

The Bulletin Board

News From the Hicksville UFSD

PROPOSED BUDGET IS TAX CAP-COMPLIANT; PROVIDES QUALITY EDUCATION TO OUR CHILDREN; PROTECTS THE TAXPAYER INVESTMENT IN OUR FACILITIES

A Message from the Superintendent of Schools and Board of Education

On Tuesday, April 18, the Board of Education adopted a budget that, for the third year, continues to build on the 3 P's – programs, people and plant – while maintaining all existing programs and services, allowing for new programs and enhancements to our facilities, and ensuring a continued emphasis on safety. In preparing this proposed budget, a major goal of the Board of Education was to remain fiscally responsible to our taxpayers and create financial sustainability for the district. Highlights of the proposed budget can be found on page 2.

Over the last several months, our administrators and Board of Education worked closely to develop a spending plan that provides the quality education our students deserve, remains fiscally responsible and protects the taxpayers' investment in our facilities. The proposed budget calls for a 1.48 percent tax levy

increase, which stays within the tax levy cap and is below the average tax levy increase for Long Island. Having stayed within the cap, the budget requires a simple majority vote of 50 percent plus one for approval. In addition to the school budget vote and trustee election, voters will be asked to vote on the establishment of a capital reserve fund. Details can be found on page 3.

Our district prides itself on the maintenance of our facilities. With a continued focus in this area, the proposed spending plan includes a number of instructional enhancements to our buildings, as well as safety and security upgrades.

Through a collaborative effort, our Board of Education and administration have worked with staff, parents, business leaders and community members to prepare a comprehensive budget that provides for both our students and our community. We have placed a great emphasis on our partnerships with students and stakeholders alike to create an environment that is safe and secure so that students may flourish.



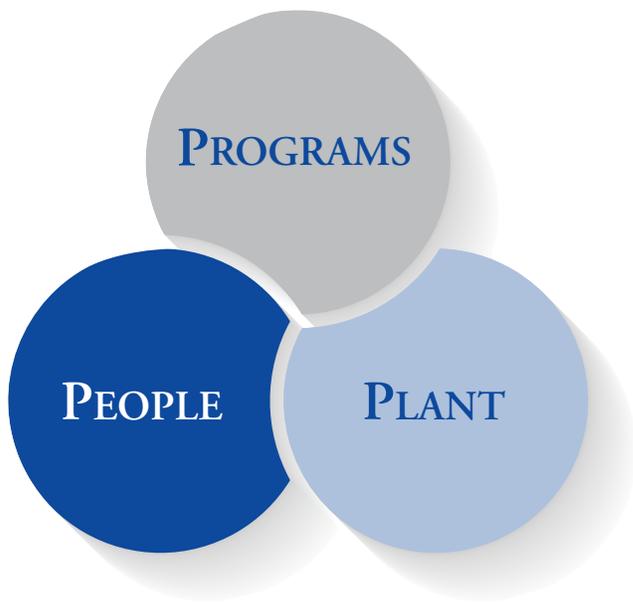
To view additional information about the budget, along with the wonderful student news that is captured every day, visit our district website, www.hicksvillepublicschools.org. Please remember to vote on Tuesday, May 16.

Sincerely,

Phil Heckler, President
Brenda Judson, Vice President
Michael Beneventano, Secretary
Steven Culhane, Trustee
Kevin J. Carroll, Trustee
Carla Hoene, Trustee
Lynda Parmely, Trustee
Dr. Carl Bonuso, Superintendent of Schools



BUDGET VOTE AND TRUSTEE ELECTION
TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2017
7 A.M.-9 P.M.



THE Continuation OF THE *Three P's*

The key to the effective operation of any school is the facilitation of a synergy between the various departments that oversee programs (instruction/curriculum), people (human resources) and plant (facilities/finance). It is through cooperation and partnership that a school's shared vision and common purpose are realized.

These items are not directly associated with a financial impact. The list below is focused on the three components. The continuation of these initiatives will help bring our students, staff and facilities into 21st-century learning.

