



SOUTHERN CAYUGA CENTRAL SCHOOLS

BUDGET

2023-24 BUDGET

Budget Hearing

Monday, May 8 at 7 pm
Jr/Sr HS Auditorium
2384 State Route 34B
Aurora, NY 13026

Budget Vote

Tuesday, May 16
7 am to 9 pm
SCCS District Office
2384 State Route 34B
Aurora, NY 13026

Total Proposed Budget
\$19,845,920

Proposed Budget
Increase
\$1,121,929

Proposed School
Tax Levy
\$8,357,932

Proposed School
Tax Levy Increase
2 %

Southern Cayuga
Central Schools
315-364-7211
www.southerncayuga.org

Southern Cayuga Central School District residents will vote on a \$19,845,920 budget proposal for the 2023-2024 school year on Tuesday, May 16, from 7 am to 9 pm in the District Office. Voters will also select from three candidates for two open seats on the Board of Education, consider additional propositions including a new capital project, the purchase of school buses and an increase of taxpayer support for the Aurora Free Library and the Hazard Library Association.

Southern Cayuga Central Schools proposes a \$15.5 million capital improvement project which will include roof replacement of our high school and bus garage, the replacement of underground heating oil and propane fuel tanks, athletic field improvements, new playground structures, door replacements, water and sewage improvements, new scoreboard, masonry restoration, auditorium seat replacement, and replacement of the bleachers in the high school gym. A comprehensive list of capital project improvements has been identified by our architects and the SCCS BOE Facilities Committee and can be found on our webpage.

The proposed capital project will have a net zero impact on the district budget, as the district will use \$2.4 million from the capital reserve, maximize state building aid, and will retire debt from previous building projects. The project will be eligible for state building aid of 81.2 percent, 4/5ths of the total cost of the project will be covered by the state aid building reimbursement. The remaining local share expense is already included in the general fund budget. The timing for this project is excellent as the projected tax impact is zero. If approved by voters, the design phase would begin immediately and construction would begin in the summer of 2024. Thank you to the residents of Southern Cayuga for your continued support.

Sincerely,
Patrick Jensen, Superintendent
Loretta Van Horn, Assistant Superintendent

Board of Education
Kelsey Rossbach, President
Christine Brozon, Vice-President
Matthew Bennett
David Harvatine

Janet Lehman
Rachel McCarthy
Heather Rejman

WHERE DOES THE BUDGET GO?

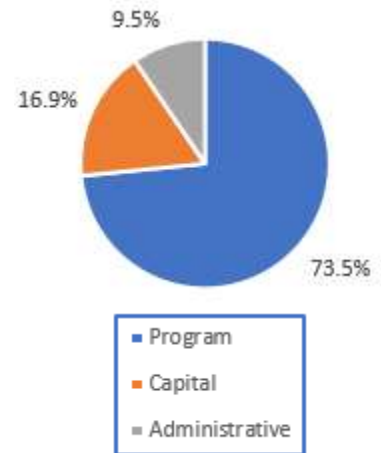
	Administrative	Program	Capital	2023-2024 Total
Administrative Support				
Board of Education	\$ 27,971.00			\$ 27,971.00
Central Administration	\$ 227,807.00			\$ 227,807.00
Finance	\$ 498,413.00			\$ 498,413.00
Legal/Personnel/Information	\$ 30,650.00	\$ 58,000.00		\$ 88,650.00
Buildings & Grounds			\$ 1,280,560.00	\$ 1,280,560.00
Centralized Services	\$ 233,974.00			\$ 233,974.00
Total Administrative Support	\$ 1,018,815.00	\$ 58,000.00	\$ 1,280,560.00	\$ 2,357,375.00
Instructional Program				
Curriculum, Supervisory & In-Service	\$ 504,175.00			\$ 504,175.00
Instructional Program		\$ 9,938,528.00		\$ 9,938,528.00
Interscholastics		\$ 17,000.00		\$ 17,000.00
Total Instructional Program	\$ 504,175.00	\$ 9,955,528.00	\$ -	\$ 10,459,703.00
Transportation				
Pupil Transportation		\$ 1,146,500.00		\$ 1,146,500.00
Bus Garage		\$ 46,400.00		\$ 46,400.00
Total Transportation		\$ 1,192,900.00		\$ 1,192,900.00
Fringe Benefits				
Employee Retirement System	\$ 31,156.00	\$ 219,526.00	\$ 14,318.00	\$ 265,000.00
Teacher Retirement System	\$ 79,543.00	\$ 560,457.00		\$ 640,000.00
Social Security	\$ 64,664.00	\$ 455,620.00	\$ 29,716.00	\$ 550,000.00
Workers Compensation		\$ 65,714.00	\$ 4,286.00	\$ 70,000.00
Unemployment Insurance		\$ 14,082.00	\$ 918.00	\$ 15,000.00
Health Insurance	\$ 162,778.00	\$ 1,871,059.00	\$ 116,163.00	\$ 2,150,000.00
Dental/Vision	\$ 3,107.00	\$ 21,893.00		\$ 25,000.00
Flex Insurance	\$ 23,515.00	\$ 165,679.00	\$ 10,806.00	\$ 200,000.00
Total Fringe Benefits	\$ 364,763.00	\$ 3,374,030.00	\$ 176,207.00	\$ 3,915,000.00
Debt				
Bonds-Buildings			\$ 1,806,942.00	\$ 1,806,942.00
Transfer to Capital/Special Aid Fund		\$ 14,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 114,000.00
Total Debt			\$ 1,906,942.00	\$ 1,920,942.00
Total Proposed Budget	\$ 1,887,753	\$ 14,594,458	\$ 3,363,709	\$ 19,845,920.00

