



SOUTH ORANGETOWN Central School District

BUDGET EDITION

Dear Community Members,

In April, the South Orangetown Central School District Board of Education adopted an expenditure budget for the 2022-23 school year in the amount of \$101,554,865. The proposed school budget preserves comprehensive, high-quality educational programs and services for our students while remaining within the state-mandated tax cap.

Key considerations for 2022-23 budget development:

- Preservation of programs and personnel to ensure that all students meet or exceed annual targets for academic performance and college- and/or career-readiness;
- Services and supports to effectively address spiking academic, mental health and basic student needs, such as food and clothing, resulting from the pandemic and longer-term demographic changes in our community;
- Capacity to accommodate projected enrollment growth over the next decade;
- Compliance with New York State Education Department mandates;
- Mounting inflation as the school district continues to navigate pandemic and economic challenges, such as sharp increases in health insurance and retirement benefit costs; and,
- Financial impact on South Orangetown taxpayers

SOCSD maintains a tight focus on fiscal responsibility. Staffing reductions achieved primarily through attrition during the 2009-2020 enrollment decline enabled the school district to gain efficiencies without impacting staff-to-student ratios. Resources have been shifted to strategically address emerging student needs, including the use of federal COVID-19 relief funds and targeted reductions, while controlling the budget-to-budget increase. Expenditures and revenues continue to be carefully monitored to minimize impacts to our long-term financial stability and capacity to fulfill our mission as local and global markets change.

In addition to the budget vote, the ballot contains a proposition to extend the District's Capital Reserve Fund by 10 years and increase the ultimate amount of the Fund by \$10,000,000 to offset future capital projects. This proposition would allow the District to replenish savings which will be depleted as \$18,000,000 in existing capital reserves are used to partially fund the voter-approved 2022 Capital Improvements Bond project.

The proposed 2022-23 budget reflects our community's shared commitment to our children's future and the choices that must be made when confronted with limited resources. We are thankful for the strong voter support of our March bond referendum and for South Orangetown's support of our schools and our children.

Please vote on **May 17**.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Pritchard, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Leon Jacobs
President, Board of Education



PROPOSED 2022-23 BUDGET

TAX LEVY INCREASE

2.77%

BUDGET-TO-BUDGET INCREASE

3.41%

TOTAL BUDGET

\$101,554,865

Detailed budget and voting information is posted at www.socsd.org/budget.

Si hablas español visita
www.socsd.org

VOTE

SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE • TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2022

VOTE

The South Orangetown Central School District Board of Education asks voters to consider and vote on the following propositions on **May 17, 2022**:

■ PROPOSITION #1: 2022-23 BUDGET

Shall the sums set forth by the Board of Education of the South Orangetown Central School District in the 2022-23 budget in the amount of \$101,554,865 be approved?

■ PROPOSITION #2: CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

Shall the South Orangetown Central School District increase the ultimate amount of the capital reserve fund established in 2006, and thereafter modified in 2009, 2014 and 2017, known as the “District-wide Renovations and Reconstruction Reserve Fund”, which is for the purpose of paying the costs of the renovations and reconstruction of the District’s school buildings and facilities, by an additional \$10 million over the duration of the fund, and to extend the duration of the capital reserve fund by ten years (through 2036), with the capital reserve fund to be funded through the transfer from unassigned appropriations in the general fund at the end of each fiscal year to the “District-wide Renovations and Reconstruction Reserve Fund”?

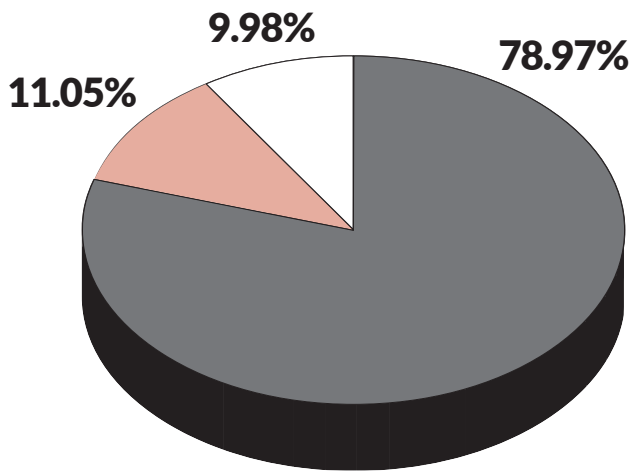
■ ELECTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

