

# VOTE

Tuesday, May 16  
12 Noon – 9 p.m.  
Elementary Gym

MAY 2023

# Budget News

## HOOSIC VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOLS

LEARNING: A SHARED GOAL, A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

### 2023-2024 BUDGET SUMMARY

- **Proposed Budget:**  
\$24,608,342
- **Budget Increase:**  
\$1,039,116
- **Tax Levy Increase: 1.58%**
- **Bus Purchase Proposition**
- **Proposition for Property Purchase**
- **Election of 1 Board Member**  
*Vote for One (1) Board of Education Candidate*  
One four-year term commencing July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2027

### Letter from Superintendent Buhrmaster

On Tuesday, May 16, Hoosic Valley Central School District community members will be asked to vote on a \$24,608,342 budget for the 2023-24 school year. This year's vote will again take place in person at the Elementary School. The 2023-24 school budget requires a 1.58% tax levy increase, which is within New York State's Property Tax Cap. Hoosic Valley CSD's main priority for the 2023-24 budget is to preserve student programs and supports, giving students the best opportunities possible while continuing to be financially responsible. A change to this year's budget is the addition of a full-time Elementary Math Interventionist. Also included in the budget is the ongoing \$100,000 project line item that will be utilized to complete the necessary reconstruction of the Elementary Gym floor, interior finishes, and safety work. Other factors that have influenced this year's budget include health insurance increases of 8%, increased use of BOCES services for safety and technology, and additional debt service payments as we close out the old capital project debt while taking on new debt with the start of our new capital project. To assist in accommodating these budgetary changes, the District expects to receive an increase in State Foundation Aid, not replace some positions in the Elementary and High Schools and utilize available remaining grant funding.

Voters will also decide on a proposition to purchase three large school buses, two small buses (one with wheelchair accessibility),

and one eight-passenger Suburban as part of the district's long-term bus replacement plan. The expense attributed to the bus purchase will come from the existing Bus Purchase Reserve. There is one individual running for one open seat on the Board of Education. There is also a proposition to purchase the property at 10 Pleasant Avenue, which is located in the middle of our campus. This purchase would enhance the safety of our students and ensure stability going forward. Our community is encouraged to visit our website for further detailed information regarding the school budget.

This is an exciting time for our students and the Hoosic Valley community that supports them. We have a strong group of educators and the community has given them the tools to succeed. We will break ground soon on a capital project that will create new educational spaces that will make the community proud. The addition of the property at 10 Pleasant Avenue will increase safety and allow the district to utilize this space to meet the changing needs of our school community. The successful programs from our past along with our vision for the future are supported by this budget and will help us evolve as a school district to keep meeting the needs of our students and community.

Sincerely,

Jim Buhrmaster, Superintendent of Schools, Hoosic Valley CSD



# Proposition for Property Purchase

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS** — The district is looking to acquire the real property located at 10 Pleasant Avenue, Schaghticoke at a cost of \$315,000, plus closing costs, and to expend an additional \$9,000 to remove the in-ground swimming pool on the property.

## Q. What are we voting on?

**A.** On May 16, 2023, voters in the Hoosic Valley Central School District will be asked to decide on the District's proposal to purchase a .47-acre site at 10 Pleasant Avenue. The proposition will authorize the purchase of the property for \$315,000 plus closing costs using the Capital Reserve Fund. The resolution also seeks permission to spend up to another \$9,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund to remove the in-ground pool.

## Q. What is currently located at the site?

**A.** The property is located in the middle of the Hoosic Valley campus. It is surrounded by the Elementary School, Junior Senior High School, and the District Office. The property is used as a residence and consists of a one-floor residential structure and a separate 1200-square-foot garage.

## Q. What does the Hoosic Valley CSD intend to do with this property?

**A.** If approved by Hoosic Valley Central School District voters, the property under consideration would provide immediate security, safety, and long-term predictability for a piece of property that sits in the middle of our campus. The 1200-square-foot garage would be used immediately by the district for much-needed storage. This would allow us to return our currently leased storage units and help with the staging of the capital project construction, which is scheduled to begin this summer. The main house on the property will remain as is until an evaluation of the academic, enrichment, athletic and parking needs of the district is completed.