The state requires school districts to present their annual budgets in three parts: program, administrative and capital.

ADMINISTRATIVE: Salaries and benefits, as well as all other costs to operate the district office and each school’s main office and the Board of Education.

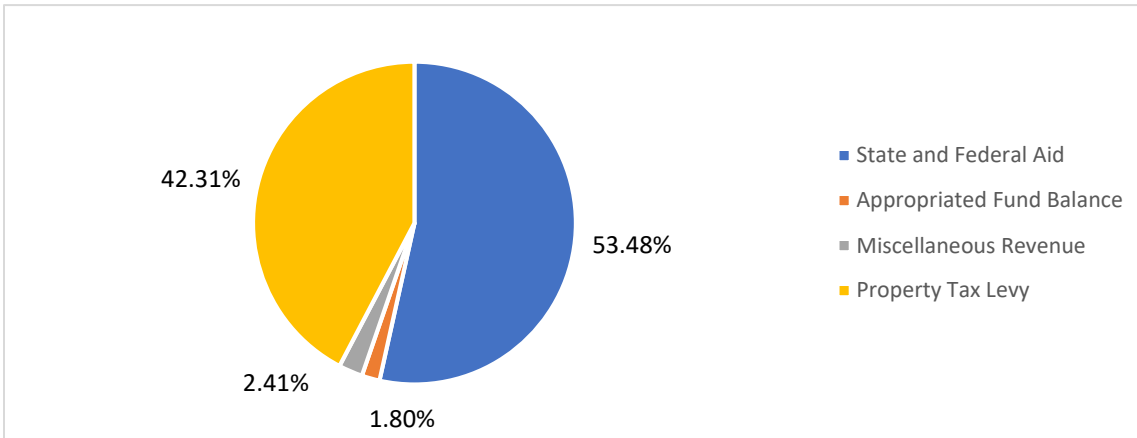
PROGRAM: Funding for all K-12 educational programs, including teacher and support staff salaries and benefits, BOCES special education and instructional services, interscholastic athletics and transportation.

CAPITAL: Includes debt service on buildings, school bus purchases, salaries and benefits of all custodial staff, and all building operation expenses.



WHERE DOES THE \$19,845,920 COME FROM?

