



# SOUTH ORANGETOWN Central School District

## Residents Vote May 21 on 2019-2020 Budget

### Dear Community Members,

Our school budget is a financial roadmap that promotes the success of our students through a careful alignment of resources with strategic outcomes. The budget process allows our community to invest in critical infrastructure and carefully examine the quality of opportunities available to our students. The core philosophy that guides this process is an understanding that an investment in our young learners is an investment in our future.

During the March and April Board of Education meetings, our board members completed a comprehensive review of the budget. On April 11, our Board of Education adopted a proposed school budget with a 3.72% tax levy increase that stays within the legally prescribed "tax cap." The tax levy will support a reasonable increase in school spending of 3.2% and reserves any unspent funds for future tax stabilization and capital improvements, as needed.

*"Communities that embrace the value of academic excellence can only engage in continuous improvement if they have both the human and financial resources to do so."*

Communities that embrace the value of academic excellence can only engage in continuous improvement if they have both the human and financial resources to do so. The South Orangetown Central School District is an excellent system as measured by several indicators, both qualitative and quantitative. This proposed spending plan effectively and efficiently allocates resources to maintain all academic, curricular and co-curricular opportunities for our students.

The May 21 school budget vote is the next step in the process of establishing a spending plan for the 2019-2020 school year and reflects the choices that we must make when confronted with limited resources. Thank you for your continued commitment to our children and our future. **Please remember to vote on May 21.**

Robert R. Pritchard, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

Rosemary Pitruzzella  
President, Board of Education

Questions regarding the school budget referendum or upcoming Board of Education election? Please contact District Clerk Kathy Muscari at [kmuscari@socsd.org](mailto:kmuscari@socsd.org) or (845) 680-1012.



### WHAT'S IN THE BUDGET:

- Creation of prevention centers at SOMS and TZHS, staffed by a dedicated prevention counselor at each building (2 total)
- Addition of 1 elementary school counselor to be shared by WOS and CLE
- Addition of Director of Safety, Security & Compliance to synchronize our safety efforts districtwide and create efficiencies
- Addition of Coordinator of Data, Assessment & Accountability to inform data-driven decision-making and meet reporting requirements
- Continued classroom redesigns

### PROPOSED 2019-20 BUDGET

TAX LEVY INCREASE  
**3.72%**

BUDGET-TO-BUDGET INCREASE  
**3.20%**

TOTAL BUDGET  
**\$94,755,161**

# CAPITAL PROJECTS: SUMMER 2019

This summer, buildings and grounds across our school district will be under construction as voter-approved capital projects to address critical infrastructure needs. Our goal: To provide students with learning environments that promote growth, wellness and academic, athletic and artistic achievement. Summer 2019 projects include\*:

|   | APR. | MAY | JUNE | JULY | AUG. | SEPT. |
|---|------|-----|------|------|------|-------|
|  <p><b>TZHS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replacement of Main Turf Athletic Field</li> <li>• Installation of new, handicapped-accessible bleachers in the Main Gym</li> </ul>  |      |     | • →  | • →  |      |       |
|  <p><b>SOMS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renovation of Auditorium, including new flooring, wall covering, lighting, HVAC and audience seating</li> <li>• Renovation of Challenge Lab and technology classrooms, including flooring, ceilings, casework, lighting, HVAC and equipment</li> </ul>   |      |     | • →  | • →  |      |       |
|  <p><b>CLE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Installation of foundations, sidewalks, covered walkway, underground power and plumbing to new modular library unit, which will replace current "book room"</li> <li>• Electric service upgrade, new transformers and feeds</li> </ul>   |      | • → |      | • →  |      |       |
|  <p><b>WOS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation of exit doors from cafeteria and gym</li> <li>• New stage access with wheelchair lift</li> <li>• Renovation of Nurse's Office, including new bathroom, flooring, ceilings, doors, hardware, lighting, plumbing fixtures and paint</li> <li>• Renovation of children's bathrooms and wash area, including new toilets, partitions, sinks, fixtures, doors, tile, ceilings, lighting and electric devices</li> </ul> |      |     | • →  | • →  | • →  | • →   |

\*Individual project start and completion dates are estimated and subject to change



## BUDGET Q&A

Questions? Email [budget@socsd.org](mailto:budget@socsd.org)

**Q: Why is the proposed tax levy increase above 2%?**

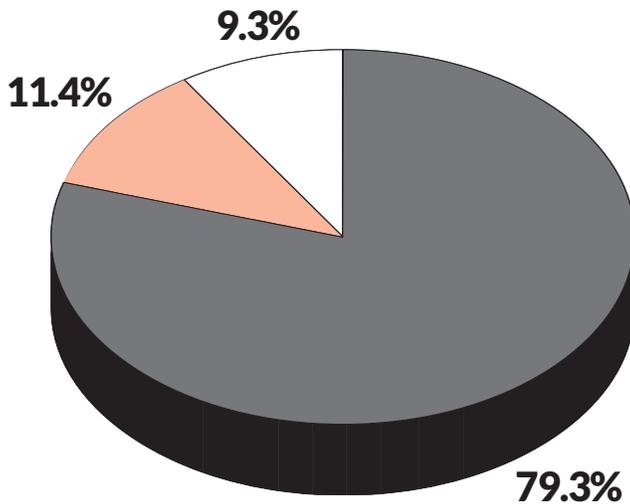
**A:** Two primary factors are driving the proposed 3.72% tax levy increase. First, a component in New York State's tax levy limit formula is the Allowable Levy Growth Factor, which is limited to *the lesser of 2% or the change in the consumer price index (CPI)*. This year, the change in CPI is greater than 2%, which means that our Allowable Levy Growth Factor is "capped" at 2%. Second, the tax levy limit formula allows for capital exclusions which reflect the year-over-year change in capital spending from previously budgeted funds, but not from capital reserves or fund balance. **Due to the increase in the CPI and the capital exclusions, the proposed 3.72% tax levy increase remains within the tax cap.**

**Q: What happens if voters reject the budget?**

**A:** If voters do not approve the proposed budget, the Board of Education may put forward the same or a revised budget for a second vote OR adopt a contingency budget with a tax levy no greater than what was levied last year. If voters reject the spending plan twice, SOCSD must adopt a contingency budget which would require \$2.9 million in cuts.