## Q. Who benefits from the proposed acquisition?

**A.** Hoosic Valley Central School District students, staff, families, and community members, both present and future. The Hoosic Valley Central School campus is a safe community hub, for all community members. We have the unique opportunity to purchase this property now and control what sits in the middle of our campus. Investing in this property will allow the current Board of Education and Administrative team, along with all future Boards, to make decisions about this property based on the needs of our students and community members. Without control of this property, any other future owner would be able to make decisions for a piece of property that sits mere yards from the Elementary School playground.

## Q. Will there be an environmental review?

**A.** The Board of Education and legal counsel previously determined that the purchase of the property will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts. Any development of the property by the District will include a separate thorough environmental review to assess potential environmental impacts.



## Q. How will the purchase be financed?

**A.** No additional financing will be necessary, as the Board planned ahead by saving prudently for the future. The necessary funds (\$324,000) have already been set aside by the District, with no additional resources to be requested from the community. The necessary funds (\$324,000) have already been set aside by the District in a Capital Reserve Fund so there are no additional costs needed for the purchase and closing costs. Most land purchases made by school districts in New York State require voter approval via a public referendum.

## Q. What about unanticipated costs of developing the property?

**A.** District administrators and the Board of Education are confident the Hoosic Valley Central School District is in a strong financial position to cover any additional necessary costs.

## Q. Are there property tax implications for the purchase of this property?

**A.** With a successful sale to the district, the property would become tax-exempt. The parcel's current property tax bill is about \$4,000; of that, approximately \$2,000 is for school taxes.

## Q. What will it take for the referendum to be successful?

**A.** A simple majority of the total votes cast by eligible voters from the Hoosic Valley Central School District is needed.



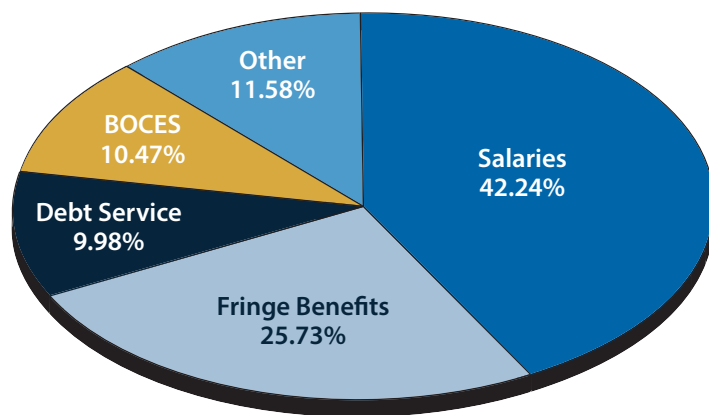
# EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

## PROPOSED BUDGET 2023-2024:

Salaries	\$ 10,394,919	42.24%
Fringe Benefits	6,330,583	25.73%
BOCES	2,576,433	10.47%
Debt Service	2,455,125	9.98%
Instructional	1,347,530	5.47%
Operations & Maintenance	657,832	2.67%
Transportation	455,295	1.85%
Central Services	255,625	1.04%
Interfund Transfers	135,000	0.55%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 24,608,342</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

The proposed budget maintains current programs and services. The largest part of the school budget remains salaries and benefits at 67.97 percent, the next BOCES is 10.47 percent, and debt service at 9.98 percent while the remaining 11.58 percent represents all other expenses such as energy, teacher supplies, building repairs, and district contractual obligations.

*The following pie chart represents how school district expenses are allocated:*



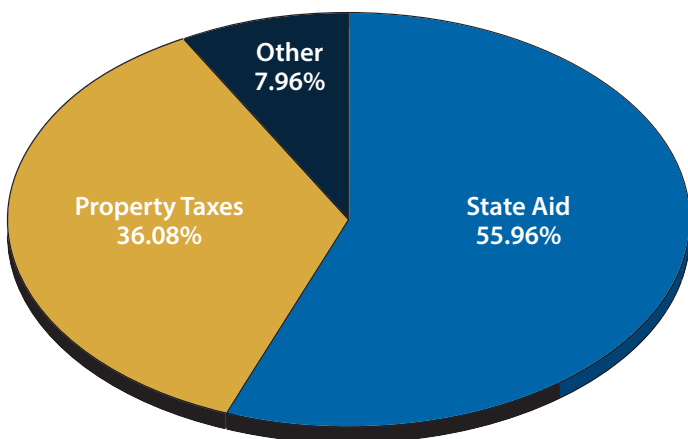
### OTHER:

