

SCARSDALE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
2020-21 BUDGET VOTE & BOARD ELECTION VOTER INFORMATION

**Pandemic Considerations:**

- VOTING WILL TAKE PLACE BY MAIL ONLY, with ballots due by Tuesday, June 9 at 5 p.m. All registered voters will receive ballots and postage-paid return envelopes.
- Qualified voters will receive postcards notifying them that they may request ballots be mailed to them.
- If the June 9 budget vote fails there is no time for a second vote. A contingency budget would be imposed, requiring the tax levy to be the same as last year. For Scarsdale, that means a \$2.4 million budget reduction, which would cause substantial changes to the Scarsdale educational program. In addition to academic and athletic program and personnel cuts, a contingency budget prohibits equipment and leasing expenditures, and requires building use fees by any outside groups, including PTAs.
- In light of the pandemic's economic impact, the District worked diligently to identify reductions that would not cause substantive harm to the Scarsdale educational experience. A total of over 30 budget reductions were enacted.
- In crafting this year's budget, we anticipated reductions in State aid and revenues from sales tax and interest. We built those reductions into the budget, which we deemed crucial both for the short term in coping with changes brought about by the pandemic, and also in the interest of long-term financial stability.

**The Proposed 2020-21 Budget:**

- still preserves core curriculum, maintains current class size, invests in teacher training, and continues to advance initiatives in critical and creative thinking, interdependence, research, and technology;
- maintains the Scarsdale educational program that this community values, including an array of High School course offerings, and continuation of the Middle School house structure;
- sustains the District's Special Education services, assuring 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;
- provides funds for selected capital improvements, notably, decommissioning an aging, unused elevator at the High School, and targeted High School Auditorium repairs. The budget also supports maintenance and repairs as part of a comprehensive long-term plan to address District needs;
- maintains the health insurance reserve that is crucial for a self-insured program, and allows the Board to add to other reserves to address concerns about economic unknowns next year, and to ensure the continuation of our Moody's Aaa rating.

The proposed budget represents a year-over-year budget increase of 1.19 percent. A tax rate increase of 1.50 percent is projected for Scarsdale, and 2.31 percent for the Mamaroneck Strip. The proposed levy growth of 1.66 percent is below the State mandated tax cap for Scarsdale (2.50 percent) this year. For full budget details, [click here](#).

**The Board of Education Candidates:** Three candidates are running for two positions on the Board of Education: Mayra Kirkendall-Rodriguez, Robert Klein, and Amber Yusuf are seeking first terms.