

# VOTE

Tuesday, May 21  
12 Noon – 9 p.m.  
Elementary Gym

MAY 2019

# Budget News

## HOOSIC VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOLS

LEARNING: A SHARED GOAL, A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

### 2019-2020 BUDGET SUMMARY

- Proposed budget: \$21,566,944
- Budget increase: \$25,592 or 0.12%
- Tax levy decrease: -\$91,876 or -1.08%
- Bus purchases included in the budget
- Proposition 2: Capital construction reserve fund
- Election of 1 Board member

On Tuesday, May 21, the Hoosic Valley CSD community will vote on a proposed \$21,566,944 budget for the 2019-20 school year that decreases the tax levy for the fourth consecutive year. The proposed budget, which would result in a decrease of \$91,876 or 1.08 percent in the tax levy, is below the district's calculated property tax cap.

The budget proposal – which increases spending by \$25,592 or 0.12 percent over the current year's budget – continues all current student programs and adds several positions to increase student support. This includes:

- a director of curriculum, instruction and technology position to provide instructional leadership and to continue implementation of the district's strategic information technology (IT) plan;
- an elementary teacher to maintain class sizes;
- an elementary special education teacher (for inclusion and student needs) and;
- four additional teaching assistant positions, including a high school TA for special education and three elementary TAs to assist with student needs in special education, mathematics and student behavior.

The proposed budget continues funding of the elementary gifted and talented program, school resource officer position (in partnership with the Sheriff's Department) and the elementary STEAM position (turning a special assignment into a permanent appointment).

"Next year's budget proposal focuses on instruction and learning. Thanks to additional state aid and efficiencies in other areas of budget, we can propose adding positions to support increased student needs while staying below our maximum tax cap of 3.55 percent," said Interim Superintendent Mike Apostol.

The proposed budget includes an allocation to replace the main office roof at the high school and install new floor tiles in the first-floor science labs. Additionally, utilizing state aid received on previous school bus purchases and the appropriated fund balance, the district can fund the \$418,006.80 purchase of three 72-passenger buses and one 21-passenger bus within the budget as a line item.

The budget also funds the replacement of two elementary cafeteria tables and 30 student chairs, graphic calculators at the high school and science lab equipment.

Residents will also vote to authorize the district to increase the maximum level of its capital construction reserve fund from \$2 million to \$5 million and to spend \$310,263 from this fund to finance a project to improve security, athletic facilities and site work. State law requires district voters to approve the funding and use of these reserves, which are used to offset future borrowing and to pay for any needed capital improvements.

District residents are invited to vote on the proposed budget on Tuesday, May 21. Voters will elect one board member to the board of education.

## Board Appoints Apostol as Superintendent

On April 16, the Board of Education appointed G. Michael Apostol as the next superintendent, effective July 1, 2019. Mr. Apostol is currently the school district's interim superintendent.

"I am honored and humbled to be selected to lead the Hoosic Valley Central School District. I have enjoyed my time at Hoosic Valley and look forward to continuing to support our students, staff and school community," said Mr. Apostol.

Prior to becoming interim superintendent, Mr. Apostol served as Hoosic Valley's interim high school principal. He began his career in public education as a health and physical education teacher in Albany and later served as an assistant superintendent in Saugerties and high school principal in Mechanicville and Greenville. Mr. Apostol is a graduate of Troy High School and a veteran of the U.S. Army.

"Mike Apostol stood out among a strong pool of candidates. He brings enthusiasm, hands-on experience and familiarity with the Hoosic Valley school community. We look forward to continuing to work with him," said Board President Christine Pepe.

The Board offered Mr. Apostol the position following an extensive search and interview process, which started in September 2018. At that time, the Board asked the community to provide feedback on the desired characteristics of the next superintendent and to list questions they would want to ask candidates. More than 120 people submitted feedback via an online survey. The position was then advertised across the country in November and December.

A stakeholder committee comprised of 15 members representing staff and community members interviewed nine candidates at the end of January. The Board reviewed the committee's input and narrowed the field to three semi-finalists, which they interviewed in mid-March. Questar III BOCES assisted the Board with its search process.



