



RENSSELAER

CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

25 Van Rensselaer Drive, Rensselaer, New York 12144

2020
JUNE
BUDGET NEWS

BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, June 9

Absentee Ballot

Received by 5 p.m.

What am I voting on?

Voters will decide on the following items:

- A \$27,705,833 budget for the 2020-2021 school year
- Lease of two school buses
- 1 Board of Education Position

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.

In accordance with Executive Order 202.26, the 2020-2021 budget for all New York State School Districts will be conducted entirely by absentee ballot. As such, Rensselaer County Board of Elections will mail absentee ballots directly to all registered voters in the district of Rensselaer. Absentee ballots must be received by the Rensselaer County Board of Elections not later than 5:00 p.m., prevailing time, on Tuesday, June 9, 2020.

Absentee ballots will contain the three propositions voters will be asked to vote on, including the 2020-2021 school budget, the leasing of two buses, and one board of education member.

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www.rcsd.k12.ny.us

Members of the Rensselaer City School District Community,

There is no doubt that we are in difficult times. If you have not already seen in the news or heard around town, our school district is in a financial emergency. Rensselaer was already identified as a school district "susceptible to fiscal stress". We had a strategy to try to solve this situation over time without taking opportunities from kids or putting a large burden on taxpayers. That strategy was dependent upon the state continuing to demonstrate a fiscal understanding of high needs districts like us by providing large aid increases. Now that the COVID-19 pandemic has completely changed the fiscal outlook of the state that strategy will no longer work. We now may see aid decreases instead. The result of these factors is a fiscal emergency for the district.

In order to not run out of money next year, we had to take a balanced approach. We started by reducing 7.5 positions, cutting many supplies and contractual expenses, and reducing budgeted athletic costs. If we continue to rely on our savings at a sustainable amount, we still need to increase the tax levy by 19.5%. We are aware that this is a large commitment by everyone involved. It is painful.

Knowing that this situation requires far more explanation and information than a normal budget year, we have created a page of resources on our website:

<https://www.rcsd.k12.ny.us/board-of-education/budget-taxes/>

This page has detailed information about the budget, links to outside resources, graphs, charts, and videos of me answering questions and describing the situation in detail. It also includes a tax calculator for taxpayers to see how this budget would affect them. Our voting public needs to be able to make an informed decision.

We hope to get through this without having to take away the extra-curricular, athletic, and academic support opportunities that our students deserve. 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.

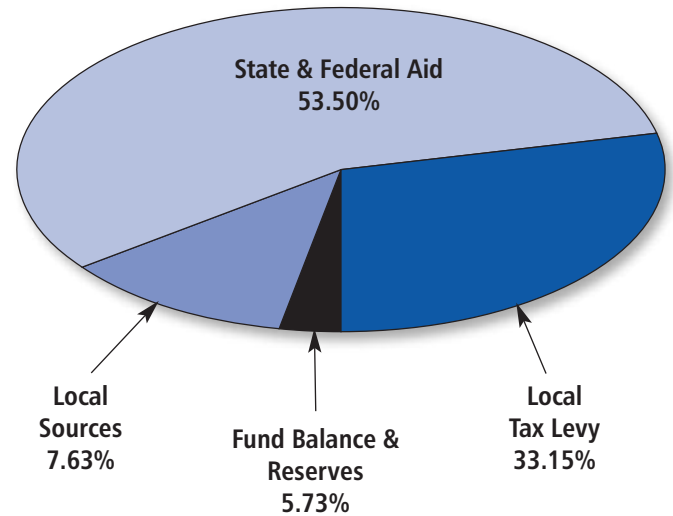


Rensselaer City School District Two-Year Budget Comparison

REVENUES: Where the money comes from...