An election will be held for two (2) Board of Education seats. The full, three-year term for each seat is July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2025. Following are the candidates for the two vacancies in the order they will appear on the ballot:

Seat 1: Daniel Lamadrid (incumbent) and Steven Finn

Seat 2: Dave Sansone and Cara Stepanian (incumbent)

ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES



■ 78.97% Program.....	\$80,191,215
■ 11.05% Capital.....	\$11,226,439
□ 9.98% Administrative	\$10,137,211
TOTAL	\$ 101,554,865

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CAPITAL PROJECTS SUMMER 2023

The proposed budget contains \$2,000,000 for minor capital projects which include:

- Renovation of accessible bathrooms at Cottage Lane Elementary School, South Orangetown Middle School and Tappan Zee High School
- Installation of a new clock/public address/lockdown system at Cottage Lane Elementary School

FOR DETAILED BUDGET AND VOTING INFORMATION PLEASE

BUDGET Q&A

Q: What has SOCS D done to contain costs while maintaining high-quality educational programs and services for students?

A: The District carefully monitors expenditures and revenues to ensure that it has the resources it needs for all students to be successful, while maximizing efficiency, reducing the overall burden on taxpayers and ensuring long-term financial stability. Ongoing cost-saving measures include competitive bidding and cooperative purchasing; participation in an energy purchasing service and Workers' Compensation Consortium; utilization of BOCES cooperative services, including special education and technology; and, outsourcing services, such as food service, transportation, cleaning and landscaping.

Further, as enrollment declined between 2009-2020, the District realized substantial staffing reductions primarily due to attrition. This helped to contain staffing costs, which comprise the majority share of any school budget. More recently, the District has leveraged COVID-19 relief funds to address student needs and made targeted, structural reductions to areas such as supplies, materials and select contractual expenses to mitigate rising retirement, health insurance and transportation costs, which account for \$2 million—nearly 60% of the 2022-23 budget-to-budget increase.

Q: What is Proposition #2 about?

A: Capital reserve funds are created with voter approval and must be used by a school district within a certain time period for capital work. School districts use these savings to reduce the tax impact of needed major capital projects on their communities and to decrease interest and other costs for bond issuance.

If approved, Proposition #2 would extend the time period for the District's existing Capital Reserve Fund by 10 years (through 2036) and increase the ultimate amount of the Fund by \$10 million to offset future capital projects. The Capital Reserve Fund currently totals \$19.4 million; however, \$18 million was

allocated by voter approval in March to partially fund the 2022 Capital Improvements Bond project. Proposition #2 would allow the District to replenish its savings over the next several years by being fiscally prudent and capturing savings to the extent possible from the annual general budget.

Q: Is the proposed tax levy increase within the cap?

A: Yes. The South Orangetown Central School District Board of Education has remained within the tax levy limit every year since the property tax cap law went into effect in 2012.

One component in New York State's tax levy limit formula is the Allowable Levy Growth Factor, which is limited to the lesser of 2% or the change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). This year, the change in CPI is 4.7%. In addition, the tax levy limit formula allows for capital exclusions which reflect the year-over-year change in capital spending from previously budgeted funds, but not from capital reserves or fund balance. Capital exclusions are increased for 2022-23, which contributes to a higher maximum tax levy limit while remaining within the tax cap.

Q: What happens if voters reject the budget?

A: If voters do not approve the proposed budget, the Board of Education may put forward the same or a revised budget for a second vote OR adopt a contingency budget with a tax levy no greater than what was levied last year. If voters reject the spending plan twice, SOCS D must adopt a contingency budget which would require the District to reduce the 2022-23 proposed budget by \$2,313,935. As a result, the minor capital project amount of \$2,000,000 and all district-wide equipment expenditures would be eliminated. Community use of facilities would be restricted, support staff and instructional positions would be reduced, along with various athletic and extracurricular activities.