Instructional	5.47%
Operations & Maintenance	2.67%
Transportation	1.85%
Central Services	1.04%
Interfund Transfers	0.55%

# REVENUE SUMMARY

## PROPOSED BUDGET 2023-2024:

*The following pie chart represents school district revenues:*



### OTHER:

Fund Balance	3.28%
Reserves	3.25%
Local Miscellaneous Revenues	1.19%
Medicaid Reimbursement	0.24%

State Aid	\$13,769,572	55.96%
Real Property Taxes	8,877,445	36.08%
Fund Balance	808,000	3.28%
Reserves	800,000	3.25%
Local Miscellaneous Revenues	293,325	1.19%
Medicaid Reimbursement	60,000	0.24%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 24,608,342</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

State aid remains the largest portion of the revenue at 55.96 percent with local property taxes being 36.08 percent. State aid has increased by \$886,409 over the 2022-23 school year. The District intends to stay within the property tax levy limit of 1.583 percent by proposing an increase of 1.58 percent to generate a \$138,085 increase in tax revenue.

# THREE-PART BUDGET

## PROPOSED BUDGET 2023-2024:

### ADMINISTRATIVE

	2023-2024	2022-2023
Board of Education	\$17,800	\$17,800
Central Administration	\$245,120	\$249,429
Finance	\$429,432	\$418,797
Legal	\$38,500	\$39,500
Personnel	\$3,000	\$3,000
Public Information	\$7,325	\$5,525
Central Services	\$572,305	\$230,000
Special Items	\$257,909	\$249,292
Curriculum Development	\$172,491	\$185,000
Supervision-Regular School	\$549,690	\$541,868
Research & Planning, Evaluations	\$23,025	\$14,850
Benefits	\$499,486	\$459,069
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE</b>	<b>\$2,816,084</b>	<b>\$2,414,130</b>

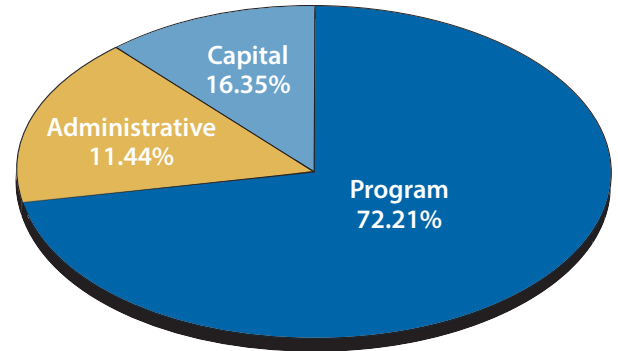
### PROGRAM

	2023-2024	2022-2023
Instruction	\$10,623,078	\$10,726,865
District Transportation	\$1,417,858	\$1,372,148
Transportation Garage	\$100,300	\$88,300
Benefits	\$5,627,692	\$5,432,172
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM</b>	<b>\$17,768,928</b>	<b>\$17,619,485</b>

### CAPITAL

	2023-2024	2022-2023
Plant Operation	\$1,148,441	\$1,128,054
Plant Maintenance	\$78,660	\$78,660
Special Items	\$2,700	\$2,700
Bus Purchases	\$0	\$259,806
Benefits	\$238,404	\$219,479
Debt Service	\$2,555,125	\$1,846,913
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL</b>	<b>\$4,023,330</b>	<b>\$3,535,612</b>

<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$24,608,342</b>	<b>\$23,569,226</b>
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### BUS PURCHASE PROPOSITION

Residents will see a separate proposition on the school budget seeking voter approval to purchase the following: (3) 72-passenger buses (1) 28-passenger bus with a wheelchair lift, (1) 21-passenger bus, (1) 8-passenger Suburban, and 6 radios for transportation communication. The total cost will be \$740,777.37. The district will be using funds from the Bus Purchase Reserve Fund as well as funds from the trade-in value of 3 large buses. The purchase of these vehicles allows the district to keep our fleet up to date and our students safe during transport.



