

NATIONAL FUEL GAS DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION
 NEW YORK DIVISION
 PROJECTED TAX INCREASE FOR SCHOOL TAXES
 IN ERIE COUNTY TO BE VOTED ON MAY 21, 2013
 PER BUFFALO NEWS ARTICLE MAY 18, 2013

Failed Budgets were brought to the tax cap.

	Tax Levy to be raised through Property Taxes	Tax Levy Increase	Calculated Previous Tax Levy	Pass/Fail
Alden	\$14,550,000	2.00%	\$14,259,000	Fail
Amherst	32,550,000	3.70%	31,345,650	Pass
Cheektowaga	22,430,000	2.93%	21,772,801	Pass
Cheektowaga Sloan	14,800,000	0.00%	14,800,000	Pass
Clarence	43,600,000	3.80%	41,943,200	Fail
Cleveland Hill	12,180,000	3.49%	11,754,918	Pass
Depew	16,600,000	2.97%	16,106,980	Pass
East Aurora	17,990,000	3.37%	17,383,737	Pass
Eden	13,050,000	1.99%	12,790,305	Pass
Frontier	34,960,000	3.50%	33,736,400	Pass
Grand Island	30,000,000	2.67%	29,199,000	Pass
Hamburg	33,510,000	5.40%	31,700,460	Pass
Holland	6,900,000	4.50%	6,589,500	Pass
Iroquois	26,100,000	2.24%	25,515,360	Pass
Kenmore	75,200,000	4.66%	71,695,680	Pass
Lackawanna	85,900,000	0.00%	85,900,000	Pass
Lake Shore	16,280,000	2.34%	15,899,048	Pass
Lancaster	46,210,000	3.96%	44,380,084	Pass
Maryvale	19,000,000	2.94%	18,441,400	Pass
Orchard Park	54,810,000	3.28%	53,012,232	Pass
Springville-Griffith	14,700,000	1.00%	14,553,000	Pass
Sweet Home	38,680,000	3.58%	37,295,256	Pass
Tonawanda - City	11,200,000	3.20%	10,841,600	Pass
West Seneca	54,080,000	2.92%	52,500,864	Pass
Williamsville	110,500,000	3.89%	106,201,550	Pass
Total Tax Levy	<u>\$845,780,000</u>	3.19%	<u>\$819,618,025</u>	

Tuesday May 21, 2013

[The Buffalo News.com \(/\)](http://www.buffalonews.com/)

City & Region



Confucious Institute of UB Chinese language teacher Shuo Zhao works on mandarin vocabulary drills with first graders Johnny Steinwachs, left, and Shane Gillian, center at Silver Creek Elementary School on Thursday, April 25, 2013. (Robert Kirkham/Buffalo News)

School District Elections

Updated: May 18, 2013, 10:34 PM Published: May 18, 2013, 11:00 PM

Voters in every Western New York community outside of Buffalo will head to the voting booth Tuesday to consider school budgets, school board candidates and propositions. The following capsules include the financial information voters can use to see how their money would be spent. All figures related to tax rates and tax bills are estimates, either provided by school officials, or calculated based on information they provided.

Alden

Candidates (Elect 1): James Yoerg (i).

Total budget: \$33.23 million, up 3.56 percent.

Tax levy increase allowed under tax cap: 4.68 percent.

Tax levy (total amount to be raised through property taxes): \$14.55 million, up 3 percent.

Property tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed value: \$37.74 in Alden, up 2.22 percent; \$19.25 in Lancaster, up 2.23 percent; \$41.84 in Marilla, up 2.30 percent; \$19.25 in Newstead, up 2.23 percent; \$21.78 in Darien, up 1.92 percent; and \$44.01 in Bennington, up 1.88 percent.

Percentage of budget from property taxes: 43.8 percent.

Percentage of budget from state aid: 39.9 percent.

Proposition 2: Voters will be asked to approve the purchase of four 66-passenger buses at a maximum cost of \$460,000. The money would come from a reserve fund and would not impact the 2013-14 budget.

Proposition 3: Voters will be asked to authorize the purchase of a one-ton pickup truck with plow package, a used 14-foot box truck and a snow blower attachment for a lawn machine for the Building and Grounds Department at a maximum cost of \$63,000. The money would come from a reserve fund and would not impact the 2013-14 budget.

Polls open: 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the gym at Alden High School, 13190 Park St.

Web link: www.aldenschools.org.

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Voters will consider a \$33.2 million budget that would increase spending by \$1.1 million over the current budget. The rise in spending is driven by a \$655,434 increase in spending for benefits and a \$361,140 increase in salary obligations.

Amherst

- Candidates (Elect 2): Dominic Vivolo, William Shaflucas.
- Total budget: \$49.47 million, up 3.7 percent.
- Tax levy increase allowed under tax cap: 4.34 percent.
- Tax levy (total amount to be raised through property taxes): \$32.55 million, up 3.7 percent.
- Property tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed value: \$21.79, up 3.7 percent
- Percentage of budget from property taxes: 66 percent.

- Percentage of budget from state aid: 21 percent.
- Propositions B: Authorization to transfer \$400,000 from the district's unrestricted fund balance to the district's Repair Reserve Fund, as established by the board in July.
- Polls open: 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the south gym at Amherst High School, 4301 Main Street
- Web link: www.amherstschools.org

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Voters will consider a \$49.47 million budget that would increase spending by \$1.77 million over the current budget. The rise in spending is driven by rising personnel costs and a decrease in state aid.

Cheektowaga

- Candidates (Elect 1): Heather DuBard and Dennis S. Kusak Jr.
- Total Budget: \$39.9 million, up 2.09 percent.
- Tax levy increase allowed under tax cap: 3.58 percent.
- Tax levy (total amount to be raised through property taxes): \$22.43 million, up 2.93 percent.
- Property tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed value: \$28.44, up 2.97 percent.
- Percentage of budget from property taxes: 56.2 percent.
- Percentage of budget from state aid: 30 percent.
- Proposition 2: Voters will be asked to approve the establishment of a seat for a non-voting student member of the Board of Education.
- Polls open: Noon to 9 p.m. Tuesday, May 21, in the band room of Cheektowaga Central High School, 3600 Union Road.
- Web link: www.cheektowagacentral.org.

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Voters will consider a \$39.9 million budget that would increase spending by \$817,039 over the current budget. The rise in spending is driven by a \$4.4 million increase in employee benefits and an increase of \$3.1 million for retirement costs.

Two running for one seat: Heather DuBard and Dennis S. Kusak Jr.

Cheektowaga Sloan

- Candidates (Elect 1): Claire Ferrucci (i), Sean Kaczmarek, Richard Piontek (i)
- Total Budget: \$33.4 million, up 1.06 percent.
- Tax levy increase allowed under tax cap: 4.1 percent.
- Tax levy (total amount to be raised through property taxes): \$14.8 million, a slight decrease.
- Property tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed value: \$52.87 in Cheektowaga, a 21-cent decrease; \$72.87 in West Seneca, a 29-cent decrease.
- Percentage of budget from property taxes: 44.5 percent.
- Percentage of budget from state aid: 35.1 percent.
- Proposition 2: Elimination of all mileage boundaries for transportation to schools.
- Proposition 3: Reform Board of Education election policy to reward candidates with highest total votes.
- Proposition 4: Allow a student position on the Board of Education with non-voting, non-compensation status.
- Polls open: Noon to 9 p.m. at the John F. Kennedy High School gym, 305 Cayuga Creek Rd., Cheektowaga.
- Web link: www.sloanschools.org

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The district is offering a slight tax decrease for its proposed \$33.4 million budget, which raises spending by 1.06 percent. The budget plan includes an increase in transportation for regular and handicapped students, benefits and instructional equipment and supplies.

Current vice president Claire Ferrucci is running unopposed. Richard Piontek (i) faces challenger, Sean Kaczmarek, 2012 co-valedictorian of John F. Kennedy High School, current University at Buffalo student.

Clarence

- Candidates (Elect 2): Tricia Andrews, Beth Bivona, Joseph J. DePasquale, Martha Root Dippold, Jason Lahti, Ian Scaduto, and Roger Showalter.
- Total budget: \$73.3 million, up 1.1 percent.