### Bus Purchase Proposition

The Board of Education seeks voter authorization to purchase three 72-passenger school buses and one 21-passenger school bus within the budget as a line item. The \$418,006.80 cost of the buses is listed in the account code A5510.210 PURCHASE OF BUSES within the budget. The district currently has 21 bus runs carrying 950 students travelling 300,000 miles annually. These four new buses will be financed utilizing the aid received on previous bus purchases and an allocation of the appropriated fund balance. The district will receive approximately 75 percent of the overall cost of the buses purchased in 2019-20 in state aid amortized over the five succeeding years.

### Tax Savings Under the STAR Program

Qualified homeowners can receive a partial property tax exemption under the School Tax Relief (STAR) program. STAR exemptions apply only to school district taxes. There are two types of STAR exemptions based on the age and income of the homeowners:

- **Basic STAR:** available to homeowner’s primary residence only, and for households with an income of less than \$250,000. The estimated Basic STAR exemption for a Hoosic Valley CSD resident for 2019-20 ranges between \$504 to \$531. Due to recent changes in the law, the STAR exemption is closed to new applicants. New applicants or those wishing to switch to the STAR credit program must notify their assessor and register for this new program. Under the STAR credit program, you will receive a check from the state rather than a direct reduction on your school tax bill. The value of the STAR credit may increase by as much as 2 percent each year, but the STAR exemption will not increase, according to the state.
- **Enhanced STAR:** provides an increased benefit for the primary residence of seniors citizens (age 65 and older) with a qualifying income. Enhanced STAR requires an annual application with proof of income, by March 1.

The figure for the Basic and Enhanced STAR is set by the State and is different in every town. Check with your town assessor for an exact figure. For detailed information about the STAR program, please visit the NYS Department of Taxation & Finance website at [www.tax.ny.gov/star](http://www.tax.ny.gov/star).

# EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

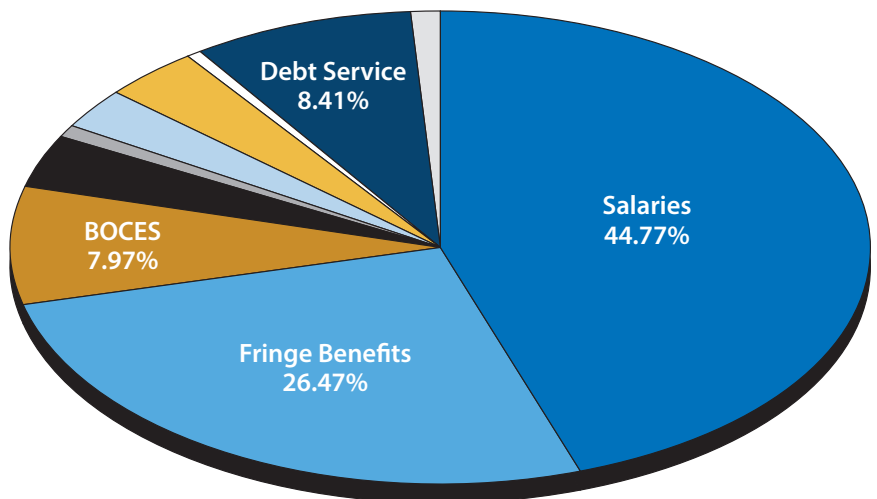
## PROPOSED BUDGET 2019-2020:

Salaries	\$ 9,655,831	44.77%
Fringe Benefits	5,709,638	26.47%
BOCES	1,717,935	7.97%
Instructional	781,773	3.63%
Pupil Services	218,710	1.01%
Operations & Maintenance	564,350	2.62%
Transportation	771,234	3.58%
Central Services	112,726	0.52%
Debt Service	1,814,533	8.41%
Other Items/Services	220,215	1.02%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 21,566,944</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 71.24 percent, the next is debt service at 8.41 percent and BOCES at 7.97 percent while the remaining 12.38 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:*