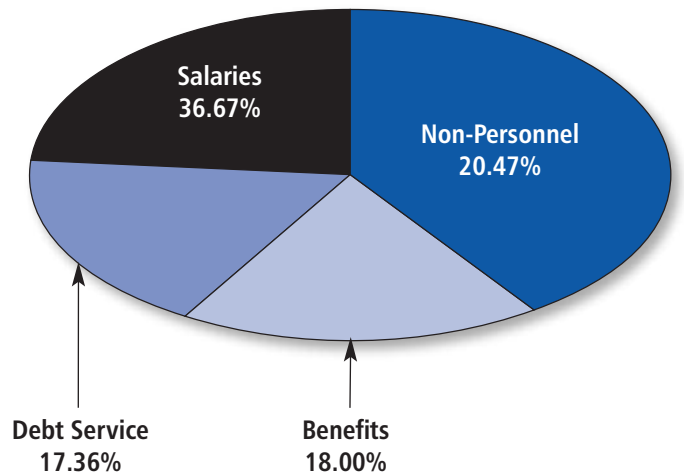
Source of Funds	2019-2020 Budget	2020-2021 Proposed
Local Property Tax Levy	\$7,685,344	\$9,183,986
State and Federal Aid	\$14,555,511	\$14,822,229
Local Sources*	\$3,462,268	\$2,113,006
Fund Balance	\$866,667	\$1,586,612
Totals:	\$26,569,790	\$27,705,833

*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, transfer of funds, 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	\$216,822
Finance Services	\$411,342	\$426,857
Legal/Public Information	\$100,720	\$100,500
Central Services	\$566,028	\$602,261
Supervisory/Improvement	\$475,694	\$515,719
Fringe Benefits	\$366,225	\$432,157
Administration Total	\$2,167,680	\$2,336,563
CAPITAL:		
Operation & Maintenance	\$1,454,069	\$1,381,416
Certiorari/Judgments	\$30,000	\$30,000
Debt Service	\$4,812,900	\$4,809,400
Fringe Benefits	\$382,662	\$364,536
Capital Total	\$6,679,631	\$6,585,352
PROGRAM:		
Regular Instruction	\$5,961,343	\$5,765,293
Special Education	\$5,074,350	\$5,531,625
Occupational Education	\$215,643	\$237,480
Library/Technology	\$617,752	\$624,962
Student Services	\$1,281,436	\$1,274,670
Transportation	\$791,708	\$1,109,056
Interfund Transfers	\$50,000	\$50,000
Fringe Benefits	\$3,730,247	\$4,190,831
Program Total	\$17,722,479	\$18,783,917
Total District Budget:	\$26,569,790	\$27,705,833



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	\$27,705,833	\$27,577,943
Increase/Decrease for the 2019-20 School Year		\$1,136,043	\$1,008,153
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		4.28%	3.79%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.81 %	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount, Net of Reserve	\$ 7,685,344	\$ 9,183,986	
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	\$ 9,183,986	\$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	\$ 4,877,268	
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	\$ 6,630,886	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 0	(\$ 1,753,618)	
Administrative Component	\$ 2,167,680	\$ 2,336,563	\$ 2,321,095
Program Component	\$ 17,722,479	\$ 18,783,917	\$ 18,676,617
Capital Component	\$ 6,679,631	\$ 6,585,352	\$ 6,580,230
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should the voters defeat the 2020-21 proposed budget twice (pending further executive orders), 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 need to be 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”. 			
** 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	

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 conducted solely by absentee ballot on Tuesday, June 9, 2020. Ballot must be received by Rensselaer County Board of Elections by 5:00pm, prevailing time, on June 9, 2020.

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

RENSSELAER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

25 Van Rensselaer Drive
Rensselaer, NY 12144

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Superintendent:
Joseph Kardash

www.rcsd.k12.ny.us

Produced by Questar III Communications Service

BUDGET VOTE
Tuesday, June 9
ABSENTEE BALLOT
Received by 5 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 \$27,705,833 during the 2020-2021 school year and to levy the necessary tax therefore. Adoption of this budget requires a tax levy increase of \$1,498,642, which exceeds the statutory tax levy increase limit of negative \$276,976 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 motor 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 _____

PROPOSITION #3

ELECTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS:
[Vote for 1]

1. James Preston