- Tax levy increase allowed under tax cap: 3.8 percent.
- Tax levy (total amount to be raised through property taxes): \$43.6 million, up 9.8 percent.
- Property tax rate per \$1,000 or assessed value: \$15.52, up 8.8 percent.
- Percentage of budget from property taxes: 60 percent.
- Percentage of budget from state aid: 29 percent.
- Proposition 2: Borrow to purchase 12 school buses and one pickup truck with plow – not to exceed \$995,000
- Polls open: 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., High School gymnasium, 9625 Main St.
- Web link: www.clarenceschools.org

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Voters will consider a \$73.3 million budget that would increase spending by \$800,000 over the current budget. The district is attempting to cover a budget gap with a combination of staff, spending cuts and an increase in the property tax levy.

Seven running for two seats: Tricia Andrews, 39, stay-at-home mom and former P.E. teacher; Beth Bivona, 42, partner at Damon Morey; Joseph J. DePasquale, 40, senior manager at VMware; Martha Root Dippold, 55, retired special education teacher; Jason Lahti, 40, president of iQ Modular Homes and treasurer of Buffalo Tungsten Inc.; Ian Scaduto, 19, UB student; and Roger Showalter, 42, president of Niagara Refining LLC and VP of Buffalo Tungsten.

Cleveland Hill

Candidates (Elect 2): Paul Kunkel (i); Robert Polino (i).

Total Budget: \$30.1 million, up 1.36 percent.

Tax levy increase allowed under tax cap: 4.76 percent.

Tax levy (total amount to be raised through property taxes): \$12.18 million, up 3.49 percent.

Property tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed value: \$45.83.

Percentage of budget from property taxes: 40.4 percent.

Percentage of budget from state aid: 40.8 percent.

Polls open: Noon to 9 p.m. in Cleveland Hill High School auditorium, 105 Mapleview Rd.

Web link: www.clevehill.wnyric.org

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With a \$30.1 million budget plan that raises spending 1.36 percent and increases the tax rate by 3.49 percent, the district wants to maintain the current educational programs it offers for students.

Depew

- Candidates (Elect 3): Nancy Fumerelle (i), Patrick Law, Gabrielle Miller, Nicole Simon and President John Spencer (i).
- Total budget: \$38.5 million, up 2.85 percent.
- Tax levy increase allowed under tax cap: 4.31 percent.
- Tax levy (total amount to be raised through property taxes): \$16.6 million, up 2.97 percent.
- Property tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed value: \$34.31 in Cheektowaga, up 2.97 percent, and \$21.27 in Lancaster, up 2.97 percent.
- Percentage of budget from property taxes: 42.57 percent.
- Percentage of budget from state aid: 40.93 percent.
- Proposition 2: Voters will be asked to approve the use of \$460,851 from a reserve fund to purchase two large school buses, four 28-seat vans and a plow truck for the Buildings and Grounds Department. The money would be taken from a reserve fund that was established in 2009 and would not affect the 2013-14 budget.
- Polls open: Noon to 9 p.m. May 21 in the library at Cayuga Heights Elementary School, 1780 Como Park Blvd.
- Web link: www.depewschools.org.

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Voters will consider a \$38.9 million budget that would increase spending by \$1.1 million over the current budget.

Five running for three seats: Board President John Spencer, 35-year Depew resident, firefighter, president of the Aetna Hose Co.; Nancy Fumerelle (i), 49, 42-year resident of Depew, career includes planning, implementing and teaching preschoolers; Patrick Law, 42, labor relations officer with the Department of Homeland Security, president of Southline Little League/Southline Athletic Association; Gabrielle

Miller, 48, volunteered with Depew schools for 20 years, attended board meetings for 15; and Nicole Simon, 36, lifelong Depew resident, senior project contract administrator for a local construction company.

East Aurora

- Candidates (Elect 2): Judith A. Malys; Clark Martens and Terri Ohlweiler.
- Total budget: \$29.89 million, up by 2.7 percent.
- Tax levy increase allowed under tax cap: 3.37 percent.
- Tax levy (total amount to be raised through property taxes): \$17.99 million, up by 3.37 percent.
- Property tax rate per \$1,000 or assessed value: \$37.10 for Aurora; \$33.08 for Colden; \$313.66 for Elma (not on full valuation). All tax rates reflect a 3.37 percent increase.
- Percentage of budget from property taxes: 60.2 percent.
- Percentage of budget from state aid: 25.3 percent.
- Proposition 2: None
- Polls open: 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Middle School cafeteria, 430 Main St.
- Web link: www.eastauroraschools.org.

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The district's \$29.89 million budget plan ended up achieving the School Board's ultimate goal of preserving programs and avoid cutting any teacher positions, given painful cuts that were made last year.

Three running for two seats: Judith A. Malys, 64, retired East Aurora school teacher; Clark Martens, 49, engineer; and Terri Ohlweiler, 45, stay-at-home mother of three and treasurer of Parkdale School PTO.

Eden

- Candidates (Elect 2): Kristen D. Pinker (i), Patricia M. Krouse, Steven P. Cerne (i), Paul R. Shephard.
- Total budget: \$25.72 million, up 2.1 percent.
- Tax levy increase allowed under tax cap: 2.9 percent.
- Tax levy (total amount to be raised through property taxes): \$13.05 million, up 1.99 percent
- Property tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed value: \$19.33 in Boston, up 1.7 percent; \$41.60 in Concord, up

2.9 percent; \$28.99 in Eden, up 2.2 percent; \$19.14 in Evans, up .67 percent; \$19.14 in North Collins, up .67 percent.

- Percentage of budget from property taxes: 50.7 percent.
- Percentage of budget from state aid: 38.8 percent.
- Proposition 2: Voters will be asked to spend up to \$32,000 from the district's repair reserve fund to purchase and install a new catalytic converter for the district's co-generation plant, which is required by Environmental Protection Agency regulations. The purchase will have no impact on the 2013-2014 tax levy.
- Polls open: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Eden Central Junior/ Senior High School, 3150 Schoolview Road, Eden.
- Web link: www.edencsd.org (<http://www.edencsd.org/>)

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Voters will consider a \$25.7 million budget that, among other changes, would cut about eight teaching positions as the district changes from block scheduling to a traditional schedule at the Junior-Senior High School. Superintendent Sandra Anzalone said the changes would be made without affecting programs.

Four running for two seats: Board VP, Kristen D. Pinker, 45, international marketing manager; Patricia M. Krouse, 44, consultant for NutraMetrix; Board President Steven P. Cerne, 48, management consultant; and Paul R. Shephard, 49, emergency medical service instructor, spent eight years in the Air Force.

Frontier

- Candidates (Elect 2): *No board race this year because voters last year approved a referendum downsizing the board from nine to seven members. As of July 1, board seats now held by veteran board member Nancy Wood and Jeremy Rosen will be eliminated.
- Total budget: \$73.21 million, up by 1.28 percent.
- Tax levy increase allowed under tax cap: 3.51 percent.
- Tax levy (total amount to be raised through property taxes): \$34.96 million, up by 3.5 percent.
- Property tax rate per \$1,000 or assessed value: \$25.20 in Hamburg, up by 3.08 percent; \$22.90 in Eden, up by 3.08 percent.
- Percentage of budget from property taxes: 47.8 percent.

- Percentage of budget from state aid: 38.3 percent.
- Proposition 2: Asking voters for approval to purchase \$863,739 for a total of eight buses to help supplement a bus fleet that has some buses with high mileage that need to be retired. The purchase would include five, 66-passenger buses; two 30 to 35-passenger buses and one 35-passenger bus with wheelchair accessibility.
- Polls open: 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. at just one polling site this year: The Frontier Community Learning Center at 4540 Southwestern Blvd., Hamburg.
- Web link: www.frontier.wnyric.org.

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Voters will consider approving a \$73.2 million budget, which calls for the elimination of 24.8 full-time equivalent teachers and support staff for the next school year. The budget increases spending by 1.28 percent and uses the maximum tax levy cap of 3.51 percent.

Grand Island

Candidates (Elect 3): Acting President Paul Krull (i), Donna Tomkins (i) and Lisa Pyc.

Total budget: \$54.4 million, up 2.52 percent.

Tax levy increase allowed under tax cap: 2.67 percent.

Tax levy (total amount to be raised through property taxes): \$30 million, up 2.67 percent.

Property tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed value: \$19.10.

Percentage of budget from property taxes: 56 percent.

Percentage of budget from state aid: 29 percent.

Proposition 2: Voters will be asked to consider the purchase of school buses and other vehicles for an amount not to exceed \$709,860. The Board of Education would determine the tax levied and the finance terms at a later date if the proposition is approved.