FOR DETAILED BUDGET AND VOTING INFORMATION

## ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES



|                             |                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| ■ 79.3% Program.....        | \$75,104,158        |
| ■ 11.4% Capital .....       | \$10,836,040        |
| ■ 9.3% Administrative ..... | \$8,814,963         |
| <b>TOTAL.....</b>           | <b>\$94,755,161</b> |

The South Orangetown Central School District Board of Education asks voters to consider and vote on the following propositions on **May 21, 2019**:

### ■ PROPOSITION #1: 2019-20 BUDGET

Shall the sums set forth by the Board of Education of the South Orangetown Central School District in the 2019-20 budget in the amount of \$94,755,161 be approved?

### ■ ELECTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

An election will be held for two (2) Board of Education seats. The full three-year term for each seat is July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2022. Following are the candidates for the two vacancies, in the order they will appear on the ballot, based on a random selection process administered by the District Clerk on April 22\*:

**Seat 1: Rosemary Pitruzzella (*incumbent*) and Cara Stepanian**

**Seat 2: Dan Lamadrid (*incumbent*)**

Please note: Voters may cast their ballot for only one candidate per seat.

*\*All candidates were invited to attend the random selection process.*



## POLLING LOCATIONS

Polls will be open Tuesday, May 21 from 7:00am until 9:00pm.

- **District #1: Blauvelt residents**  
South Orangetown Middle School  
160 Van Wyck Road, Blauvelt
- **District #2: Orangburg residents**  
Tappan Zee High School  
15 Dutch Hill Road, Orangeburg
- **District #3: Tappan residents**  
William O. Schaefer Elementary School  
140 Lester Drive, Tappan
- **District #4: Grandview, Palisades, Piermont & Sparkill residents**  
Tappan Zee Education Center  
(formerly Tappan Zee Elementary)  
561 Route 9W, Piermont



# SOUTH ORANGETOWN

## Central School District

| OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL  | Budget Adopted for the 2018-19 School Year | Budget Proposed for the 2019-20 School Year | Contingency Budget for the 2019-20 School Year* |
|--|--|---|---|
| Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions   | \$ 91,817,017                              | \$ 94,755,161                               | \$ 91,840,781                                   |
| Increase/Decrease for the 2019-20 School Year  |  | \$ 2,938,144                                | \$ (2,914,380)                                  |
| Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget  |  | 3.20%                                       | (3.08%)   |
| Change in the Consumer Price Index   |  | 2.44%                                       |   |
| A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount  | \$ 78,384,162                              | \$ 81,298,542                               |   |
| B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable   | \$ 0                                       | \$ 0  |   |
| C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **  | \$ 0                                       | \$ 0  |   |
| D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy   | \$ 0                                       | \$ 0  |   |
| E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A+B+C-D)   | \$ 78,384,162                              | \$ 81,298,542                               | \$ 78,384,162                                   |
| F. Total Permissible Exclusions  | \$ 1,766,837                               | \$ 2,981,551                                |   |
| G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions   | \$ 76,617,325                              | \$ 78,316,991                               |   |
| H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E-B-F+D) | \$ 76,617,325                              | \$ 78,316,991                               |   |
| I. Difference: G-H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **  | \$ 0                                       | \$ 0  |   |
| Administrative Component   | \$ 8,786,949                               | \$ 8,814,963                                | \$ 8,637,772                                    |
| Program Component  | \$ 72,706,299                              | \$ 75,104,158                               | \$ 72,760,477                                   |
| Capital Component  | \$ 10,323,769                              | \$ 10,836,040                               | \$ 10,442,532                                   |

\* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2019-20 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

A Contingency Budget would require a reduction in the proposed budget of \$2,914,380. As a result, the following reductions will be required: reduction in teacher staffing, thereby increasing class-size, loss of modified sports, loss of certain extracurricular programs, per education law mandated removal of certain equipment, community use of facilities, removal of capital projects not deemed health and safety, a reduction in instructional supplies, conferences/memberships, support staff and certain administrative costs.

\*\* 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 |
|-------------|--------|
|             | \$0    |

|   | Under the Budget Proposed for the 2019-20 School Year |
|---|---|
| Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup> | \$1,091   |

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2019-2020 by the qualified voters of the South Orangetown Central School District, Rockland County, New York, will be held at District #1 - South Orangetown Middle School, District #2 - Tappan Zee High School, District #3 - William O. Schaefer Elementary School, and District #4 - Tappan Zee Education Center on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 between the hours of 7:00am and 9:00pm, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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



**SOUTH ORANGETOWN  
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
160 Van Wyck Road, Blauvelt, NY 10913-1299  
(845) 680-1000 • Website: [www.socsd.org](http://www.socsd.org)

Robert R. Pritchard, Ed.D. *Superintendent*

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
Rosemary Pitruzzella, *President*  
Dan Lamadrid, *Vice President*  
Thomas Henry  
Leon Jacobs  
Christine Lee

**Editor:** Jen Citrolo  
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## POSTAL PATRON

**SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE**  
**TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2019 • 7:00 AM – 9:00 PM**