Questions? Email budget@socsd.org



POLLS WILL BE OPEN TUESDAY, MAY 17 FROM 7AM UNTIL 9PM.

- **DISTRICT #1: Blauvelt residents**
South Orangetown Middle School
160 Van Wyck Road, Blauvelt
- **DISTRICT #2: Orangeburg residents**
Tappan Zee High School
15 Dutch Hill Road, Orangeburg
- **DISTRICT #3: Tappan residents**
William O. Schaefer Elementary School
140 Lester Drive, Tappan
- **DISTRICT #4: Grandview, Palisades, Piermont & Sparkill residents**
Tappan Zee Education Center
(formerly Tappan Zee Elementary)
561 Route 9W, Piermont

VOTING INFORMATION

TO BE A QUALIFIED VOTER YOU MUST BE:

- US Citizen;
- at least 18 years old by May 17, 2022;
- a School District resident for 30 days immediately preceding the vote; and,
- registered to vote with the Rockland County Board of Elections OR registered to vote with the School District and having voted in a School District election/vote during the past four (4) calendar years.

Absentee ballots are available for residents who will be out of town or unable to vote at the polls due to illness, disability or fear of COVID-19. Qualified voters may request absentee ballot applications by calling the District Clerk at **(845) 680-1012**. The application must be received by the District Clerk no more than thirty (30) days and at least seven (7) days prior to a public vote.

For more information, visit www.socsd.org/voting-information.

EASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: WWW.SOCSD.ORG/BUDGET



SOUTH ORANGETOWN Central School District

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL	Budget Adopted for the 2021-22 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2022-23 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 98,208,170	\$ 101,554,865	\$ 99,240,930
Increase/Decrease for the 2022-23 School Year		\$ 3,346,695	\$ 1,032,760
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.41%	1.05%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.7%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 83,676,185	\$ 85,990,120	
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)	\$ 83,676,185	\$ 85,990,120	\$ 83,676,185
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 2,568,600	\$ 3,030,643	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 81,107,585	\$ 82,959,477	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E-B-F+D)	\$ 81,107,585	\$ 82,959,477	
I. Difference: G-H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Administrative Component	\$ 9,859,033	\$ 10,137,211	\$ 10,104,473
Program Component	\$ 76,910,331	\$ 80,191,215	\$ 80,057,330
Capital Component	\$ 11,438,807	\$ 11,226,439	\$ 9,079,127

* Contingency Budget = proposed budget less difference between prior year tax levy and proposed tax levy.

A contingency budget would require the district to reduce the 2022-23 proposed budget by \$2,313,935. As a result, the minor capital project amount of \$2,000,000 and all district-wide equipment would be eliminated. Community use of facilities would be restricted, support staff and instructional positions would be reduced along with various athletic and extracurricular activities.

** 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
Increase/Extension of Capital Reserve Fund not to exceed	\$10,000,000

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$979

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2022-23 by the qualified voters of the South Orangetown school district, Rockland County, New York, will be held at District #1 - South Orangetown Middle School, District #2- Tappan Zee High School, District #3 - William O. Schaefer Elementary School, and District #4 - Tappan Zee Education Center on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 between the hours of 7:00am and 9:00pm, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine. For this vote only, voters who do not wish to appear at the polling place due to the potential of contracting or spreading COVID-19 may request an absentee ballot from the Office of the District Clerk and mark "temporary illness" as the reason.

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



**SOUTH ORANGETOWN
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**
160 Van Wyck Road, Blauvelt, NY 10913-1299
(845) 680-1000 • Website: www.socsd.org

Robert R. Pritchard, Ed.D. *Superintendent*

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Leon Jacobs, *President*
Dan Lamadrid, *Vice President*
Steven Peña
Cara Stepanian, Ph.D.
Dana Stilley, Ph.D.

Editor: Jen Citrolo
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with the Rockland BOCES Communications Service.*

CURRENT RESIDENT

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SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE
TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2022 • 7AM - 9PM