



TROY

CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

A PUBLICATION OF THE TROY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SPRING 2024

0% TAX LEVY INCREASE : PROPOSED 2024-2025 BUDGET: **\$133,067,785**

BUDGET VOTE & BOE ELECTION
Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Due to the ongoing construction at School 16, the polling place traditionally located in that building has moved to Carroll Hill School (112 Delaware Avenue) for this school year. See page 6 for a full list of polling locations.

Fiscally responsible, educationally sound

FOR BUDGET PRESENTATIONS AND BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATE BIOS, VISIT WWW.TROYCSD.ORG.

Proposed budget maintains programs & support without raising taxes

On April 23, the Troy CSD Board of Education adopted a proposed \$133,067,785 budget for the 2024-2025 school year. This proposal marks four consecutive years of a 0% tax levy increase and 12 years in a row proposing a budget at or below our allowable tax cap. Because of our long-term planning and commitment to fiscal responsibility, school taxes have increased by a total of less than five percent in the last nine years. We are pleased to present this budget that continues to provide the supports and resources our students need without increasing the burden on our taxpayers.

Residents will vote on the proposed budget on Tuesday, May 21. They will also vote for six candidates running for four seats on the Board of Education.

"We are proud of our history of presenting budgets that are educationally sound and fiscally responsible. Balancing the needs of our students and the cost to our taxpayers is at the forefront of our budget development each year," said Superintendent John Carmello. "This budget will help us continue our growth and improvement trends while also navigating our state's changing financial landscape."

This budget minimizes the impact on our programs and staffing despite the changes to school funding at the state level. Although Troy CSD received significantly less state aid than expected, this budget contains



Troy High School celebrated its 164th Commencement ceremony on June 23, 2023.

no reductions to programs or student supports and maintains small class sizes throughout the district.

"We have seen immense growth in our students over the past several years, and this budget will allow us to continue building on our successes," said Carmello. "As always, our commitment remains to ensure we meet the needs of all of our students, preparing them for success no matter what their future holds."

2024 Capital Project Proposal

On the ballot this year is a \$46 million capital improvement project that will allow us to make significant improvements to our aging buildings with no impact on the tax levy. As we approach the finish line on the Building Modernization Project voters approved in 2019, several areas still need improvement, primarily due to the age of many of our buildings.

Some of these needs, as noted in the latest Building Condition Survey (required by NYSED every five years), include adding secure entry vestibules to School 2, Carroll Hill and Troy High School, replacement of numerous lighting fixtures with LED lights, new interior doors at Troy High School (many of which are original to the 75-year-old building), and a significant list of repairs to sidewalks and roadways, ADA accessibility improvements, and a number of HVAC, plumbing and electrical upgrades. This project will also include renovations within the middle school to upgrade and expand the cafeteria and kitchen to offer additional meal options, as well as the creation of a separate music suite for the high school students, reducing scheduling conflicts and allowing both middle school and high school students to have dedicated spaces in which to practice.

The local share of this project will be funded through the Capital Reserve previously approved by the voters. This will allow for this significant project to be completed with no tax increase and will ensure our facilities are well-maintained for years to come.



Carroll Hill students demonstrating a growth mindset, working together to solve various problems.



Troy Fire Captain Dave Bader helps School 12 Pre-K student Aiva listen to her heartbeat.



3rd Grader Ariel brings her creation to life in Ms. Jones' art class at School 14.

Continued Student Growth

We are pleased to share that our positive trend of growth and improvement in student scores has continued since the State restarted Grades 3-8 assessments.

After a pause in assessments due to the pandemic, the results in 2021-2022 represented a reset and a new baseline. The number of our students scoring at proficient levels in Math and ELA increased every year from 2014-2015 through 2018-2019, and these increases have continued since testing resumed. On the ELA tests, proficiency increased by 8.5% from 2018-2019, and Math proficiency increased by 8% from 2018-2019. In addition, every school in the district showed improvement in proficiency levels in both ELA and Math over the past two years.

These are significant gains for our students, and they are primarily due to the dedication of our staff and the additional resources we have provided to support our students in and out of the classroom over the last several years. With this budget, we are once again prioritizing these supports to further strengthen instruction and continue our student growth.