Revenue Categories	2022/23	2023/24
State and Federal Aid	\$9,754,603	\$10,613,969
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$457,368	\$357,368
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$271,735	\$478,401
Property Tax Levy, PILOTS, Penalties & Interest	\$8,240,825	\$8,396,182
Total Revenue	\$18,723,991	\$19,845,920
Percent Change	-	5.99%



VOTER QUALIFICATIONS To be eligible to vote on the school budget and election, you must be a citizen of the United States and 18 years of age or older and a legal resident of the Southern Cayuga Central School District for at least 30 days prior to the vote. No prior registration is required. Voter qualifications are mandated in accordance with New York State Education Law. *NOTE:* Voting inspectors reserve the right to check the driver’s license of any voter to verify residency.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Qualified school district voters may vote in the Annual School District Election and Budget Vote by absentee ballot if they are unable to vote in person on Tuesday, May 16, 2023. To receive an absentee ballot, individuals must first fill out an application for the ballot. Applications are available in the District Office and on our website and may be turned into the District Clerk up to one day before the date of the vote. Absentee ballot applications may be requested from Marcy Hand, District Clerk, by email at handm@southern cayuga.org, by telephone 315-364-7211 or by mail at Southern Cayuga Central School District, 2384 State Route 34B, Aurora, NY. 13026

If the absentee ballot is going to be **mailed** to you, absentee ballot applications must be returned to the District Office at least seven business days before the vote, or at least one day before the vote if you will be picking up the ballot in person at the District Office between 8 am and 4 pm.

When will your absentee ballot be sent to you? If you request on your application that your absentee ballot be mailed to you, the district clerk will mail your ballot by regular mail no later than 6 days prior to the election. Otherwise, the district clerk will deliver your ballot to you or your agent, as designated on your application, when you or your agent appear in the district clerk’s office. For your ballot to be canvassed, it must be received by the school district clerk by 5:00 p.m. on the day of the election.

VOTERS TO DECIDE ON FIVE PROPOSITIONS AND TWO BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES**1.) PROPOSITION for 2023/24 PROPOSED BUDGET**

Shall the following resolution be adopted, to-wit: RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Southern Cayuga Central School District, Counties of Cayuga and Tompkins, New York, be and hereby is authorized to expend the sum of \$19,845,920; and levy the necessary tax therefore for the 2023/2024 school year?

2.) PROPOSITION for 2023/24 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Shall the following resolution be adopted, to-wit: RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Southern Cayuga Central School District, Cayuga and Tompkins Counties, New York, is hereby authorized to construct improvements to and reconstruct School District buildings and facilities, including original furnishings, equipment, machinery, apparatus, appurtenances, site improvements, (including athletic field improvements) and other incidental improvements and expenses in connection therewith, at a maximum estimated cost not to exceed \$15,500,000, and that \$2,400,000 of Capital Reserve Fund (2019) monies shall be used to pay a portion thereof, and that the remaining \$13,100,000 of said amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of said School District and collected in annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law; and, in anticipation of such tax, obligations of said School District shall be issued.

3.) PROPOSITION for the PURCHASE OF SCHOOL BUSES in 2023/24

Shall the following resolution be adopted, to wit: RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Southern Cayuga Central School District, Cayuga and Tompkins Counties, New York, is hereby authorized to pay the cost of (2) 66 Passenger School Buses, (1) 54 Passenger Wheelchair Bus , and (1) Minivan for student transportation including incidental equipment and expenses in connection therewith, at an aggregate maximum estimated cost not to exceed \$551,381 therefor, and that \$551,381, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of said School District and collected in annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law; and in anticipation of such tax, obligations of said School District shall be issued.

4.) PROPOSITION to FUND AURORA FREE LIBRARY

Shall the Southern Cayuga Central School District levy and collect a tax separate and apart from the annual school district budget, pursuant to Section 259 of the Education Law of the State of New York, in the sum of \$80,000 (which is an increase of \$5,000 from the levy in effect from 2022-2023 in the sum of \$75,000) for the continuing support and maintenance of the Aurora Free Library, with this appropriated amount to be the annual appropriation until thereafter modified by a future vote of the electors of the Southern Cayuga Central School District?

5.) PROPOSITION to FUND HAZARD LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Shall the Southern Cayuga Central School District levy and collect a tax separate and apart from the annual school district budget, pursuant to Section 259 of the Education Law of the State of New York, in the sum of \$56,825 (which is an increase of \$5,000 from the levy in effect from 2022-2023 in the sum of \$51,825) for the continuing support and maintenance of the Hazard Library Association, with this appropriated amount to be the annual appropriation until thereafter modified by a future vote of the electors of the Southern Cayuga Central School District?