PROGRAMS:

Refers to the ways in which courses and curricula throughout the district have been or will be enhanced this year, whether through the integration of new technology or the implementation of new character education initiatives. Programs focus on how district offerings complement student development. The proposed 2017-18 budget includes:

- Continuation of Pre-K classes at Dutch Lane School and an additional am & pm Pre-K class at Burns Avenue
- Continuation of Bilingual Program to Grade 2 at Old Country Road School
- New High School Courses:
 - Fashion Merchandising
 - Intermediate Algebra
- New Middle School Courses:
 - American Sign Language Grade 8
 - Global Conversations
 - Math and Science Double Acceleration
 - New SCAN TEK STEM course for Grade 7
- New Textbooks:
 - Global 10 Honors
 - Advanced Placement World History
 - Historical fiction and non-fiction for Grade 5 Social Studies
- New Certified Nursing Assistant Program in partnership with Nassau BOCES at the High School
- Expansion of Vocational Educational Opportunities (56)
- Continuation and expansion of 1:1 Chromebooks into grades 8 and 11
- High School Television Studio Upgrade Phase III

PEOPLE:

Refers to the professional development of the district's teachers. Through workshops,

seminars and coaching, the fundamentals of leadership and teamwork are reinforced to ensure that staff members continue to learn effective teaching methods.

- Literacy instruction grades Pre-K-5
- Developmentally appropriate practices for pre-school and bilingual learners
- Instructional strategies to support Response to Intervention
- Instructional strategies to meet the needs of all learners
- Mindfulness Training
- Health and Safety
- Integration of technology within the curriculum
- Curriculum mapping and curriculum writing projects
- New Parent Center providing information, workshops and opportunities for parents to connect with the school community

PLANT:

Grounds maintenance, facility improvements, security upgrades — these are all ways that Plant progress creates an environment that is not only academically stimulating, but also aesthetically pleasing, safe and sound.

The proposed maintenance budget of \$303,500 includes:

- Interior door replacement at Burns Avenue, Dutch Lane, Fork Lane, Lee Avenue, Old Country Road, Woodland School, Hicksville Middle School, Hicksville High School.
- Fork Lane – Clean curtains in all-purpose room and gym, asphalt primary wing entrance to street
- Lee Avenue – Asphalt repair at large playground
- Hicksville Middle School – Locker repair and repainting, replacement of hot water

heater, exterior door replacement

- Hicksville High School – Locker repair and repainting, room preparation for new Certified Nurse Assistant program
- Districtwide – Refinish all gym floors, painting, venetian blind replacement (as needed), playground repair parts (as needed), emergency lighting

PLANT – CAPITAL BUDGET:

The proposed capital budget of \$1,322,275 includes:

- East Street – Reconstruction of the band room, girls' locker room, main office and security vestibule and alteration to the school's entrance to provide double-door, single person access to the building for improved security
- High School – Second floor tile replacement
- Administration Building – Generator replacement

PLANT – CAPITAL RESERVE FOR BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS*:

The proposed capital budget of \$6,500,000 includes:

- Woodland Elementary School – Site work at curb and bus loop and replacement of interior doors
- High School/Middle School – Replace elevator cabs, replace interior bleachers
- Middle School – Replace flooring, create maker space/tech room at library C, renovate second floor student bathrooms, reconfigure parent drop-off area, renovate science rooms, replace gym floor, restoration of field fencing and community track
- Districtwide – Ceiling replacement, reconfigure administration building for enhanced security

* These projects are funded out of a reserve at NO ADDITIONAL COST to the taxpayer.

BUDGET PROPOSITIONS AND CAPITAL RESERVES

Q. What is a Capital Reserve?

A. A Capital Reserve is a “savings account,” separate from the operating budget, used to finance various projects. The money can only be used for the reasons explained in the establishment of the Reserve, such as building improvements, and it must be authorized by the voters.

Q. How does a Capital Reserve help the District and the Community?

A. Using money from the Capital Reserve keeps the budget-to-budget increase lower. Projects normally funded through the operating budget can be removed and funded through money already in the Reserve at no additional cost to the taxpayer.

Q. What is Proposition No. 2?

A. Proposition No. 2 asks the voters to do several things: to establish a Capital Reserve Fund, and to **fund it by transferring** \$2,899,521 from the Insurance Reserve Fund and \$3,600,479 of unexpended surplus from the 2016-17 school year into the Capital Reserve for a total of \$6,500,000. It also asks voters to authorize the Board to utilize the funds for specific building improvement projects. This proposition represents no additional cost to the taxpayer.

