calculated by the Town of Eastchester may have an impact on this estimate of the tax impact. Lower assessments in the town may raise the tax rate. Final rates are set by the Town of Eastchester in August.

AVERAGE

ASSESSED VALUE	\$5,000	\$7,000	\$8,900	\$11,000	\$13,000
2019-2020 School Tax Bill*	\$7,471	\$10,460	\$13,299	\$16,437	\$19,425
Estimated 2020-2021 Tax Bill*	\$7,607	\$10,649	\$13,540	\$16,735	\$19,778
GRAND TOTALS	\$135	\$190	\$241	\$298	\$352

*Does not include STAR impact.

2019-2020 Tax Rate per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation.....	\$1,494.26
2020-2021 Tax Rate Impact per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation	\$27.08
2020-2021 Estimated Tax Rate per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation	\$1,521.35



Due to the COVID-19 Crisis, the budget vote will occur on June 9, 2020 by absentee ballot.



Voting Information

What You Will See on the Ballot

Proposition #1

Shall Eastchester Union Free School District of the Town of Eastchester, Westchester County, New York adopt a budget for the school year 2020-2021 for the Schools comprising said Eastchester Union Free School District, in the gross sum of \$88,835,000 and raise the necessary taxes required for said budget in one sum by tax upon the taxable property of the District?

Vote for Three:

Members of the Board of Education for three (3) full terms of three (3) years each commencing July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2023. Indicate your choices by placing an "X" in the appropriate boxes.)

Please vote for three (3):

_____ Vito Catania
_____ Judah Holstein
_____ Robert Summer

Am I Eligible to Vote?

In order to vote in the district election, you must be:

- A citizen of the United States of America.
- A resident of the Eastchester School District for at least 30 days prior to the vote date.
- At least 18 years of age by the vote date.
- A registered voter with either the school district or with the County Board of Elections and not otherwise prohibited from voting under the provisions of section 5-106 of the Election Law.

You are registered to vote if:

- You are on the Westchester County voter list AND have voted at least once during the last four years, OR
- You are registered with the school district.

Absentee Ballots

In accordance with the NYS Governor's Executive Order No. 202.26, the Annual Budget Vote and School Board Election will be held remotely on June 9, 2020 with voting to be conducted by absentee ballot only.

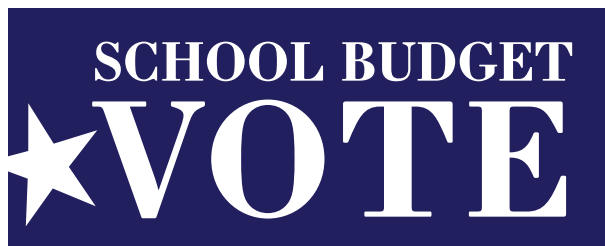
All qualified voters who are registered to vote for the June 9, 2020 budget vote/election will be sent an absentee ballot.

Deadlines

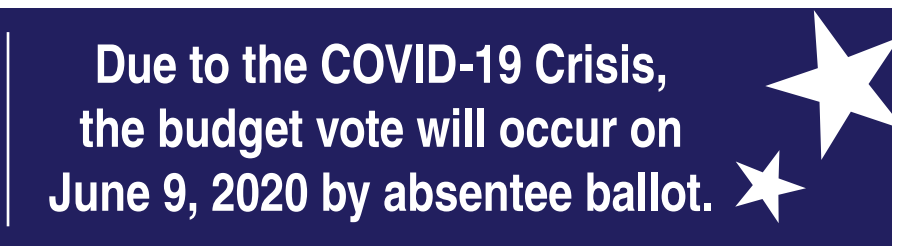
To be counted, absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk not later than 5:00 pm on June 9, 2020.

Registration Applications

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there will be no personal registration of voters conducted by the School District. A qualified voter may register to vote in the June 9, 2020 budget vote/election by registering to vote with the Westchester County Board of Elections. You may contact the Westchester County Board of Elections for additional information at: Westchester County Board of Elections, 148 Martine Avenue, White Plains, New York 10601, or by calling (914) 995-2000, or by their website at: <https://citizenparticipation.westchestergov.com/register-to-vote>. You may also register through the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles website at <https://dmv.ny.gov/more-info/electronic-voter-registration-application>.



**SCHOOL BUDGET
★ VOTE**



**Due to the COVID-19 Crisis,
the budget vote will occur on
June 9, 2020 by absentee ballot.**



EASTCHESTER
 UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
 SOARING TO EXCELLENCE
580 WHITE PLAINS ROAD
EASTCHESTER, NY 10709
(914) 793-6130

BOARD OF EDUCATION
 Dr. Cheryl Smith, *President*
 Robert Summer, *Vice President*
 Sally Veltidi, *Secretary*
 David Carforo, *Trustee*
 Vito Catania, *Trustee*
 Tara Conte, *Trustee*
 Judah Holstein, *Trustee*
 Erin Murray, *Trustee*
 Steve Projansky, *Trustee*

For more 2020-21 Budget Information, go to www.EastchesterSchools.org

2020-21 School 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	\$ 87,603,000	\$88,835,000	\$87,498,000
Increase/Decrease for the 2020-21 School Year		\$1,232,000	(\$105,000)
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		1.41%	(.12%)
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.81%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 75,043,000	\$76,380,000	
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)	\$ 75,043,000	\$76,380,000	\$ 75,043,000
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 4,706,987	\$4,640,247	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 70,336,582	\$71,739,980	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$ 70,336,013	\$71,739,753	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 569	\$227	
Administrative Component	\$ 9,103,427	\$9,443,717	\$9,198,717
Program Component	\$ 64,096,274	\$64,352,918	\$64,760,918
Capital Component	\$ 14,403,299	\$15,038,365	\$13,538,365

*Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2019-20 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

Under a contingency budget, which does not allow for any increase in the maximum allowable tax levy from the current year, the following items will be eliminated: the Transfer to Capital expenditure to renovate leaking roofs at the High School and Middle School will be eliminated, teacher professional development will be reduced by approximately \$245,000. All outside groups must be charged the full cost of using the District's 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
None	None

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

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2020-21 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ***	\$2,250
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The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2020-21 by the qualified voters of the Eastchester Union Free School District, Westchester County, New York, will be held by absentee ballot only. No in-person polling is permitted. Each registered voter will receive an absentee ballot via USPS mail which includes a postage-paid return envelope. All ballots must be received by the District by 5:00 p.m. on June 9, 2020 to be counted. The District will be providing a secure ballot drop-box located at the District Office at 580 White Plains Road, Eastchester, New York, 10709 for those who wish to hand deliver their ballot.