Polls open: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. May 21 at Grand Island High School, 1100 Ransom Road.

Web link: www.k12.ginet.org.

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Voters will consider a \$54.4 million budget that would increase spending by \$1.3 million over the current

budget. The rise in spending is driven by an \$886,033 increase in salary obligations and an increase of \$764,250 for pension costs.

Hamburg

- Candidates (Elect 3): Joan Calkins (i), John R. Callahan, Catherine Schrauth Forcucci, Laura Heeter, Gary R. Klumpp, Sheila Ruhland and David Yoviene.
- Total budget: \$60.25 million, up 6.45 percent.
- Tax levy increase allowed under tax cap: 5.4 percent.
- Tax levy (total amount to be raised through property taxes): \$33.51 million, up 5.4 percent.
- Property tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed value: \$33.62 in Hamburg, up 5 percent; \$20.48 for Boston, up 5.14 percent.
- Percentage of budget from property taxes: 55.6 percent.
- Percentage of budget from state aid: 34 percent.
- Polls open: 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the high school gym, 4111 Legion Dr.
- Web link: www.hamburgschools.org

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The proposed budget continues current programming in academics, athletics and extracurricular activities for the 2013-14 school year, unlike the past three years where there were major staff and program reductions.

Seven running for three seats: Board president Joan Calkins, 59, pediatrician; John R. Callahan, 43, financial analyst; Catherine Schrauth Forcucci, 50, U.S. Postal Service letter carrier; Laura Heeter, 43, homemaker and former special ed teacher; Gary R. Klumpp, 56, baseball instructor and clinic director at New Era School of Baseball; Sheila Ruhland, 50, Erie County Probation Department supervisor; and David Yoviene, 55, part-owner of Sellmore Industries Inc.

Holland

- Candidates (Elect 2): Jenelle Nadler, Brian Jones, Paul Rowe
- Total budget: \$18 million, up 5.5 percent
- Tax levy increase allowed under tax cap: 4.5 percent
- Tax levy: \$6.9 million, up 4.5 percent

- Property tax rates per \$1,000 assessed value: \$14.52, up 4.3 percent in Holland.
- Percentage of budget from property taxes: 37 percent
- Percent of budget from state aid: 49 percent
- Proposition 2: Purchase of one 66-passenger bus, one 34-passenger van, and one 10-passenger van for a total cost of \$198,000.
- Proposition 3: Authorize transfer of up to \$150,000 from the unrestricted fund balance to the district's Repair Reserve Fund
- Polls open: 6 a.m. – 9 p.m. Middle School Cafeteria, 11720 Partridge Rd.
- Web link: www.holland.wnyric.org

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Residents in the Holland Central School District will vote on an \$18 million spending plan that increases the tax levy by the 4.5 percent allowed under the tax cap formula.

Three running for two seats: Jenelle Broom Nadler, Holland Central alumni and mother of two, works in health care, former PTO president and recipient of Holland's "triple H" award; Brian Jones, father of five, works at a specialty cement and adhesive manufacturer, involved in Holland Raiders, wrestling club, and Boys and Girls Club; and Paul Rowe, father of three, employed in the computer technology field, former president of Holland Raiders.

Iroquois

- Candidates (Elect 2): Sharon Szeglowski, Daniel T. Behlmaier
- Total budget: \$44.1 million, up 1.39 percent
- Tax levy increase allowed under tax cap: 2.24 percent
- Tax levy: \$26.1 million, up 2.24 percent
- Property tax rates per \$1,000 assessed value: \$340.76 for Elma, up 2.2 percent; \$35.92 for Marilla, up 2.2 percent.
- Percentage of budget from property taxes: 59.2 percent
- Percent of budget from state aid: 27.4 percent
- Proposition 2: Purchase 3 (62-passenger) buses and 2 van at a maximum cost of \$400,000

- Proposition 3: Expend \$60,000 from the district's Capital Reserve Fund known as the "Technology Reserve Fund
- Polls open: 7:30 a.m. – 9 p.m. Iroquois Intermediate Gymnasium, Girdle Road
- Web link: www.iroquoiscsd.org

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Residents in the Iroquois Central School District will decide on a \$44.1 million budget that carries a tax levy increase of 2.24 percent- the lowest in 15 years. The spending plan maintains current academic programs and class sizes as well as all extra-curricular programs offered in 2012-13.

Kenmore - Town of Tonawanda

- Candidates (Elect 2): Bob Dana (i), Richard Harned, Stephen Hart and Todd Potter.
- Total budget: \$149 million, up .84 percent.
- Tax levy increase allowed under tax cap: 5.66 percent.
- Tax levy (total amount to be raised through property taxes): \$75.2 million, up 4.66 percent.
- Property tax rate per \$1,000 or assessed value: \$45.20.
- Percentage of budget from property taxes: 50.5 percent.
- Percentage of budget from state aid: 32.06 percent.
- Proposition 2: purchase up to two diesel 65-passenger school buses; four gasoline 30-passenger school buses; and one gasoline wheelchair bus, at a total cost not to exceed \$525,046.
- Polls open: 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. in Herbert Hoover School, 249 Thorncliff Road.
- Web link: www.kenton.k12.ny.us

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Voters will consider a \$149 million budget that would increase spending by \$1.23 million over the current budget. The proposed budget is the first in four years that doesn't directly reduce student programming or increase class sizes. This year's voting will return to a single polling place.

Four running for two seats: Board president Bob Dana, 67, retired business teacher for the Williamsville Central School District; Richard Harned, 67, who taught social studies for more than 30 years at district's two high schools and Hoover Middle; Stephen Hart, 31, former employee of Ken-Ton's Building

and Grounds Department, teaching assistant at Amherst Middle School and also serves as a coach; and Todd Potter, 22, 2009 graduate of Kenmore East High, 2012 graduate of D'Youville College, current UB Law student.

Lackawanna

- Candidates (Elect 2): Jennifer R. Grzybowski, Ronald S. Miller (i), Nicholas Sobaszek, and Richard P. Zybert.
- Total Budget: \$47.5 million, up 4.89 percent.
- Tax levy increase allowed under tax cap: 5.3 percent.
- Tax levy (total amount to be raised through property taxes): \$8.59 million, no change.
- Property tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed value: Homestead rate of \$12.43 per \$1,000; Non-homestead rate of \$32.02 per \$1,000.
- Percentage of budget from property taxes: 18.1 percent.
- Percentage of budget from state aid: 61.9 percent.
- Polls open: Noon to 9 p.m.
- Polling sites: First Ward, Bocce Court, 175 Madison Avenue; Second Ward, Queen of Angels Hall (St. Michael's), 144 Warsaw Street; Third Ward, McKinley School, 245 South Shore Boulevard; Fourth Ward, Lackawanna Senior High School, 550 Martin Road.
- Web link: www.lackawannaschools.org

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Voters will consider a \$47.5 million budget that would increase spending by \$2.2 million over the current budget. The proposed spending plan would eliminate the equivalent of 11 of the district's 154 teaching positions.

Four running for two seats: Jennifer R. Grzybowski, 2000 graduate of Lackawanna High School, bachelor's degree from UB, worked in insurance industry before becoming stay-at-home mother to three, current president of Truman School PTA; Board President Ronald S. Miller, retired Lackawanna police officer; Nicholas Sobaszek, 2004 graduate of Lackawanna High School, SUNY Buffalo State student, works as sales manager for Unicorn; and Richard P. Zybert, retired Lackawanna police officer, ran Lackawanna schools D.A.R.E. program.

Lake Shore

- Candidates (Elect 3): Cynthia Latimore (i), William J. Connors Jr., Jennifer S. Farrell.

- Total budget: \$53.28 million, up 1.02 percent.
- Tax levy increase allowed under tax cap: 2.37 percent.
- Tax levy (total amount to be raised through property taxes): \$16.28 million, up 2.34 percent.
- Property tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed value: \$17.13, up 2.3 percent in Evans; \$17.31, up 2.3 percent in Brant; \$25.58, up 2.3 percent in Eden.
- Percentage of budget from property taxes: 30.5 percent.
- Percentage of budget from state aid: 49.7 percent.
- Proposition 2: Purchase of three full-size, 71-passenger school buses for a total cost of \$340,639.
- Polls open: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the lobby of Lake Shore Senior High School, 959 Beach Road.
- Web link: www.lakeshore.wnyric.org.

Voters will consider a \$53.28 million budget for the 2013-14 school year, an increase in spending of \$535,694. The increase is driven largely by growing retirement costs.