Q. Once resident voters approve capital projects funded through the operating budget or a Capital Reserve, how long does it take for the ‘shovel to hit the ground’?

A. For each approved project, the district’s architect submits ‘final plans and specifications’ to the State Education Department Office of Facilities Planning where it is reviewed by a team of architects and engineers. Depending on the complexity of the project, this process can take up to one year. Once approved, the District obtains construction bids, the Board of Education approves the award of bids, and contracts are signed. Work is scheduled to begin when instruction will not be impacted, usually during the summer or holiday breaks. For a complete list of approved projects and their status, please go to the District’s website and refer to the links under Capital Projects Update.

Q. If the budget is not approved by the voters and the proposition is approved, will the project move forward?

A. No, it will not. The projects contained in the proposition are contingent upon the approval by the voters of Proposition No. 1.

PROPOSITION NO. 1 – SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE

Shall the School District Budget, in the amount of \$134,781,266 pursuant to Education Law Section 1716, be approved, and a tax on the taxable property of the District in the amount of such Budget, less State and Federal Aid and revenues from other sources, be levied?

PROPOSITION NO. 2 – CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

Shall the Board of Education of the Hicksville Union Free School District be authorized to: (1) establish a capital reserve fund pursuant to Section 3651 of the New York Education Law effective June 30, 2017 to be known as the 2017-18 Capital Reserve Fund for a probable term of three (3) years in an ultimate amount of Six Million, Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$6,500,000.00), whose purpose shall be to fund in whole or in part, building, track/field and site improvement projects at various school buildings, including, but not limited to, site work and interior doors at Woodland Elementary School, upgrades to elevators and interior bleachers at the High School, reconstruction/reconfiguration/upgrades to track and field, elevators, flooring, classrooms, and interior bleachers at the Middle School, Administration building reconstruction/improvements, District-wide ceiling replacements, as well as architect and project management fees, ancillary or related work required in connection therewith, with such funds to be obtained from a transfer from the 2016-2017 Fund Balance in the amount of Three Million, Six Hundred Thousand, Four Hundred Seventy-Nine Dollars (\$3,600,479) and the transfer of the total sum of Two Million, Eight Hundred Ninety Nine Thousand, Five Hundred and Twenty-One Dollars (\$2,899,521) from the Insurance Reserve Fund and accrued interest thereon; and (2) undertake during the 2017-2018 school year, the following projects consisting of: (a) site work and interior door projects at the Woodland Elementary School; (b) elevator, flooring, toilet, technology room/maker space, science room, interior bleacher, gym floor, driveway loop, track and field projects at the Middle School; (c) elevator and interior bleacher projects at the High School; (d) reconstruction/improvement projects at the Administration Building; (e) District-wide ceiling replacement; and (3) expend therefor during the 2017-2018 school year, from the 2017-2018 Capital Reserve Fund, an amount not to exceed the estimated aggregate maximum cost of Six Million, Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$6,500,000.00), provided that the detailed costs of the components of the projects as set forth herein may be reallocated among such components if the Board of Education shall determine that such reallocation is in the best interests of the District provided, however, that the aggregate amount to be expended shall not exceed the Six Million, Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$6,500,000.00) estimated aggregate maximum cost of the projects and that no material change shall be made in the scope of the projects?

PROPOSITION NO. 3

In the event the voters approve the School District Budget contained in Proposition No. 1 above, shall the sum of \$60,000 be appropriated to the Hicksville Gregory Museum for educational services associated with its programs and a tax be levied on the taxable property of the District in that amount?

This Proposition is contingent upon approval by the voters of Proposition No. 1.

