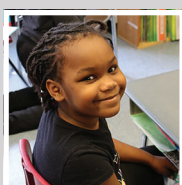


Public Budget Hearing
Tuesday, May 10, 6 p.m.
The meeting will be in person and available via live stream. Link to be posted on the district website.



Remember to Vote on May 17
2022-23 School Budget
Vote & Board of Education Election,
11 a.m. to 8 p.m.



Class of 2022 Graduation
Watervliet High School Class of 2022 Commencement is Friday, June 24.



News from

Watervliet CITY SCHOOLS

Proposed budget restores key staff positions, increases educational opportunities; tax levy increase below 'cap'

School budget vote set for May 17

On Tuesday, May 17, Watervliet City School District residents will vote on a proposed \$33,736,000 budget for the 2022-23 school year, a bus lease proposition and elect two candidates to the Board of Education. Voting will take place from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. at two polling locations: Watervliet Elementary School and the Watervliet Elks Lodge (see page 4).

The proposed budget would increase spending by 10.7%, or \$3.27 million over the current-year budget, allowing the district to restore previously eliminated staff positions, and increase educational programs and extracurricular opportunities for students.

The proposal carries a tax levy increase of 2.04%, which is significantly

below the district's limit as determined by the state's tax "cap" formula. Because the tax levy increase is below the district's allowable limit, a simple majority of voters (50% + 1) is needed to pass the budget. School tax rates, which determine the amount of money property owners pay per \$1,000 of assessed value, are set in August when the City provides its final tax assessment data to the district.

Watervliet will receive a net increase of \$3.2 million, or 14.56%, in state aid next year, which includes \$2.74 million in Foundation Aid. The remaining \$472,000 increase represents growth in expense-driven aid categories, such as transportation and BOCES aid.

The state budget approved by the Legislature in April delivers overall state education funding of \$31.5 billion, which is an increase of \$2.1 billion or 7.1%. This continues the state's commitment to fully phase in Foundation Aid to schools by the 2023-24 school year.

Even so, in developing the 2022-23 school budget, Watervliet's leadership team has remained cognizant of the need to plan for the rising costs of energy, fuel, healthcare and other goods

BUDGET At a Glance

Proposed Budget	Budget Increase	Tax Levy Increase
\$33.7 million	10.7% +\$3.27M	2.04% projected

and services that are impacted by inflation.

"The increase in state aid offers us the ability to restore and rebuild programs and opportunities that support student learning and personal growth," said Superintendent Dr. Donald Stevens. "It also allows us to offset the rising costs of operating our schools, and be mindful of the needs of our community."

Budget prioritizes learning, student needs

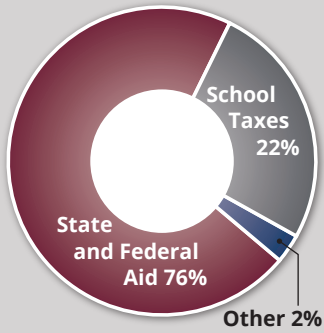
Proposed in next year's school budget are investments in additional supports for students and program needs. This includes the addition of a full-time psychologist or social worker and a full-time English as a New Language (ENL) teacher. These two positions would be shared between both schools.

It extends the support of smaller class sizes at the elementary level with two long-term substitute teachers and restores staffing reduced or eliminated in prior years, including a library aide position at Watervliet Elementary School; and three full-time teaching positions

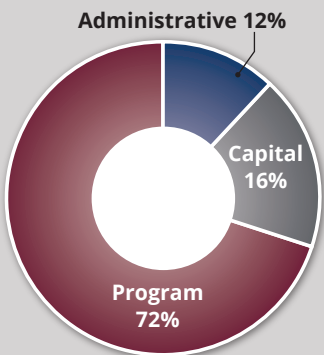


- continued on page 3

2022-23 Revenue Sources



2022-23 Projected Expenses



Where Watervliet's education dollars come from

Source of Revenue	2021-22 Budget	Proposed 2022-23 Budget	\$ Change
Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	\$205,000	\$215,000	\$10,000
Interest and Penalties on Taxes	31,000	28,000	(3,000)
Consumer Utility Tax	335,000	350,000	15,000
Charges for Services	32,000	35,000	3,000
Use of Money and Property	5,000	5,000	—
Miscellaneous	180,000	180,000	—
Total State Aid	22,057,000	25,269,000	3,212,000
Total Federal Sources	243,000	228,000	(15,000)
Interfund Transfers	—	—	—
School Taxes	7,275,000	7,426,000	151,000
Appropriated Fund Balance	100,000	0	(100,000)
Total	\$30,463,000	\$33,736,000	\$3,273,000

Visit watervlietcityschools.org for a glossary of budget terms, as well as more information about the proposed 2022-23 school budget.