Lancaster

- Candidates (Elect 2): William J. Gallagher, Kenneth E. Graber (i), Julie Gies Kaska.
- Total budget: \$94.72 million, up 3.5 percent.
- Tax levy increase allowed under tax cap: 5.99 percent.
- Tax levy (total amount to be raised through property taxes): \$46.21 million, up 3.96 percent.
- Property tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed value: \$16.54, up 3.05 percent in Lancaster; \$26.68, up 3.05 percent in Cheektowaga; \$341.03, up 3.07 percent in Elma.
- Percentage of budget from property taxes: 48.8 percent.
- Percentage of budget from state aid: 29.8 percent.
- Proposition 2: Spending \$906,107 from the bus reserve fund to buy eight, 65-passenger replacement buses, with no tax impact.
- Polls open: 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. in Lancaster High School's Java Gym, One Forton Drive.
- Web link: www.lancasterschools.org

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Next year's \$94.72 million budget for the Lancaster School District would increase spending by 3.5 percent over the current budget while raising the tax levy by 3.96 percent.

Three running for two seats: William J. Gallagher, 36, math teacher at Frontier Middle School; Board President Kenneth E. Graber, 62, administrative law judge with NYS Board of Parole; and Julie Gies Kaska 44, a stay-at-home mother and active district volunteer, serves as a parent representative on the Advisory Council.

Maryvale

- Candidates (Elect 1): Julianne Renczkowski.
- Total Budget: \$36.4 million, up 1.46 percent.
- Tax levy increase allowed under tax cap: 4.39 percent.
- Tax levy (total amount to be raised through property taxes): \$19 million, up 2.94 percent.
- Property tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed value: Ranging from \$30.29 to \$30.44, which translates to 2.45 to 2.94 percent.
- Percentage of budget from property taxes: 52.2 percent.
- Percentage of budget from state aid: 37 percent.
- Polls open: Noon to 9 p.m. in Robert A. Brinner Educational Center, 1050 Maryvale Dr.
- Web link: www.maryvale.wnyric.org

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Maryvale Schools is proposing a \$36.4 million budget plan that would raise spending 1.46 percent. The proposed budget would raise the tax rate up to 2.94 percent, but the increase may fall to as low as 2.45 percent when tax rolls are finalized in August.

North Collins

- Candidates (Elect 1): Tammy Winter.
- Total budget: \$14.87 million, up 3.2 percent.
- Tax levy increase allowed under tax cap: 6.2 percent.
- Tax levy (total amount to be raised through property taxes): \$5.02 million, up 2.92 percent.
- Property tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed value: \$21.05, up 2.9 percent in North Collins.
- Percentage of budget from property taxes: 33.78 percent.
- Percentage of budget from state aid: 47.63 percent.
- Proposition 2: To purchase one bus and one vehicle at a cost not to exceed \$220,000.
- Polls open: Noon to 9 p.m. in North Collins Jr/Sr High School Gym, 2045 School St.

Web link: www.northcollins.com

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North Collins could have raised the tax levy over 6 percent and still stayed within the tax cap, but the board wanted to say within the 3 percent increase range, according to Superintendent Benjamin A. Halsey.

Orchard Park

- Candidates (Elect 3): Anthony Agnello, Dwight D. Mateer, Donna M. Omar (i), Natalie A. Schaffer, (i), Christopher T. Shively and Christine Gray Tinnesz.
- Total budget: \$86.04 million, up 2.87 percent.
- Tax levy increase allowed under tax cap: 3.29 percent.
- Tax levy (total amount to be raised through property taxes): \$54.81 million, up 3.28 percent.
- Property tax rate per \$1,000 or assessed value: \$32.01 in Orchard Park, up 2.39 percent.
- Percentage of budget from property taxes: 63.7 percent.
- Percentage of budget from state aid: 25 percent.
- Proposition 2: To spend up to \$700,000 to buy four buses, three vans and one wheelchair van
- Polls open: 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. in Orchard Park High School Gym, 4040 Baker Road. Use the Freeman

Road entrance for ease of parking and entrance to gym.

- Web link: www.opschools.org

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Next year's budget would keep class sizes within current School Board guidelines, with a net reduction in staff of 8.25 full-time equivalent positions. The budget also preserves the gifted and talented program in the elementary and middle schools and increases counselor and social worker support on the elementary level.

Six running for three seats. Two candidates with most votes will be elected, candidate in third will fill the remainder of the term of former board President Alfred McClymonds. They are: Anthony Agnello, 65, retired biology teacher, football, track and wrestling coach at Orchard Park High School; Dwight D. Mateer, 44, civil engineer; Donna M. Omar (i), 46, certified fitness specialist and owner of Anytime Fitness; Natalie A. Schaffer (i), 44, attorney and project manager for construction of a medical facility in Lancaster; Christopher T. Shively, 47, assistant professor of elementary education at SUNY Buffalo State; and Christine Gray Tinnesz, 40, instructor for education schools at SUNY Buffalo State and Medaille College.

Springville-Griffith

- Candidates (Elect 1): William Burse, Allison Duwe
- Total budget: \$34.9 million, up 3 percent
- Tax levy increase allowed under tax cap: 5.1 percent
- Tax levy: \$14.7 million, up 1 percent
- Property tax rates per \$1,000 assessed value: \$17.20, up 1 percent
- Percentage of budget from property taxes: 42 percent
- Percent of budget from state aid: 46 percent
- Proposition 2: The purchase of four 66-passenger buses, two 16-passenger buses, and one 24-passenger bus with wheelchair lift at a maximum aggregate cost of \$577,127
- Polls open: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the following locations: High School Library Media Center, 290 North Buffalo St.; Colden Elementary School, 8263 Boston-Colden Rd., Colden and Collins Center Fire Hall, Main St., Collins Center.
- Web link: www.springvillegi.org

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Voters will decide on a \$34.9 million budget, an increase of 3 percent. The spending plan maintains class sizes, athletic and extracurricular programs, returns team teaching to the Middle School, and allows for the implementation of a Family Support Center.

Terms of three board members expire June 30, but due to voter-approved Board reduction from seven seats to five, one is vacant: William Bursee, local business owner, lived with his wife and two children in Springville for 14 years and Allison Duwe, Springville-Griffith Institute graduate, former president of Springville Center for the Arts, sending her first of three children to kindergarten this fall.

Sweet Home School District

- Candidate (Elect 1): Scott M. Johnson (i).
- Total budget: \$68.16 million, up 1.24 percent.
- Tax levy increase allowed under tax cap: 4.45 percent.
- Tax levy (total amount to be raised through property taxes): \$38.68 million, up 3.58 percent.
- Property tax rate per \$1,000 or assessed value: \$14.99, up 3.52 percent in Amherst; \$31.85 in Tonawanda, up 3.51 percent.
- Percentage of budget from property taxes: 57.04 percent.
- Percentage of budget from state aid: 28.51 percent.
- Proposition 2: Purchase four, 65-passenger school buses at a cost of \$442,000.
- Polls open: 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. in Vergils Community Center at Sweet Home High School, 1901 Sweet Home Road.
- Web link: sweethomeschools.com

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Voters will consider a \$68.16 million budget that would increase spending by \$833,386 over the current spending plan.

City of Tonawanda

- Candidates (Elect 3): Geraldine Angelo, Fred Busch, Elizabeth Olka, Danielle Opalinski (i)
- Total Budget: \$29.8 million, up 1.07 percent.
- Tax levy increase allowed under tax cap: 4.5 percent.

- Tax levy (total amount to be raised through property taxes): \$11.2 million, up 3.2 percent.
- Property tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed value: \$17.84, up 3.2 percent
- Percentage of budget from property taxes: 37.6 percent.
- Percentage of budget from state aid: 51 percent.
- Proposition 2: Approve the sale of Central School to David Capretto for \$220,000.
- Polls open: 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Tonawanda High School Wellness Gym, 600 Fletcher St.
- Web link: www.tonawandacsd.org

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The Tonawanda City School District is asking voters to approve a \$29.8 million budget that will raise the tax levy rate by 3.2 percent. The proposed budget makes some reductions to the BOCES special education program and eliminates three full-time teaching positions.

Four running for three seats: Danielle Opalinski (i) appointed to the board in February, running for first full term; former board member Elizabeth Olka and newcomers Fred Busch and Geraldine Angelo. Top vote getter will assume Opalinski's seat immediately.