Points of Pride

- 96.98% of 2016 graduates received Regents diplomas; 40.84% were with advanced designation.
- 93.5% of 2016 graduates were college-bound.
- 75 students designated by the College Board as AP Scholars: six as National AP Scholars, 38 as AP Scholars with Distinction and 25 as AP Scholars with Honor.
- Two students recognized as Commended Students in the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program.
- Two students honored with the Nassau BOCES 2017 Annual Educational Partner Awards.
- 683 students inducted into 11 Honor Societies including, National, English, Math, Social Studies, Science, World Languages and Fine Arts.
- 2017 Best Communities for Music Education award by the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation.
- 10 students selected for LISFA orchestras.
- 77 students selected for the NMEA All-County performing ensembles.
- 42 students had artwork displayed at the ASA All-County Art Exhibit.
- Six students accepted to the Heckscher Museum of Art “Long Island’s Best: Young Artists” exhibition; one student won fourth place overall and two students received honorable mention.
- One high school art teacher awarded third place from the NYS Art Teachers Association.
- One high school art teacher awarded the People’s Choice Award.
- One high school art teacher awarded honorable mention from the Art Guild of Manhasset.
- One high school third-place winner for Painting and Most Creative Painting at the NYS Art Teachers Association’s “Olympics of the Visual Arts.”
- One high school student designated as Majority Leader for 2016 New York State Assembly Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute.
- One high school student received Herman Badillo Award for Outstanding Delegate.
- One middle school student selected for Creative Problem Solving Institute at SUNY Old Westbury.
- Five middle school student medal winners in the American Mathematics Competition Grade 8.
- Six high school student medal winners in the American Mathematics Competition Grades 10-12.
- 31 high school Science Olympiad medal winners at the Regional Competition.
- Three high school Science Olympiad medal winners at the NYS Championship Competition.
- 21 middle school Science Olympiad medal winners at the LI Regional Competition.
- Two first-place winners and one second-place winner in the Chemagination Competition for chemistry.
- One honorable mention winner in the 2016-17 Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision Science Competition.
- Approximately 2,000 students participate in middle and high school clubs and activities.
- 1,528 students participate on middle and high school athletic teams.
- 19 Scholar-Athlete teams.
- 19 All-County athletes.
- Three All-Long Island players.
- Eight All-State athletes.
- Two All-American athletes.
- 75 students earned postseason honors.
- 14 teams reached postseason.
- Nine students have signed Letters of Intent to play sports at Division I and II schools.
- Two Coaches of the Year.
- Three former graduates are now playing at the professional level.
- One student earned Long Island Player of the Year in soccer.
- One student made the All-State bowling team.



2017-2018 BUDGET SUMMARY

	2015-2016 BUDGET	2016-2017 BUDGET	PROPOSED 2017-2018 BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
General Support	\$14,383,038	\$14,407,042	\$14,216,251	(\$190,791)
Instructional Support	\$72,133,896	\$73,693,710	\$75,755,750	\$2,062,040
Pupil Transportation	\$8,625,319	\$7,634,340	\$8,218,858	\$584,518
Recreational Program*	\$202,624	\$207,625	\$198,170	(\$9,455)
Community Services**	\$69,722	\$68,656	\$60,058	(\$8,598)
Undistributed and Other Debt	\$34,698,536	\$36,320,641	\$36,332,180	\$11,539
GRAND TOTAL	\$130,113,135	\$132,332,014	\$134,781,267	\$2,449,253

*Self-sustaining program; revenue included below in Charges for Services.

**If approved, Proposition No. 2 would add \$60,000 to this figure.

PROPOSITION NO. 2

	2015-2016 BUDGET	2016-2017 BUDGET	PROPOSED 2017-2018 BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
Hicksville Gregory Museum	\$50,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$0
TOTAL	\$130,163,135	\$132,392,014	\$134,841,267	\$2,449,253

REVENUE REVIEW

	2016-2017 BUDGET	PROPOSED 2017-2018 BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
Real Property Tax	\$98,937,595	\$100,402,028	\$1,464,433
Payments in Lieu of Taxes	\$7,232,351	\$7,092,519	(\$139,832)
Charges for Services	\$1,550,500	\$1,550,500	-
Use of Money and Property	\$700,000	\$700,000	-
Sale of Property and Comp	\$75,000	\$75,000	-
Miscellaneous	\$205,000	\$205,000	-
State Sources - Foundation Aid	\$11,230,800	\$11,785,932	\$555,132
BOCES	\$896,245	\$983,593	\$87,348
Miscellaneous State Aid	\$5,602,523	\$6,146,202	\$543,679
Federal Aid	\$80,000	\$80,000	-
Fund Balance Applied	\$2,813,000	\$2,751,493	(\$61,507)
Reserves Appropriated	\$3,069,000	\$3,069,000	-
TOTAL	\$132,392,014	\$134,841,267	\$2,449,253