## HOOSIC VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2022-23 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2023-24 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 23,569,225.94	\$24,608,342	\$24,387,244
Increase/Decrease for the 2023-24 School Year		\$1,039,116	\$818,018
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		4.41 %	3.47%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		8.0%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$8,739,359.60	\$8,877,445	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$	\$	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$	\$	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$	\$	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$8,739,359.60	\$8,877,445	\$8,739,359.60
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$	\$	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$8,832,211	\$8,877,743	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$8,739,359.60	\$8,877,445	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$92,851.40	\$298	
Administrative Component	\$2,414,130	\$2,816,084	\$2,802,966
Program Component	\$17,619,486	\$17,768,928	\$17,698,162
Capital Component	\$3,535,610	\$4,023,330	\$3,886,116

\* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2023-24 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

\*\* 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
Expend the Capital Reserve for the purchase of Real Property located at 10 Pleasant Ave. Schaghticoke, NY	\$324,000
Expend the Capital Bus Purchase Reserve for the purchase of 3 Big School Buses and 3 Small School Buses	\$733,278
	\$
	\$

\*NOTE TO SCHOOL DISTRICT BUSINESS OFFICIALS: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: [emscmgts@nysed.gov](mailto:emscmgts@nysed.gov)

Under the Budget Proposed  
for the 2023-24 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings<sup>1</sup>

\$430 to 454 (Four Towns)

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023-24 by the qualified voters of the Hoosic Valley Central School District, Rensselaer County, New York, will be held at Hoosic Valley Elementary School in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 between the hours of 12:00pm and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the Hoosic Valley Elementary School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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



**HOOSIC VALLEY**  
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Schaghticoke, NY 12154

CRRT  
Bulk Rate  
Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Schaghticoke, NY 12154  
Permit No. 1

## POSTAL CUSTOMER

### Board of Education

Karen E. Carlson, *President*  
Denise Reilly, *Vice President*  
Joshua Gela  
Maureen Mayer  
Margaret Rice  
Carolyn Stannard-Carlo  
Joseph Thompson

James Buhmaster, *Superintendent of Schools*  
Anthony Cammarata, *School Business Administrator*

**LEARNING: A SHARED GOAL, A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY**

*Produced by the Questar III Communications Service*

**For budget information visit our district website: [www.hoosicvalley.k12.ny.us](http://www.hoosicvalley.k12.ny.us)**



### Contingency Budget and the Property Tax Cap

According to state law, the public may vote on a school budget only twice in any given year. In the event the proposed budget is defeated twice, the Board must adopt a contingency budget. The Board may elect to go directly to a contingent budget after the first defeat. With the establishment of the Property Tax Cap in July, 2011, the spending cap on contingent budgets was removed. This means district expenditures are NO longer restricted to the contingent budget cap (4% or 120% of CPI). Instead, the tax levy can be no greater than the prior year's actual tax levy, possibly less. No increase in the tax levy is allowed.

Certain expenses are exempt from the spending cap, including the cost of new enrollment, gifts, and grants. A contingency budget may allow field trips, sports, and transportation to school; however, most equipment purchases are not allowed (i.e. buses, and computers). Also, the annual \$100,000 project, which generates Building Aid revenue, and gets a considerable amount of capital work done to the building, would not be allowed. The district would be forced to cut \$221,098 in budgeted expenditures to reach the contingent budget of \$24,387,244.

**Voter Qualification:** A qualified voter is one who is (1) a citizen of the United States of America, (2) eighteen years of age or older, and (3) resident within the school district for a period of thirty (30) days preceding the vote. The school district may require all persons offering to vote to provide one form of proof of residency pursuant to Education Law Section 2018-c. Such form may include a driver's license, a non-driver identification card, a utility bill, or a voter registration card. Upon offering proof of residency, the school district may also require all persons offering to vote to provide their signature, printed name, and address.

**Can I vote by absentee ballot?** Qualified district residents who are unable to go to the polls on May 16th can cast their votes by absentee ballot. Please call the district office at 518-753-4458 for an application. If the ballot is to be mailed, the application for the ballot must be received by May 9. If the ballot is to be delivered in person, the application must be received by May 16. All completed ballots must be received by the district clerk no later than 5 p.m. on May 16.