West Seneca

- Candidates (Elect 3): Frank Calieri, Julie Goodwin, Timothy Elling, John C. Oshei, Karl Spencer, Carol Jarczyk (i), Christen Buchholtz and Kate Newton.
- Total budget: \$106.82 million, down 1.26 percent.
- Tax levy increase allowed under tax cap: 4.69 percent.
- Tax levy (total amount to be raised through property taxes): \$54.08 million, up 2.92 percent.
- Property tax rate per \$1,000 or assessed value: All are up 2.51 percent. \$38.99 in West Seneca; \$28.30 in Cheektowaga; \$28.81 in Hamburg; and \$30.25 in Orchard Park.
- Percentage of budget from property taxes: 50.6 percent.
- Percentage of budget from state aid: 38.2 percent.
- Polls open: 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. West Seneca East High School, 4670 Seneca St.
- Web link: www.wscschools.org

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Voters will consider a \$106.82 million budget in which spending is down by approximately \$1.35 million over the current budget. While there's a reduction in personnel of more than 100 people, the costs related to dozens of pending retirements is almost \$3.27 million.

Eight running for three seats. Top two vote-getters will serve three-year terms, person with third highest total will serve a year: Frank Calieri, 46; Julie Goodwin, 28; Timothy Elling, 52; John C. Oshei, 18; Karl Spencer, 49; Carol Jarczyk (i), 57; Christen Buchholtz, 30; and Kate Newton, 45.

Williamsville

- Candidates (Elect 3): Anthony J. Laforvara III, Michael Kane, Thomas J. Navarro Jr., Carrie Kahn (i), Peter U. Bergmann (i), Mohan Devgun (i).
- Total budget: \$170 million, up 3.32 percent.
- Tax levy increase allowed under tax cap: 4.34 percent.
- Tax levy (total amount to be raised through property taxes): \$110.5 million, up 3.89 percent
- Property tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed value: \$18.96 in Amherst and Clarence, up 3.29 percent; \$29.60 in Cheektowaga, up 3.29 percent.
- Percentage of budget from property taxes: 65 percent.
- Percentage of budget from state aid: 19.78 percent.
- Proposition 2: Voters will be asked to authorize the district to spend up to \$920,000 from the transportation capital reserve funds to lease or purchase replacements for eight buses.
- Polls open: 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. in North High School Gymnasium, 1595 Hopkins Road, Williamsville.
- Web link: www.williamsvillek12.org (<http://www.williamsvillek12.org/>)

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Voters will consider a \$170 million budget that would increase spending by 3.32 percent over the current plan.

Six running for three seats: Anthony J. Laforvara III, 47, teacher in the Buffalo City Schools with three children in Williamsville schools; Michael Kane, 24, local attorney and 2006 graduate of North High School; Thomas J. Navarro Jr, 50, local attorney and parent in the school district; Carrie Kahn, 59, current board president who is executive dean of workforce development at Erie Community College and mother of South High School graduate; Peter U. Bergmann (i), 42, president and CEO of Sisters of

Charity Hospital with three children in the district; Mohan Devgun (i), 70, SUNY College at Buffalo professor and father of an East High School graduate.

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Wednesday May 22, 2013
The Buffalo News.com (/)

City & Region



Clarence High School sophomore Armeeta Hajikand is among students encouraging residents to approve the school budget along Main Street near the high school on Tuesday. Their efforts failed to convince voters, who rejected the budget 4,801 to 3,431. Sharon Cantillon/Buffalo News

Clarence voters reject 10% tax hike in school budget 24 districts OK budget plans

BY: [Charlie Specht \(mailto:cspecht@buffnews.com\)](mailto:cspecht@buffnews.com), [Denise Jewell Gee \(mailto:djee@buffnews.com\)](mailto:djee@buffnews.com),
[Karen Robinson \(mailto:krobinson@buffnews.com\)](mailto:krobinson@buffnews.com)

Published: May 22, 2013, 01:06 AM

Updated: May 22, 2013, 08:02 AM

Attempts to exceed school tax caps in Clarence and Lewiston-Porter failed on Tuesday, while voters in two dozen other communities gave approval to spending plans that would increase taxes.

A proposed 9.8 percent hike in tax revenue galvanized residents in Clarence, where voter turnout set a record high of 8,232 and long lines in the high school gym remained after polls closed. A vocal campaign to defeat the budget included signs and mailers, and high school students lined up on Main Street with homemade signs in hand to urge approval.

But for a large and vocal contingent of town residents, a nearly 10 percent tax hike was just too much to ask.

"It just bothers me they take from seniors who are really struggling, just to pay for luxuries," said Ellie Corcoran, 72. "They want to get from A to Z in a Cadillac instead of a Chevy."

Voters in all but two of the 37 school districts in Erie and Niagara counties that held elections on Tuesday were faced with budgets that increased the amount of taxes collected. In many districts, those tax increases were proposed along with budget cuts to make up for steep increases in teacher pension costs and state aid that remains lower than three years ago.

Despite those tax increases, voters in 24 districts approved school spending plans, according to early results. Five budget proposals were defeated, the others being Alden, Wilson and Niagara Wheatfield.

"I happen to believe that the most important thing we can provide our kids is a good education," said George Mekker, a retired Kenmore West teacher who was among those who approved a budget proposal in Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda.

Clarence school leaders took the high turnout in Clarence as a sign they must cut more.

"I think any time you have a community cast 8,000 votes and the previous highest turnout was around 3,000, the people have spoken, and it's up to us to listen to that message," said Clarence Superintendent Geoffrey Hicks.

School districts where budget proposals were defeated Tuesday can present the same budget or a revised version to voters in June. If that fails, they must adopt a contingency budget that does not raise the amount of taxes collected.

Hicks said the school board would hold a special meeting to consider its options. The district would need to cut another \$2.44 million from the budget to get to the district's 3.8 percent tax cap.

"It's up to us to roll up our sleeves and get to the tax cap," Hicks said.

Voters in Clarence also defeated a proposal to buy new buses and swept in two new School Board members who had campaigned against the proposed tax increase.

"The voters have spoken," said Roger Showalter, who won a board seat along with Jason Lahti. "People turned out because they want their voice heard and they want better fiscal management of their tax dollars."

Lewiston-Porter Superintendent Chris Roser, speaking before the budget vote, said he anticipated the Lewiston-Porter School Board would work toward crafting a new budget that remained within the state's tax cap. That would mean about \$500,000 in additional budget cuts, he said.

Turnout appeared to be higher than in other years in this year's hotly contested School Board race in Hamburg, where voters approved a spending plan that increased tax revenue by 5.4 percent.

Cindy Ripley said her daughter got a good education when she went to Hamburg, and she is "really concerned about our school."

"I'm really concerned that what is happening for kids is the right thing," Ripley said.

But the focus across Western New York on Tuesday was in Clarence, where the days leading up to the election brought allegations of sign stealing and vandalism. Passion on both sides of the budget vote was visible on Main Street, where students lined up with homemade signs. "Do we cut students next?" one of the signs read. Another urged voters to vote yes and "Save Music."

Others held up large "NO" signs.

Brendan Biddlecom said he voted yes to protect extracurricular activities like music class that affect his three young children.

"They've cut a lot of things over the past few years," said Biddlecom, 33. "I just think that's going to hurt not only the schools, but the entire community."

Carol Poliner said she voted no because she felt the district could make budget cuts without harming programs by asking teachers and administrators to pay more for their health care.

"I'm sure that they can find ways of making ends meet like the rest of us do without raising the taxes by 10 percent," Poliner said.

Both sides in Clarence could agree on one issue: Never has a budget vote in Clarence been more contentious.

"I grew up here," Biddlecom said, "and I've never seen anything like this."

Erie County

Akron

Candidates (elect three): Phillip Kenline (i), 392; Shannon Cinotti, 381; David Penn (i), 316.

Budget: Yes, 420; No, 218.

Alden

Candidates (elect one): James Yoerg (i), 839.

Budget: Yes, 495; No, 743.

Proposition 2: Purchase four 66-passenger buses at a maximum cost of \$460,000: Yes, 644; No, 594.

Proposition 3: Purchase a one-ton pickup truck with plow package, a used 14-foot box truck and a snow blower attachment for a lawn machine for the Building and Grounds Department at a maximum cost of \$63,000: Yes, 640; No, 596.

Amherst

• Candidates (elect two): Dominic Vivolo, 712; William Shaflucas, 679.

• Budget: Yes, 627; No, 276.