Philadelphia-based artist Ralph Stollenwerk visited Troy Community School in January and helped students make their own screen-printed posters.

Visual/Performing Arts

This year, our student artists and performers again displayed their inspiring talents for our community and beyond. A number of exhibits around the state showcased our students' work, including the Troy Victorian Stroll, the New York State Art Teachers Association Exhibit at the NYS School Boards Association Convention, the 34th Annual Legislative Student Art Exhibit, and more.

The Troy High School Drama Club performed the play "Altar Egos" in November and the classic musical "Once Upon a Mattress" in March. In the fall, Troy Middle School students performed their first musical, taking to the stage in "Seussical! Jr".

Along with a full complement of winter concerts in December, and the annual Troy High Pops Concert in February, Troy also hosted the Rensselaer County School Music Association Winter Festival in January. We were honored to welcome student musicians from each school in Rensselaer County for a day of excellent performances from the Elementary Band, Junior Choir, Orchestra, Chamber Choir and Senior Band.



In November, Troy Middle School students performed "Seussical Jr.," their first Drama Club production.



Troy High fielded the only Varsity Flag Football team in Section 2 last year.

Athletics Update

Last year, Troy fielded the only Girls Varsity Flag Football team in Section 2, offering a new opportunity to dozens of girls previously never available in the Capital Region. As the only team in the section, the Flying Horses had extraordinarily long trips for away games. With support from the New York State Public High School Athletic Association, Section 2 and the New York Giants, we now have a total of 12 local teams, eliminating the long bus rides to and from road games. We are excited to be part of the continued growth of a sport that is gaining popularity nationwide, and we look forward to the first-ever New York State Flag Football championship later in the spring!

For the fall and winter seasons, Troy had a total of 10 scholar-athlete teams, in which the team's average GPA must be greater than or equal to 90%. In addition, 84 students with a GPA of 90% or above earned the individual scholar-athlete recognition. Congratulations to our Bowling, Boys Indoor Track, Golf, Boys & Girls Soccer, Cheerleading, Girls Cross-Country, Girls Swimming, Girls Tennis and Girls Volleyball on this prestigious honor!

Building Modernization Project/Capital Outlay Project Update

In December 2019, Troy CSD residents voted in favor of the \$56 million Building Modernization Project. This Capital Project was funded without increasing the tax levy and included necessary upgrades and purchasing an additional building that now houses the Troy Community School.

Phase IV is nearing completion, with the work on School 16 set to be finished this summer. Once the building is ready, School 16 will return to Collins Avenue from School 12. We would, once again, like to thank all of our families for their patience as we shifted many students between buildings the past few years.

The final piece of this large project is the construction of a new technology

wing at Troy High School. The current technology wing is at the end of its useful life and has had many repairs over the past several years. This new space will significantly improve our students' ability to learn 21st-century skills, opening new opportunities for them upon graduation.

Voters approved a Small City Capital Outlay Project in last year's budget, which allows us to address some immediate needs district-wide with no tax impact. Planning for this work is underway, and we expect to begin elevator repairs, lighting and water service upgrades, boiler replacements, and athletic field improvements soon.

TROY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT: SCHOOL BUDGET NOTICE

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2023-24 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2024-25 School Year *										
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 131,898,112	\$133,067,785	\$131,307,030										
Increase/Decrease for the 2024-25 School Year		\$1,169,673	\$(591,082)										
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		0.89 %	(0.45)%										
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.1%											
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A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$37,941,094	\$37,941,094											
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)	\$37,941,094	\$37,941,094	\$37,941,094										
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$845,791	\$1,224,397											
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$38,029,573	\$37,733,248											
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$37,095,303	\$36,716,697											
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$934,270	\$1,016,551											
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Administrative Component	\$11,959,082	\$12,090,089	\$11,852,279										
Program Component	\$95,832,860	\$99,455,957	\$98,808,012										
Capital Component	\$24,106,170	\$21,521,739	\$20,646,739										
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<p>* Under a contingency budget the District may not raise the tax levy over the prior year. In addition, the District cannot purchase any equipment, transfer funds to the Capital fund, allow buildings and grounds to be used by the public, or provide salary increases to non-contractual personnel</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%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Description</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Description	Amount		\$		\$		\$		\$
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	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$510