How Watervliet's education dollars are spent

Budget Expense Category	Proposed Administrative 22-23 Budget	Proposed Program 22-23 Budget	Proposed Capital 22-23 Budget	Proposed Total 22-23 Budget	Total 2021-22 Budget	\$ Change
Board of Education	\$8,000	—	—	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$0
Central Administration	257,000	—	—	257,000	293,000	(36,000)
Finance	335,000	—	—	335,000	299,000	36,000
Staff	215,000	—	—	215,000	171,000	44,000
Central Services	583,000	—	995,000	1,578,000	1,440,000	138,000
Special Items	312,000	—	—	312,000	289,000	23,000
Administration & Improvement	1,222,000	—	—	1,222,000	1,175,000	47,000
Teaching-Regular School	—	8,165,000	—	8,165,000	7,406,000	759,000
Special/Occupational Ed Programs	—	6,105,000	—	6,105,000	5,598,000	507,000
Teaching-Summer School	—	—	—	—	—	—
Instructional Media	—	304,000	—	304,000	254,000	50,000
Pupil Services	—	1,699,000	—	1,699,000	1,432,000	267,000
Pupil Transportation	—	1,868,000	—	1,868,000	1,393,000	475,000
Employee Benefits	1,051,000	6,116,000	322,000	7,489,000	7,187,000	302,000
Debt Service	—	—	4,097,000	4,097,000	3,458,000	639,000
Interfund Transfers	—	—	82,000	82,000	60,000	22,000
Total	\$3,983,000	\$24,257,000	\$5,496,000	\$33,736,000	\$30,463,000	\$3,273,000

2022-23 Budget, from page 1

in art, physical education and social studies at Watervliet Junior-Senior High School.

The proposed plan provides additional opportunities for students by restoring the bowling program, establishing a girls wrestling program, and expanding the new e-sports team introduced during the second half of this school year.

For more information about the 2022-23 proposed budget, visit www.watervlietcityschools.org.

PROPOSITION 2: 5-YEAR BUS LEASE

Also on the May 17 ballots:

- 5-year bus lease: The district's current lease on its three buses expires June 30. This proposition would allow the district to bid for the lease of three new buses to continue to provide the current level of transportation services for students.

Watervliet School District Budget Notice

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	\$30,463,000	\$33,736,000	\$33,585,000
Increase/Decrease for the 2022-23 School Year		\$3,273,000	\$3,122,000
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		10.7%	10.2%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.7%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$7,275,000	\$7,426,000	
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)	\$7,275,000	\$7,426,000	\$7,275,000
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	-	-	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$7,378,723	\$7,539,152	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$7,275,000	\$7,426,000	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$103,723	\$113,152	
Administrative Component	\$3,801,000	\$3,983,000	\$3,965,000
Program Component	\$21,980,000	\$24,257,000	\$24,124,000
Capital Component	\$4,682,000	\$5,496,000	\$5,496,000

* If the proposed budget is defeated on May 17, the Board of Education will have three options: present the same budget to voters a second time; present a revised budget to voters; or adopt a contingent budget. If the budget is again defeated, the board must adopt a contingent budget. Under the tax levy limit law, school districts can levy a tax no greater than that of the prior year, or a 0 percent increase, in a contingent budget. The Watervliet City School District would be required to eliminate an additional \$151,000 in proposed spending for the 2022-2023 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
Authorizes the five-year lease of three 66-passenger school buses.	\$58,500/year for five (5) years

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$425 City of Watervliet \$429 Town of Colonie

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2022-23 by the qualified voters of the Watervliet school district, Albany County, New York, will be held at Watervliet Elementary School and the Watervliet Elks Club in said district on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., prevailing time in the Watervliet school(s), 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.



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*Produced by the Watervliet City School District
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Communications Service.*

Postal Customer

Voting in-person or by absentee ballot

- ✓ **You are eligible to vote if you** are a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years old, registered with the Albany County Board of Elections, and a resident of the school district for at least 30 days prior to the vote date.
- ✓ **Absentee ballots:** Residents who wish to vote by absentee ballot may pick up an application at the district office. Qualifications for voting by absentee ballot include: will be out of the county on the day of the vote; unable to appear in person due to a temporary/permanent illness or disability. Temporary illness includes concern about contracting or spreading a communicable disease, like COVID-19.
Visit: www.watervlietcityschools.org for more information.

Polling sites for the Tuesday, May 17 vote

For the school budget vote and Board of Education election on May 17, eligible voters will cast their ballots at one of the two sites below:

- ✓ **District 1 – the Watervliet Elks Lodge, 501 4th Avenue**
All locations in the district south of the northernmost wall of the Arsenal and the entire area of Mannsville.
 - ✓ **District 2 – Watervliet Elementary School, 2557 10th Avenue**
All locations in the district north of the northernmost wall of the Arsenal.
- Questions about the polling sites? Call the district office at 518-629-3201.*

Also on the ballot:

- ✓ **Board of Education election:** Voters will elect two candidates to serve on the Board of Education, beginning July 1. **For candidate information, please visit www.watervlietcityschools.org**

Elementary school community raises over \$3,500 for Ronald McDonald House Charities

Students hit the mark, literally and figuratively, during Watervliet Elementary School's annual fundraiser for Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) of the Capital Region. Students tossed some 200 whipped cream pies at Principal Kelly Webster and Assistant Principal Michael Foust for \$5 per throw. The event wrapped up a month-long Read for Ronald McDonald House initiative – during which students surpassed their goal, collecting more than \$2,500 in donations by reading at school and at home – raising over \$3,500 for RMHC.