• Propositions B: Transfer \$400,000 from the district's unrestricted fund balance to the district's Repair Reserve Fund: Yes, 735; No, 156.

Cheektowaga

• Candidates (elect one): Heather DuBard, 298; Dennis S. Kusak Jr., 208.

• Budget: Yes, 334; No, 212.

• Proposition 2: Student ex-officio nonvoting board member: Yes, 442; No, 94.

Cheektowaga Sloan

• Candidates (elect two): Sean Kaczmarek, 814; Richard Piontek (i), 167. Claire Ferrucci (i) ran unopposed.

• Budget: Yes, 712; No, 398.

• Proposition 2: Eliminate mileage boundaries for transportation to schools: Yes, 605; No, 497.

• Proposition 3: Reform Board of Education election policy to reward candidates with highest total votes: Yes, 724; No, 360.

• **Proposition 4: Allow a student position on the Board of Education with nonvoting, noncompensation status: Yes, 799; No, 284.**

Clarence

• Candidates (elect two): Roger Showalter, 2,831; Jason Lahti, 2,668; Tricia Andrews, 2,570; Joseph J. DePasquale, 2,366; Beth Bivona, 946; Ian Scaduto, 901; Martha Root Dippold, 842.

• Budget: Yes, 3,431; No, 4,801.

• Proposition 2: Borrow to purchase 12 school buses and one pickup truck with plow – not to exceed \$995,000: Yes, 3,274; No, 4,723.

Cleveland Hill

Candidates (elect two): Paul Kunkel (i), Robert Polino (i).

Budget: Yes, 209; No, 114.

Depew

• Candidates (Elect three): Patrick Law, 583; Nancy Fumerelle (i) 537; John Spencer (i) 498; Gabrielle Miller, 485; Nicole Simon, 237.

• Budget: Yes, 593; No, 340.

• Proposition Two: Use \$460,851 from a reserve fund to purchase two large school buses, four 28-seat vans and a plow truck for the Buildings and Grounds Department: Yes, 689, No 243.

East Aurora

• Candidates (elect two): Terri Ohlweiler, 820; Judith A. Malys, 674; Clark Martens, 402; .

• Budget: Yes, 782; No, 306.

Eden

• Candidates (elect two): Paul R. Shephard, 740; Patricia M. Krouse, 718; Kristen D. Pinker (i), 429; Steven P. Cerne (i), 422.

• Budget: Yes, 738; No, 437.

• Proposition 2: Spend up to \$32,000 from the district's repair reserve fund to purchase and install a new catalytic converter for the district's co-generation plant: Yes, 933; No, 221.

Frontier

• Candidates: *No board race this year.

• Budget: Yes, 975; No, 558.

• Proposition 2: Purchase \$863,739 for a total of eight buses: Yes, 935; No, 595.

Grand Island

Candidates (elect three): Lisa Pyc, 867; Donna Tomkins (i), 838; Paul Krull (i), 815.

Budget: Yes, 741; No, 463.

Proposition 2: Purchase of school buses and other vehicles for an amount not to exceed \$709,860: Yes, 720; No, 477.

Hamburg

• Candidates (elect three): Laura Heeter, 1,905; David Yoviene, 1,877; Catherine Schrauth Forcucci, 1,543; Joan Calkins (i), 1,471; Sheila Ruhland, 1,141; John R. Callahan, 634; Gary R. Klumpp, 372.

• Budget: Yes, 1,820; No, 1,421.

Holland

• Candidates (elect two): Brian Jones, 697; Jenelle Nadler, 638; Paul Rowe, 413.

• Budget: Yes, 625; No, 365.

• Proposition 2: Purchase of one 66-passenger bus, one 34-passenger van, and one 10-passenger van for a total cost of \$198,000: Yes, 641; No, 343.

• Proposition 3: Transfer of up to \$150,000 from the unrestricted fund balance to the district's Repair Reserve Fund: Yes, 662; No, 319.

Iroquois

• Candidates (Elect two): Sharon Szeplowski, Daniel T. Behlmaier

• Budget: Yes, 1,198; No, 624.

• Proposition 2: Purchase three (62-passenger) buses and two vans at a maximum cost of \$400,000: Yes, 1,188; No, 623.

• Proposition 3: Expend \$60,000 from the district's Capital Reserve Fund known as the Technology Reserve Fund: Yes, 1,314; No, 493.

Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda

• Candidates (elect two): Todd Potter, Jr., 1,768; Bob Dana (i), 1,526; Stephen Hart, 1,236; Richard Harned, 1,503.

• Budget: Yes, 2,194; No, 1,047.

- Proposition 2: Purchase up to two diesel 65-passenger school buses; four gasoline 30-passenger school buses; and one gasoline wheelchair bus, at a total cost not to exceed \$525,046: Yes, 1,974; No, 1,252.

Lackawanna

- Candidates (elect two): Jennifer R. Grzybowski, 1,068; Nicholas Sobaszek, 960; Ronald S. Miller (i), 915; Richard P. Zybert, 873.

- Budget: Yes, 1,167; No, 662.

Lake Shore

- Candidates (elect three): William J. Connors Jr., 682; Jennifer S. Farrell, 680; Cynthia Latimore (i), 675.

- Budget: Yes, 609; No, 320.

- Proposition 2: Purchase of three full-size, 71-passenger school buses for a total cost of \$340,639: Yes, 523; No, 407.

Lancaster

- Candidates (elect two): Kenneth E. Graber (i), 1,777; William J. Gallagher, 1,724; Julie Gies Kaska, 1,335.

- Budget: Yes, 1,774; No, 1,228.

- Proposition 2: Spending \$906,107 from the bus reserve fund to buy eight, 65-passenger replacement buses, with no tax impact: Yes, 2,060; No, 934.

Maryvale

- Candidates (elect one): Julianne Renczkowski, 400.

- Budget: Yes, 315; No, 169.

North Collins

- Candidates (elect one): Tammy Winter, 179.

- Budget: Yes, 134; No, 81.

- Proposition 2: Purchase of one bus and one vehicle at a cost not to exceed \$220,000: Yes, 149; No, 65.

Orchard Park

- Candidates (elect three): Natalie A. Schaffer, (i), 1,365; Anthony Agnello, 1,233; Donna M. Omar (i), 983; Christine Gray Tinnesz, 899; Christopher T. Shively, 808; Dwight D. Mateer, 730.

- Budget: Yes, 1,560; No, 844.

- Proposition 2: Spend up to \$700,000 to buy four buses, three vans and one wheelchair van: Yes, 1,645; No, 746.

Springville-Griffith

- Candidates (elect one): Allison Duwe, 707; William Bursee, 283.

- Budget: Yes, 718; No, 292.

- Proposition 2: Purchase of four 66-passenger buses, two 16-passenger buses, and one 24-passenger bus with wheelchair lift at a maximum aggregate cost of \$577,127: Yes, 672; No, 327.

Sweet Home

- Candidate (elect one): Scott M. Johnson (i), 695.

- Budget: Yes, 591; No, 260.

- Proposition 2: Purchase four, 65-passenger school buses at a cost of \$442,000: Yes, 546; No, 297.

City of Tonawanda

- Candidates (elect three): Danielle Opalinski (i), 784; Fred Busch, 784; Geraldine Angelo, 655; Elizabeth Olka, 340.

- Budget: Yes, 604; No, 422.

- Proposition 2: Approve the sale of Central School to David Capretto for \$220,000: Yes, 722; No, 311.

West Seneca

- Candidates (elect three): Frank Calieri; Kate Newton; Carol Jarczyk (i). Vote tallies not available.

- Budget: Yes, 1,941; No, 858.

Williamsville

- Candidates (elect three): Carrie Kahn (i), 2,473; Anthony J. Laforname III, 2,053; Mohan Devgun (i), 1,860; Michael Kane, 1,267; Thomas J. Navarro Jr., 1,420; Peter U. Bergmann (i), 1,464;

- Budget: Yes, 2,764; No, 1,352.

- Proposition 2: Spend up to \$920,000 from the transportation capital reserve funds to lease or purchase replacements for eight buses: Yes, 2,912; No, 1,142.

NIAGARA COUNTY

Barker

- Candidates (elect two): Mary Jo Clemens-Harris; William Smith (i). Final vote tally not available.

- Budget: Yes, 298; No, 95.

- Proposition 2: Proposal to convert Barker Free Library into a school district library with a \$75,000 budget: Yes, 276; No, 128.