Instructional . . . . .	3.63%
Pupil Services . . . . .	1.01%
Operations & Maintenance. . .	2.62%
Transportation . . . . .	3.58%
Central Services . . . . .	0.52%
Other Items/Services . . . . .	1.02%



# REVENUE SUMMARY

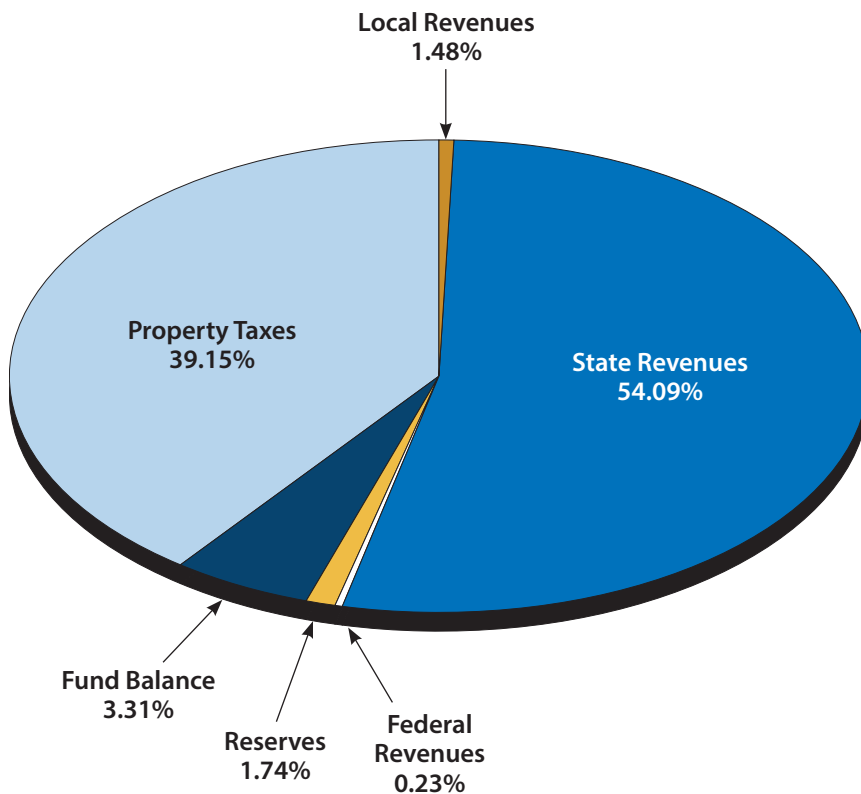
## PROPOSED BUDGET 2019-2020:

Local Revenues	\$ 319,089	1.48%
State Revenues	11,665,452	54.09%
Federal Revenues	50,000	0.23%
Reserves	375,000	1.74%
Fund Balance	713,161	3.31%
Property Taxes	8,444,242	39.15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 21,566,944</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

State aid remains the largest portion of the revenue at 54.09 percent with local property taxes being 39.15 percent. The use of fund balance and reserves for next year makes up 5.05 percent and 1.48 percent represents items such as admission fees, investment income, BOCES refund and others. The school district also receives \$50,000 in federal funds. These grants are used to fund necessary programs for our district.

The tax levy will not increase but will decrease for 2019-20. The actual tax bill you receive may vary slight from last year due to any changes in assessment or equalization rates, which the Board of Education has no control over.

The following pie chart represents school district revenues:



## Contingency Budget and the Property Tax Cap

The 2019-20 state budget includes a provision to make the existing property tax levy limit law, also known as the tax cap, permanent. The law does not limit the amount of money a district can raise through the tax levy. Instead, it sets a threshold at which districts are required to obtain a higher level of community support for budget authorization.

Under the state's property tax cap, there is a 0 percent cap on the tax levy increase if the budget is defeated. Under a contingency budget, the district would have to levy the same amount of taxes as in the current year (or less), without any adjustments in the state pension rate increases, contractual obligations or any other costs, mandated or not.