TAX LEVY

	2016-2017 BUDGET	PROPOSED 2017-2018 BUDGET	DIFFERENCE	PERCENTAGE
Budget (Excluding Gregory)	\$132,332,014	\$134,781,267	\$2,449,253	1.85%
Non-Tax Revenue	\$27,572,419	\$28,618,746	\$1,046,327	4.74%
Fund Balance Applied	\$2,813,000	\$2,751,493	(\$61,507)	-2.46%
Reserves Applied	\$3,069,000	\$3,069,000	-	0.00%
Amount to Be Raised by Taxes	\$98,877,595	\$100,342,028	\$1,464,433	1.48%
Assessed Valuation*	\$9,050,124	\$8,827,877	(\$222,247)	-2.47%

*Tentative assessment to be finalized by Nassau County Department of Assessment by approximately September 2017.

HICKSVILLE RANKING

Hicksville's 2016-17 tax rate ranks eighth lowest out of 54 Nassau County School Districts.

Budget Within the Tax Levy Limit

Tax Levy Limit.....	\$97,460,970
Maximum Allowable Levy.....	\$100,402,028
Less: Gregory Museum.....	(\$60,000)
Maximum District Levy.....	\$100,342,028
Estimated Revenues.....	\$28,618,748
Applied Fund Balance.....	\$2,751,493
Applied Reserves*.....	\$3,069,000
Total District Budget.....	\$134,781,267
Tax Levy Increase - Dollars.....	\$1,464,433
Tax Levy Increase - Percent.....	1.48%

*District Financial Plan provides for \$3,069,000 to be applied in each of the next three years to mitigate the impact of budget expenditures.



STAR PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

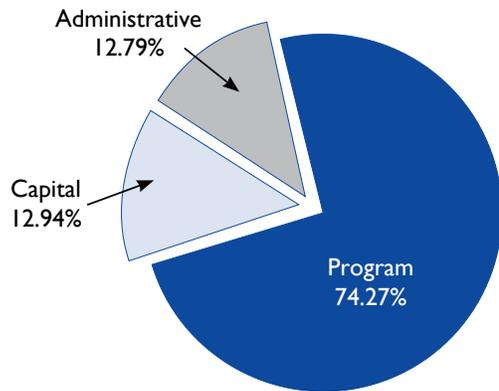
Residents of Hicksville Public Schools may be eligible to apply for the New York State Basic STAR and Enhanced STAR Property Tax Exemption Program. If you are a homeowner with your Hicksville property as your primary residence, you may apply to the Nassau County Board of Assessors at 516-571-1500 or refer to the Department of Assessment page on the Nassau County website at www.nassaucountyny.gov.

SENIOR CITIZEN AND VETERAN PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

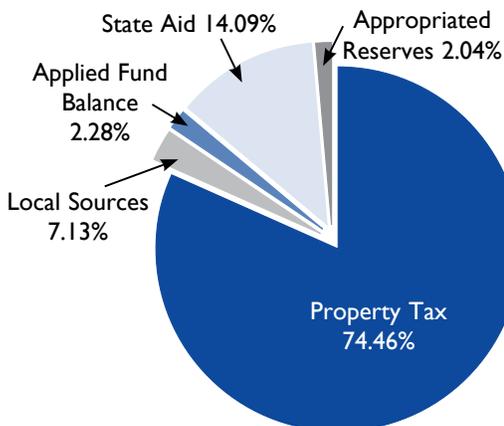
Hicksville Public Schools demonstrates its support of our senior community by adopting the Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemption, which provides partial property tax relief on a sliding-scale basis to residents meeting the required criteria. Applications for this exemption must be made on or before January 2 of each year to the Nassau County Department of Assessment, 240 Old Country Road, Mineola, NY 11501. For further information, contact the Department of Assessment at 516-571-1500 or refer to the Department of Assessment page on the Nassau County website at www.nassaucountyny.gov.

Hicksville Public Schools also shows support to resident veterans by adopting the Veteran's Exemptions such as the Alternative Veteran's Exemption and the Gold Star Parent's Exemption. This year, the Cold War Veteran's Exemption was added, providing an annual tax break for veterans who served during the period of 1945 to 1991. If you have additional questions, please contact the Nassau County Assessor's Office at 516-571-1500.