- Proposition 3: Candidates for Library Board (elect seven): Roy Anderson, James Trinder, Pamela Atwater, Terrence Upton, Henry Charache, Marilyn Zaciewski and Seanna Corwin-Bradley.

Lewiston-Porter

- Candidates (elect three): Jodee L. Riordan, 1,297; Anna Boulay Wright, 1,301; Betty VanDenBosch Warrick, 1,239.

- Budget: Yes, 939; No, 1,153.

- Proposition 2: Authorize a \$26 million capital improvement project for interior and exterior reconstruction and renovation work for code and safety measures and upgrades throughout the district, as well as a number of enhancements and upgrades including the pool and locker room and air conditioning for the computer labs: Yes, 1,167; No, 923.

Lockport

- Budget: Yes, 1,158; No, 596.

- Candidates (Elect three): Marietta Schrader, 868; Todd McNall, 864; Diane Phelps, 853; Edward Sandell, 832; Jon Williams, 700; Randall Parker, 551.

- Proposition 2: Authorize a \$22.2 million capital project package including improvements to the kitchens of four elementary schools, and added security cameras and upgraded Internet connections and fiber optic cable at all schools: Yes, 1,097; No, 606.

Newfane

• Candidates (elect three): James Schmitt, 675; Donna Lakes, 666; Michele Malone, 538; Joseph Flagler, 520; Margaux Lingle, 504.

• Budget: Yes, 646; No, 416.

Niagara Falls

• Candidates (elect two): Anthony F. Paretto, 1,076; Ronald J. Barstys, 957; Kevin Dobbs (i), 879; Don J. King (i), 716; Herbert L. Lewis, 481; Michael S. Gawel, 343;

• Budget: Yes, 1,396; No, 975.

Niagara Wheatfield

• Candidates (elect two): Lori Pittman, 1,876; Amy Deull, 1,807; Lorna Tilley-Peltier, 1,357.

• Budget: Yes, 1,598; No, 1,601.

• Proposition 2: Allow a representative from the high school senior class to sit on the School Board as a member who would not have voting rights or be allowed to attend executive sessions: Yes, 1,855; No, 1,107.

Starpoint

• Candidates (elect four): Michael D. Zimmerman, 598; Dennis P. Toth, 569; Kevin P. Duffy, 508; Jeffrey D. Duncan, 440; Susan M. Brooks, 419; Sherri Weber, 361; Andrea L. Wick, 314; Eugene E. Stanwich, 186.

• Budget: Yes, 622; No, 332.

Wilson

• Candidates (elect two): Mark Randall, 654; Amy Phillips, 647; Timothy Kropp (i), 637.

• Budget: Yes, 414; No, 698.

email: djgee@buffnews.com

News Staff Reporters Barbara O'Brien, Joseph Popiolkowski Thomas Prohaska, Charlie Specht, Thomas Prohaska, Nancy Fischer and Aaron Besecker contributed to this report.

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NATIONAL FUEL GAS DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION
 NEW YORK DIVISION
 COMPARISON OF TOWN AND COUNTY TAX PAYMENTS - 2013 TO 2012

DNY AP Voucher Detail: 2013 Town and County Property Tax Payments

2012 Payments

Source: Exh TRP-13, pg 4

<i>AP Unit</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Vendor ID</i>	<i>Vendor Name</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Per</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Increase Over 2012</i>
DNYG1	4,985,455.38	0000001935	ERIE COUNTY TAX DEPT	2013	05	4,891,338.89	1.92%
DNYG1	817,839.64	0000000977	CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY DEPT OF FINANCE	2013	05	809,674.89	1.01%
DNYG1	768,874.49	0000000189	ALLEGANY COUNTY TREASURER	2013	04	765,838.43	0.40%
DNYG1	516,660.15	0000001287	COUNTY TREASURER	2013	04	504,026.93	2.51%
DNYG1	418,660.72	0000001935	ERIE COUNTY TAX DEPT	2013	06	413,507.88	1.25%
DNYG1	410,248.37	0000004163	NIAGARA COUNTY TREASURER	2013	05	401,935.79	2.07%
DNYG1	243,071.45	0000001059	CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS	2013	06	228,819.25	6.23%
DNYG1	154,539.11	0000002298	GENESEE COUNTY TREASURER	2013	04	151,728.79	1.85%
DNYG1	143,349.71	0000006643	NORTH TONAWANDA CITY TREASURER	2013	05	137,449.17	4.29%
DNYG1	139,575.89	0000001072	CITY OF JAMESTOWN CITY TREASURER	2013	04	143,367.72	-2.64%
DNYG1	138,954.01	0000005460	STEBEN COUNTY TREASURER	2013	05	140,385.84	-1.02%
DNYG1	137,180.54	0000006426	WYOMING COUNTY TREASURER	2013	04	132,157.13	3.80%
DNYG1	52,733.50	0000004325	ONTARIO COUNTY TREASURER	2013	04	50,265.11	4.91%
DNYG1	37,145.33	0000003530	LIVINGSTON COUNTY TREASURER	2013	04	36,810.36	0.91%
DNYG1	24,406.01	0000003919	MONROE COUNTY TREASURER	2013	05	23,925.24	2.01%
DNYG1	35,000.00	0000013185	BATAVIACIT-001	2013	08	33,745.89	3.72%
DNYG1	35,000.00	0000013185	BATAVIACIT-001	2013	11	33,733.04	3.76%
			LANCASTER			2,688.17	-100.00%
	\$ 9,058,694.30					\$8,901,398.52	1.77%

Regina Truitt

From: Regina Truitt
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2013 8:59 AM
To: 'Gerald.Wojcinski@dps.ny.gov'
Cc: Denise.Gerbsch@dps.ny.gov; Gregory.Luthringer@dps.ny.gov;
Joseph.Lochner@dps.ny.gov; Eric Meinl; Regina Truitt
Subject: RE: NFG Responses to Information Requests
Attachments: DNY_town_county_2013.xls

Jerry
See attached for the 2013 Town and County Property Tax payments
Regina

-----Original Message-----

From: Gerald.Wojcinski@dps.ny.gov [mailto:Gerald.Wojcinski@dps.ny.gov]
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2013 12:23 PM
To: Regina Truitt
Cc: Denise.Gerbsch@dps.ny.gov; Gregory.Luthringer@dps.ny.gov; Joseph.Lochner@dps.ny.gov
Subject: Re: NFG Responses to Information Requests

In response to DPS-6, you show Town and County Property Tax payments for 2012.

1. Weren't the 2013 Town and County Property Tax payments available at that time? If not why?
2. Please provide tax payments for 2013

From: Regina Truitt <TruittR@natfuel.com>
To: John Favreau <john.favreau@dps.ny.gov>, "Denise.Gerbsch@dps.ny.gov" <Denise.Gerbsch@dps.ny.gov>, Aric Rider <aric.rider@dps.ny.gov>, "Jerry Wojcinski" <Gerald.Wojcinski@dps.ny.gov>, "Gregory.Luthringer@dps.ny.gov" <Gregory.Luthringer@dps.ny.gov>
Cc: Michael Reville <RevilleM@natfuel.com>, Eric Meinl <MeinIE@natfuel.com>, Bruce Miller <bmiller@cullenanddykman.com>, Regina Truitt <TruittR@natfuel.com>
Date: 03/20/2013 10:02 AM
Subject: NFG Responses to Information Requests

All
See attached for responses to DPS-5 through DPS-8. I will send the rest shortly