If Hoosic Valley residents defeat the budget on May 21, the district would have two options: 1) Resubmit the same budget or revised budget for a revote on June 18, 2019; or 2) Adopt a contingency budget.

If the resubmitted spending plan is voted down for a second time, Hoosic Valley CSD must adopt a contingency budget, which would result in a reduction of \$554,965 to the proposed spending plan. Under a contingency budget, Hoosic Valley would be prohibited from spending money in certain areas, including the community use of school facilities (unless all costs are reimbursed to the district), new equipment purchases, non-essential maintenance, capital expenditures (except in emergencies), salary increases for non-instructional/non-unionized employees, and certain student supplies. The contingency rules also cap the growth of the administrative component of the budget.

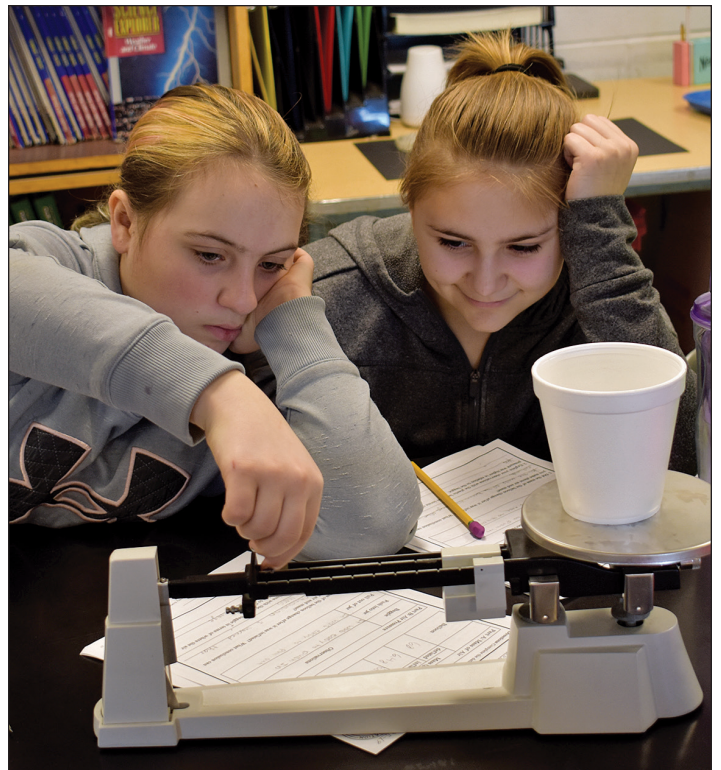
## Capital Construction Reserve Project

The Board also seeks voter authorization to increase the maximum level of the district's capital construction reserve fund from \$2 million to \$5 million and to spend \$310,263 from this fund to finance a project to improve security, athletic facilities and site work. State law requires district voters to approve the funding and use of these reserves, which are used to offset future borrowing and to pay for any needed capital improvements.

**HOOSIC VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**3-PART BUDGET 2019-2020 — GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION**