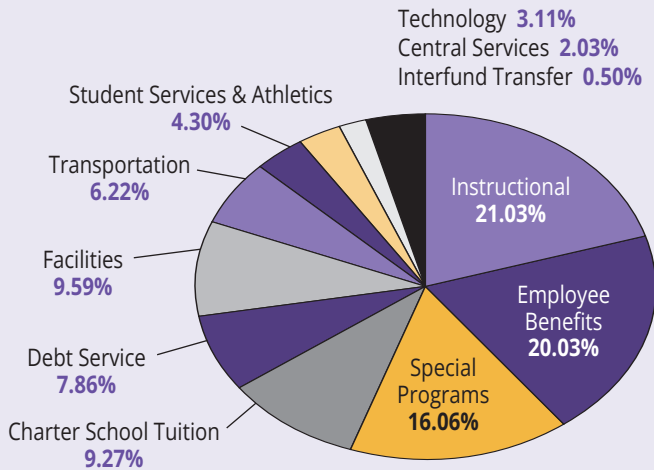
The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2024-25 by the qualified voters of the Enlarged City School District of Troy, Rensselaer County, New York, will be held on Tuesday, May 21 2024 between the hours of 7:30am and 8:00pm, prevailing time, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine. The polling locations will be PS2, PS12, PS14, PS18, and Carroll Hill schools (**PS 16 voters will be voting at Carroll Hill School due to the construction**).

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

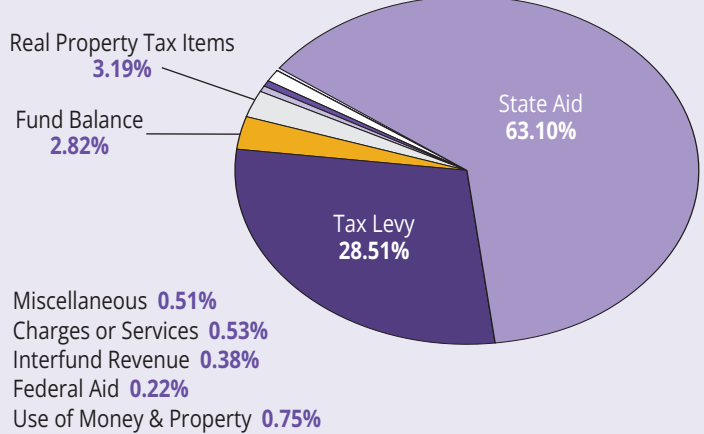
Expenditures — How is the money spent?

BUDGET CATEGORY	2024-2025	2023-2024	DIFFERENCE	% CHANGE
Instructional	\$27,989,442	\$26,845,985	\$1,143,457	4.36%
Employee Benefits	\$26,651,001	\$25,718,241	\$932,760	3.63%
Special Programs	\$21,368,174	\$20,637,864	\$730,310	3.54%
Charter School Tuition	\$12,334,000	\$12,841,720	-\$507,720	-3.95%
Debt Service	\$10,454,805	\$9,389,510	\$1,065,295	11.35%
Facilities	\$12,756,946	\$11,823,017	\$933,929	7.90%
Transportation	\$8,279,056	\$8,020,430	\$258,626	3.22%
Student Services & Athletics	\$5,726,670	\$4,893,105	\$833,565	17.04%
Technology	\$4,143,552	\$3,980,702	\$162,850	4.09%
Central Services	\$2,699,139	\$2,582,538	\$116,601	4.51%
Interfund Transfer	\$665,000	\$5,165,000	-\$4,500,000	-87.12%
Total General Fund Budget	\$133,067,785	\$131,898,112	\$1,169,673	0.89%

Expenditures



Revenues



Revenues — Where does the money come from?