DNY AP Voucher Detail: 2013 Town and County Proprty Tax Payments

<i>AP Unit</i>	<i>Voucher</i>	<i>Account</i>	<i>Dept</i>	<i>Product</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Invoice #</i>	<i>Vendor ID</i>	<i>Vendor Name</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Per</i>
DNYG1	00431275	165101	1901	2909	4,985,455.38	PPD taxes	8602	0000001935	ERIE COUNTY TAX DEPT	2013	05
DNYG1	00431273	165101	1901	2909	817,839.64	PPD taxes	8580	0000000977	CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY DEPT OF FINANCE	2013	05
DNYG1	00428891	165101	1901	2909	768,874.49	PPD taxes	8517	0000000189	ALLEGANY COUNTY TREASURER	2013	04
DNYG1	00428890	165101	1901	2909	516,660.15	PPD taxes	8533	0000001287	COUNTY TREASURER	2013	04
DNYG1	00434172	165101	1901	2909	418,660.72	taxes	41866072	0000001935	ERIE COUNTY TAX DEPT	2013	06
DNYG1	00431276	165101	1901	2909	410,248.37	PPD taxes	8599	0000004163	NIAGARA COUNTY TREASURER	2013	05
DNYG1	00434170	165101	1901	2909	243,071.45	taxes	24307145	0000001059	CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS	2013	06
DNYG1	00428894	165101	1901	2909	154,539.11	PPD taxes	8514	0000002298	GENESEE COUNTY TREASURER	2013	04
DNYG1	00433822	165101	1901	2909	143,349.71	RPTAX	8609	0000006643	NORTH TONAWANDA CITY TREASURER	2013	05
DNYG1	00428903	165101	1901	2909	139,575.89	PPD taxes	8535	0000001072	CITY OF JAMESTOWN CITY TREASURER	2013	04
DNYG1	00431272	165101	1901	2909	138,954.01	PPD taxes	8577	0000005460	STEBEN COUNTY TREASURER	2013	05
DNYG1	00428897	165101	1901	2909	137,180.54	PPD taxes	8515	0000006426	WYOMING COUNTY TREASURER	2013	04
DNYG1	00428901	165101	1901	2909	52,733.50	PPD taxes	8502	0000004325	ONTARIO COUNTY TREASURER	2013	04
DNYG1	00428902	165101	1901	2909	37,145.33	PPD taxes	8496	0000003530	LIVINGSTON COUNTY TREASURER	2013	04
DNYG1	00431274	165101	1901	2909	24,406.01	PPD taxes	8554	0000003919	MONROE COUNTY TREASURER	2013	05
DNYG1		165101	1901	2909	35,000.00	PPD taxes		0000013185	BATAVIACIT-001	2013	08
DNYG1		165101	1901	2909	35,000.00	PPD taxes		0000013185	BATAVIACIT-001	2013	11

\$ 9,058,694.30

Wednesday May 22, 2013

[The Buffalo News.com \(/\)](http://www.buffalonews.com/)

City & Region

Buffalo School Board fast-tracking budget vote for Wednesday Public input lacking in \$797 million plan

BY: [Sandra Tan \(mailto:stan@buffnews.com\)](mailto:stan@buffnews.com)

Published: May 20, 2013, 09:59 PM

Updated: May 21, 2013, 12:33 PM

The Buffalo Board of Education is expected to approve a \$797 million budget Wednesday, less than two weeks after publicly unveiling the preliminary budget to the Common Council.

The financial plan would put into place a new budget process that would give principals more autonomy but generally leave the public without any formal input.

Unlike suburban school districts that tend to embrace a more open process and hold public hearings to gain voter support before the budget comes up for a public vote, the Buffalo Public Schools have no independent taxing authority and no separate budget vote. The only public hearing on the budget was held by the Council on May 9, the same night the preliminary 2013-14 budget was introduced.

"At the end of the day, we are stuck working the numbers that we have," said Finance Committee Chairwoman Sharon Belton-Cottman. "You can talk about it until you're green in the face. At the end of the day, you still have to balance the budget and move forward."

She and other district leaders said the current budget cuts costs while protecting the classroom. The \$797 million base budget for the next school year would increase spending by \$14 million because of rising employee benefit costs despite the net elimination of more than 30 full-time jobs.

Board members said they have been getting information and providing input on the budget for months as part of their Finance Committee deliberations. Though the budget does not have to be approved until June 30, board members rarely take that long to approve it.

Board member John B. Licata said the district needs to start sending out 30-day layoff notices before the end of the school year, even though it's not yet clear how many layoffs will be necessary because final retirement and attrition numbers aren't yet complete.

Outside of Finance Committee meetings, the board doesn't have open budget work sessions. Instead, the district sets up separate budget meetings, including several over the last week, with a few board members at a time to circumvent the Open Meetings Law.

Belton-Cottman said the small groups "encourage civil conversation."

"If we didn't have small group meetings, everything we breathe would be in The News," she said. "We can't have a decent conversation without being scrutinized."

Questions have surfaced regarding the budget's impact on individual schools because this year's budget gives school principals much more discretion in the shaping of its own staff through a process known as "school-based budgeting." This model, common in many school districts, empowers leadership teams at each individual school to determine how they want to staff their schools beyond bare state requirements.

A number of principals said they appreciate having more control over their own building staffing since they know their school population best.

"I think they like choosing. I think they like building their program," said Dawn M. DiNatale, principal of Makowski Early Childhood Center and president of the Elementary Principals Association. "In the age now where it's the principal who's held accountable for the students' achievement in their building, principals need to have more control."

The district provided each school with a base level of funding for positions such as administrators, core subject teachers, guidance counselors and staff for state-mandated class offerings for art, music and physical education, principals said.

Staff allocations were made based on projected student enrollment.

This year, the district also assigned staff for special-education students and English language learners. Staff for "flagship" programs such as gifted-and-talented programs was also maintained.

But many other support positions and unmandated staff were stripped out of each school's base budget. Instead, schools were allocated certain federal and state block grant dollars to spend on staff as each school leadership team sees fit.

At Makowski, for instance, DiNatale opted to "buy" more reading and math teachers, social workers and in-school alternative education staff, while at Olmsted School at Kensington, Principal Michael Gruber chose to have more foreign language and instrumental music teachers and teachers aides.

Monday, the district was unable to share school-by-school breakdowns or provide information about which schools are receiving fewer dollars because of declining enrollment. Even so, some principals say they prefer the autonomy, even though they receive fewer dollars.

The new system is considered more equitable, more flexible and less "mystifying" than past budgeting practices, principals said. But smaller elementary schools are finding it hard to maintain full-time staffing under the new budget model.

In addition, some schools that have been considered overfunded by the district in the past, have also lost many unmandated positions but weren't given enough dollars to get them back.

Certain school offerings, such as the district's instrumental music programs, are also apparently taking a backseat to schools that want more staff focused on core academics.

Instrumental music teacher Nick DelBello, for instance, has spent a couple of years building up the band programs at School 81 and Riverside Institute of Technology. He started two bands at School 81 after sifting through a pile of instruments that had sat around unused for years, he said. Now, he's uncertain whether he'll have a place at any school.

In response to a News inquiry, district spokeswoman Elena Cala said six music teachers teaching noncredited courses will be cut from the budget. There is no specific mention of music teacher cuts in the district's budget summary, and a News request to speak with the supervisor of the district's music program was refused.

email: stan@buffnews.com

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NATIONAL FUEL GAS DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION
DEFERRALS TO BE RESOLVED IN NEXT RATE CASE
BALANCE AT 9/30/12

Debit (Credit)

I = Included in Summary

SIR		NY
186635	Site Remediation Cost Amort	17,843,159
253302	Mineral Springs	(243,442)
253303	Westwood	(866,290)
253305	Buffalo Service Center	(21,481)
253306	York Oil	(66,262)
253314	Tonawanda MGP	(14,000,759)
253316	Dunkirk	(92,034)
253319	Buffalo Service Center Offsite	(76,314)
		<u>\$2,476,577</u>
RD&D		
188000	RD&D Expenditures	(\$1,510,670)
188002	RD&D Commercial	1,142
188003	RD&D NYPSC Erda Assessment	53,096
188004	RD&D Nygas	7,539
188009	RD&D Gen & Admin Exp	11,478
		<u>(\$1,437,415)</u>
Pension		
182318	NY Dist O/U Pension	\$2,157,246
182325	CAP Pension Costs	(1,362,534)
182335	NY Over/Under - Dfd Cont (RSA)	19,891
182340	Retirement Sav Acct- Non-Union	167,545
182345	Ret Savings Acct - Union	354,964
182353	INT RES-ACCR INT INC-Pension	12,692,875
		<u>\$14,029,987</u>
OPEBs		
182314	NY Dist Uncoll Opeb Ns	(\$176,334)
182315	NY Dist Uncoll Oper Sup	874,070
182316	NY Dist Deferred Opeb-Non Sup	13,178,808
182317	NY Dist Deferred Opeb- Supv	(4,586,924)
228313	OPEB Int Res-Med Sub-Non-Sup	(19,301)
228314	OPEB Int Int Res-MedSub-NonSup	(53,765)
228315	OPEB Int Res-Med Sub - Supv	49,192
228316	OPEB Int Intn Res-Med Sub-Supv	(15,632)
		<u>\$9,250,114</u>
Misc Deferrals		
182103	NYD Expanded LIRA	(9,802,511)
182313	C. 08-M-1312 Deferral	58,018
		<u>(\$9,744,493)</u>