THREE-PART EXPENDITURE BUDGET



REVENUE BREAKDOWN



Senior Citizen Exemption The Current Sliding-Scale Exemptions Apply as Follows:

Income	Percent Exemption
Up to and including \$29,000	50%
\$29,001—\$29,999	45%
\$30,000—\$30,999	40%
\$31,000—\$31,999	35%
\$32,000—\$32,899	30%
\$32,900—\$33,799	25%
\$33,800—\$34,699	20%
\$34,700—\$35,599	15%
\$35,600—\$36,499	10%
\$36,500—\$37,399	5%

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

What is the “tax levy limit” or “tax cap”?

The tax cap calculation is a complex multistep formula that determines the level of voter approval required to pass the budget. The factors include property growth in the district, Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOTs), and various exemptions, including certain capital expenditures, transportation equipment, expenditures for some court orders and contributions toward employee pensions above a certain amount. While the tax levy limit is often referred to as a 2 percent tax cap, it is actually the lesser of 2 percent or the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The calculation for 2017-18 is based on a CPI of 1.26 percent.



Is the proposed budget compliant with Hicksville’s tax levy limit for 2017-18?

Yes. The proposed budget carries a tax levy increase of \$1,464,433, or 1.48 percent. This requires a simple majority approval (50 percent of the vote plus 1). If the district were to propose a tax levy increase above 1.48 percent, a supermajority approval of 60 percent would have to be attained.

What are Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOTs), and how do they affect the calculation of the tax levy limit?

The Industrial Development Agency offers incentives to manufacturing, industrial and not-for-profit companies to remain and do business in Nassau County. Through these agreements, properties are exempt from property taxes and instead make a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) directly to the IDA. The district receives the school tax portion typically in accordance with a 10- or 15-year payment schedule.



What is a contingency budget and how would one affect our schools?

If voters decide not to approve the proposed 2017-18 budget, the Board of Education will have the option of presenting the district’s spending plan for a second vote. If defeated a second time, a contingency budget must be adopted. Under the tax cap rules, a contingency budget requires a \$0 increase in the tax levy. To achieve a contingency budget, the district would need to cut \$1,464,433 from the proposed budget.

Significant cuts would be necessary to achieve a contingency budget. Districts are required to eliminate all planned equipment purchases and non-health and safety-related maintenance projects, as well as community use of school facilities.



THE HICKSVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Administration Building
200 Division Avenue
Hicksville, NY 11801

Board of Education:
Phil Heckler, President
Brenda Judson, Vice President
Michael Beneventano, Secretary

Trustees:
Kevin J. Carroll
Steven Culhane
Carla Hoene
Lynda Parmely

Dr. Carl Bonuso
Superintendent of Schools

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Remember to **VOTE**

**BUDGET VOTE &
BOE TRUSTEE ELECTION**
TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2017
7 A.M.-9 P.M.

ELECTION DISTRICT LOCATIONS AND CONTACT INFO

Burns Avenue School:
516-733-2311
District No. 1

Lee Avenue School:
516-733-2351
District No. 4

East Street School:
516-733-2321
District No. 2

Fork Lane School:
516-733-2341
District No. 5

Woodland School:
516-733-2331
District No. 3

Dutch Lane School:
516-733-2361
District No. 6

Old Country Road School:
516-733-2301
District No. 7

HICKSVILLE LIBRARY VOTE

Once again, voters will be asked to vote on the Hicksville Public Library budget and election of library board trustees at the same time as the school district budget vote and trustee election. The Hicksville Public Schools and the Hicksville Public Library are two separate entities. The ballots for the library vote will be included in the voting booth on the day of the school budget vote. The consolidation of voting for the two entities represents a cost savings as well as a convenience to residents.



VOTING INFORMATION

A voter shall be entitled to vote at any school meeting for the election of school district trustees and school budget, and upon all other matters which may be brought before such a meeting, who is:

- A citizen of the United States.
- A resident of the district for a period of 30 days preceding the meeting at which he/she is to vote.
- 18 years of age or older.
- Currently registered with the school district or has voted in the general election in the last four years.

Absentee Ballots

Applications for absentee ballots may be obtained at the office of the district clerk at 200 Division Ave., any school day between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Completed applications must be received by the district clerk at least seven (7) days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter. All absentee ballots must be returned to the District Office no later than 5 p.m. on the day of the vote. Absentee ballots will be issued for those reasons stated in the Education Law, Section 2018-A.