Code	Function or Account	Budget	2019-20		
		2019-20	Admin.	Program	Capital
1099.0	Board of Education	\$33,609	\$ 33,609		
1299.0	Central Administration	\$217,949	\$ 217,949		
1399.0	Finance	\$373,654	\$ 373,654		
1420.0	Legal Services	\$42,500	\$ 42,500		
1430.0	Personnel	\$2,970	\$ 2,970		
1480.0	Public Information	\$21,655	\$ 21,655		
1620.0	Operation of Plant	\$990,778			\$ 990,778
1621.0	Maintenance of Plant	\$75,204			\$ 75,204
1699.0	Other Central Services	\$99,217	\$ 99,217		
1998.0	Special Items	\$218,708	\$ 70,343		\$ 148,365
2010.0	Curr. Dev. and Supervision	\$110,650		\$ 110,650	
2020.0	Supervision Regular School	\$523,982	\$ 523,982		
2060.0	Research, Evaluation, & Planning	\$1,472	\$ 1,472		
2099.0	In Service	\$75,184		\$ 75,184	
2199.0	Teaching Reg. School	\$4,642,678		\$ 4,642,678	
2250.0	Programs for Handicapped Children	\$2,724,703	\$ -	\$ 2,724,703	
2270.0	Special Needs	\$0		\$ -	
2299.0	Occupational Education	\$672,301		\$ 672,301	
2399.0	Teaching - Special Schools	\$23,060		\$ 23,060	
2699.0	Computer Assisted Inst.	\$603,409		\$ 603,409	
2899.0	Pupil Personnel Services	\$858,198		\$ 858,198	
5510.0	Pupil Transportation	\$1,555,894		\$ 1,133,887	\$ 422,007
5530.0	Garage Building	\$57,000		\$ 57,000	
5540.0	Contract Transportation	\$0		\$ -	
8990.0	Community Services	\$0			
9098.0	Employee Benefits	5,709,638	\$ 534,240	\$ 4,948,541	\$ 226,858
9898.0	Debt Service	\$1,814,533			\$ 1,814,533
9951.0	Interfund Transfer	\$118,000		\$ 18,000	\$ 100,000
9999.99	TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$21,566,944	1,921,590	\$15,867,609	\$3,777,744
			8.91%	73.57%	17.52%



# HOOSIC VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2018-19 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2019-20 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2019-20 School Year *										
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 21,541,352	\$21,566,944	\$20,986,387										
Increase/Decrease for the 2019-20 School Year		\$25,592	(\$554,965)										
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		0.12 %	-2.58%										
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.44%											
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$8,536,118	\$8,444,242											
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)	\$8,536,118	\$8,444,242	\$8,444,242										
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$93,160	\$0											
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$8,819,320	\$8,839,130											
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$8,442,958	\$8,444,242											
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$376,362	\$394,888											
Administrative Component	\$1,902,004	\$1,921,590	\$1,915,090										
Program Component	\$15,664,232	\$15,867,609	\$15,818,809										
Capital Component	\$3,975,116	\$3,777,744	\$3,252,488										
<p>* 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.</p>													
<p>** 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)</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 80%;">Description</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Capital Construction Reserve Project</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$310,263</td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Description	Amount	Capital Construction Reserve Project	\$310,263						
Description	Amount												
Capital Construction Reserve Project	\$310,263												

NOTE: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: [emscmqts@nysed.gov](mailto:emscmqts@nysed.gov)

Under the Budget Proposed  
for the 2019-20 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$504 to \$531(Four Towns)
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The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2019-20 by the qualified voters of the Hoosic Valley Central School District, Rensselaer County, New York, will be held at the Elementary School in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 between the hours of 12:00pm and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the Elementary School gymnasium, 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

Christine Pepe, *President*  
Maureen Mayer, *Vice-President*  
Joe Barton  
David Paul  
Michael Reilly  
Margaret Rice  
James J. Ryan

Mike Apostol, *Interim Superintendent*  
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)**

### School Board Elections

There is one Board seat open for a four-year term beginning on July 1, 2019 and expiring on June 30, 2023. The candidate receiving the most votes will be elected to the Board. Please visit [www.hoosicvalley.k12.ny.us](http://www.hoosicvalley.k12.ny.us) for more information on board candidates.

### Can I vote by absentee ballot?

Qualified district residents who are unable to go to the polls on May 21 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 14. If the ballot is to be delivered in person, the application must be received by May 21. All completed ballots must be received by the district clerk no later than 5 p.m. on May 21.

### Voter Qualification

To be a qualified voter at the district budget vote, you must be: 1) A U.S. citizen, 2) 18 years or older and 3) A legal resident of Hoosic Valley CSD for 30 days preceding the vote.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**MAY 21: BUDGET VOTE AND BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION**  
12-9 p.m., Elementary Gym

**MAY 21: Elementary Learning Fair** • 6:30 p.m., Elementary Gym

Visit [www.hoosicvalley.k12.ny.us](http://www.hoosicvalley.k12.ny.us) for our full calendar