REVENUE CATEGORY	2024-2025	2023-2024	DIFFERENCE	% CHANGE
State Aid	\$83,960,691	\$83,409,505	\$551,186	0.66%
Tax Levy	\$37,941,094	\$37,941,094	\$0	0.00%
Fund Balance	\$3,750,000	\$4,000,000	-\$250,000	-6.25%
Real Property Tax Items	\$4,240,000	\$3,550,000	\$690,000	19.44%
Miscellaneous	\$675,000	\$575,000	\$100,000	17.39%
Charges or Services	\$711,000	\$631,500	\$79,500	12.59%
Interfund Revenue	\$500,000	\$1,450,000	-\$950,000	-65.52%
Federal Aid	\$290,000	\$307,946	-\$17,946	-5.83%
Use of Money & Property	\$1,000,000	\$33,067	\$966,933	2924.16%
Total General Fund Budget	\$133,067,785	\$131,898,112	\$1,169,673	0.89%

Thank you to the Citizens Advisory Committee for their input on the proposed budget!



475 First Street, Troy, NY 12180

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District Office: (518) 328-5052

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BUDGET VOTE
BOE ELECTION
Tuesday, May 21

Produced by Questar III Communications Service

POLLING SITES:

Poll Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.

- School 2 - 470 Tenth Street
- School 12 - 475 First Street
- School 14 - 1700 Tibbits Avenue
- School 18 - 412 Hoosick Street
- Carroll Hill - 112 Delaware Avenue

Many Troy election districts have recently changed. Please verify your voting location on our website at www.troycsd.org.

(Please note that if you previously voted at School 16, you will vote at Carroll Hill School. If you are unsure, you may contact the BOE office to confirm.)

➔ On the Ballot for the May 21 Vote:

RESOLVED, that the proposed budget of expenditures of the Enlarged City School District of Troy, New York for the 2024-2025 school year in the amount of \$133,067,785 and for the purposes shown in the statement of estimated expenditures adopted by the Board of Education be the same hereby is approved and the amount thereof shall be raised by a levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the school district, after first deducting the monies available from state aid and other sources as provided by the law.

YES NO

PROPOSITION

SHALL the bond resolution adopted by the Board of Education of Enlarged City School District of Troy on April 17, 2024 which authorized (1) the reconstruction and renovation of various School District buildings, facilities and sites, the acquisition of original furnishings, equipment, machinery or apparatus required for the purpose for which such buildings, facilities, and sites are to be used and the payment of costs incidental thereto, at a maximum aggregate cost of \$46,000,000; (2) expenditure of such sum for such purpose, including the expenditure of \$7,000,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund; (3) levy of the necessary tax therefor (including the levy of a tax to pay the interest on obligations when due) to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education in accordance with Section 416 of the Education Law, taking into account state aid received and the amount expended from the Capital Reserve Fund; (4) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, issuance of bonds and notes of the District at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed \$39,000,000, be approved?

YES NO

Q: What happens if the budget is defeated?

A: If the proposed budget is defeated by voters, the District will adopt a contingency budget. This requires a 0% tax levy increase which is the same figure the district is currently proposing. Contingency budgets prohibit public use of buildings for non-District related events. It would also prohibit the purchase of student supplies and equipment, including computers and technology equipment.

Property Tax Information:

- The District's Tax Levy will increase 0% for the 2024-25 school year.
- The estimated basic STAR tax savings for homeowners in the City of Troy is \$510.
- The estimated basic STAR tax savings for homeowners in the Town of Brunswick is \$510.
- The tax rates will be established upon receiving the equalization rates from the New York State Office of Real Property Services and the final assessments from the City of Troy and Town of Brunswick.

Voter Eligibility:

To vote, you must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen and a resident of the Troy City School District for at least 30 days prior to the vote date. You must be registered before you are permitted to vote.

Absentee Ballot/Early Mail Voter Information:

To vote by absentee ballot or early mail, you must fill out an application. Please contact the Board of Education Office at 518-328-5070. If you want a ballot mailed to you, your application must be received seven days before the vote. If you plan to pick up your ballot, your application must be received one day prior to vote. Completed absentee or early mail ballots must be received by the District Clerk at School 12 by 5 p.m. on May 21, the day of the vote.

Understanding the Tax Cap Laws:

The law does allow for tax levy increases greater than 2% despite how it has been described. The law requires districts to calculate their own tax levy limit based on the law which includes exemptions for voter-approved local capital expenditures, increases in pension rates that exceed two points; and court order judgments. The Troy City School District's maximum allowable tax levy increase is 2.68%. The District is proposing going below this figure with the budget at 0%.