

SCARSDALE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
2019-20 BUDGET VOTE & BOARD ELECTION VOTER INFORMATION

**The Proposed 2019-20 Budget:**

- maintains the Scarsdale educational program that this community values, including favorable class sizes, an array of High School course offerings, the continuation of the Middle School house structure, and attention to facility maintenance;
- preserves the core curriculum, and advances initiatives in critical and creative thinking, interdependence, and research and technology, and continues funding the Center for Innovation;
- supports additional STEAM instruction and science research at the High School to meet rising student demand;
- sustains the District's Special Education services, guided by two principles: that students participate in the general education program to the maximum extent possible; and that they are placed in the least restrictive learning environment;
- provides funding in support of a multi-pronged approach to safety, security, and emergency management, including safety monitors in all buildings to assist with visitor management and overall building safety, and additional mental health and social-emotional support for students;
- provides funding in support of the second phase of a three-phase plan for classroom cooling, which includes air conditioning for the Fox Meadow and Quaker Ridge libraries;
- provides funds for capital improvements, notably site repairs at Fox Meadow; stage rigging and water heater replacement at the Middle School; and elevator improvements at the High School. Districtwide, it supports maintenance and repairs as part of a comprehensive long-term plan to address needs and prevent future difficulties; and
- maintains the health insurance reserve that is crucial for a self-insured program, and allows the Board to add to other reserves in the interest of fiscal prudence and to ensure the continuation of our Moody's Aaa rating.

The proposed budget represents a year-over-year budget increase of 1.86 percent. A tax rate increase of 1.63 percent is projected for Scarsdale, and 5.56 percent for the Mamaroneck Strip. The proposed levy growth of 2.27 percent is below the State mandated tax cap for Scarsdale (2.94 percent) this year. For full budget details, [click here](#).

**Two Propositions:** In addition to the budget vote, there are two propositions on the ballot:

1. Asks voters to consider whether Board vacancies should be at-large instead of specific seats for all future elections beginning with the 2020-21 school year.
2. Asks voters whether voter registration should be permitted year round, during regular business hours instead of two designated days the week prior to the vote.

**The Board of Education Candidates:** Three candidates are running for three positions on the Board of Education: Karen Ceske, Carl Finger, and Ronald Schulhof are seeking first terms.