School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2022-23 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2023-24 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$18,723,991	\$19,845,920	\$19,660,815
Increase/Decrease for the 2023-24 School Year		\$1,121,929	\$936,824
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		5.99 %	5.00%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		8.0%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$8,194,051	\$8,357,932	
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)	\$8,194,051	\$8,357,932	\$8,194,051
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$514,229	\$618,027	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$7,848,625	\$7,857,566	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$7,679,822	\$7,739,905	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$168,803	\$117,661	
Administrative Component	\$1,793,967	\$1,887,753	\$1,875,643
Program Component	\$13,751,449	\$14,594,458	\$14,537,523
Capital Component	\$3,178,575	\$3,363,709	\$3,247,649

* Pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law, if the proposed budget is defeated in May, the SCCS Board of Education can put another budget, the same or revised, up for vote in June or immediately adopt a contingent budget. After two unsuccessful votes, the district must adopt a contingent budget. Contingency would mean further reducing the proposed by \$185,105, resulting in additional reductions for programs and services.

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
Capital Project Proposition	\$15,500,000
Bus Purchase Proposition	\$ 552,000

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$343

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023-24 by the qualified voters of the Southern Cayuga School District, Cayuga County, New York, will be held at the District Office in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 between the hours of 7:00am and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the District Office, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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

MEET THE BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES Residents will be asked to vote for up to two (2) from three (3) candidates. These photographs and biographies were the ones provided by verified candidates at the time of publication.

Rachel McCarthy

Rachel McCarthy of King Ferry is seeking a second term on the Board of Education. She has served on the Board's Facilities, Policy, Athletics, Directions & Long-Range Planning Committees. Rachel has lived in the district for 19 years and has two children attending SCCS. She earned a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture and a master's degree in public garden management/horticulture, both from Cornell University. She is employed as an Extension Educator with Cornell Agricultural Workforce Development of Cornell University.



"I am excited to be running for my second term on the SCCS Board. It takes time to learn a school's operating procedures, processes and timelines and there is still more to learn. I am passionate about learning, education and accessibility and value the importance of exceptional public education. I come from a family of teachers and have varied experience across my professional career in teaching, educational program development and evaluation. I believe teachers are our greatest asset, therefore we need to support and retain, as well as attract, exceptional people who inspire and challenge all of our students. I enjoy creative and critical thinking and collaborating to solve problems. I have been happy with SCCS's academic and extracurricular programming but believe that continuous improvement should always be the goal."

Timothy Pallokat



Timothy Pallokat of Ledyard is running for a first term on the Board of Education. He has been a resident of Southern Cayuga since 1998. He moved here from Litchfield County, CT where both of his parents were employed in the public education system. His father was a 42-year teacher of industrial arts and his mother as a high school history teacher. Upon graduation from high school, he earned a degree from Vermont Technical College in Farm Business Management. He and his wife, Melanie, reside on Benjamin Road outside of Scipioville with their two school age daughters. They also have two graduates from SCCS from their household. He is employed by Verizon Corporate Services in Auburn, NY and owns Cayuga View Farm with his wife and family where they raise beef and grow crops.

"I believe the most important thing is to put our students first ensuring they acquire the necessary tools to become successful citizens and lifelong learners. If elected, I will continually push for excellence. It is imperative that we have a Board that will support Southern Cayuga residents. We must support our teachers and staff as they educate our children. I understand school budgets and the need for fiscal constraint. I have been an active Board member of the NYBPA (New York Beef Producers Association). I have held leadership roles within the community that include positions on NYFB (New York Farm Bureau) and the Cornell Beef Advisory Board. Currently, I am serving as the assistant superintendent of Evergreen Cemetery Association and I am a board member on the NYAA (New York Angus Association). These experiences and many others give me a unique perspective on providing leadership on the Southern Cayuga School Board. I am always available for conversation and to listen to ideas that will help advance SCCS."



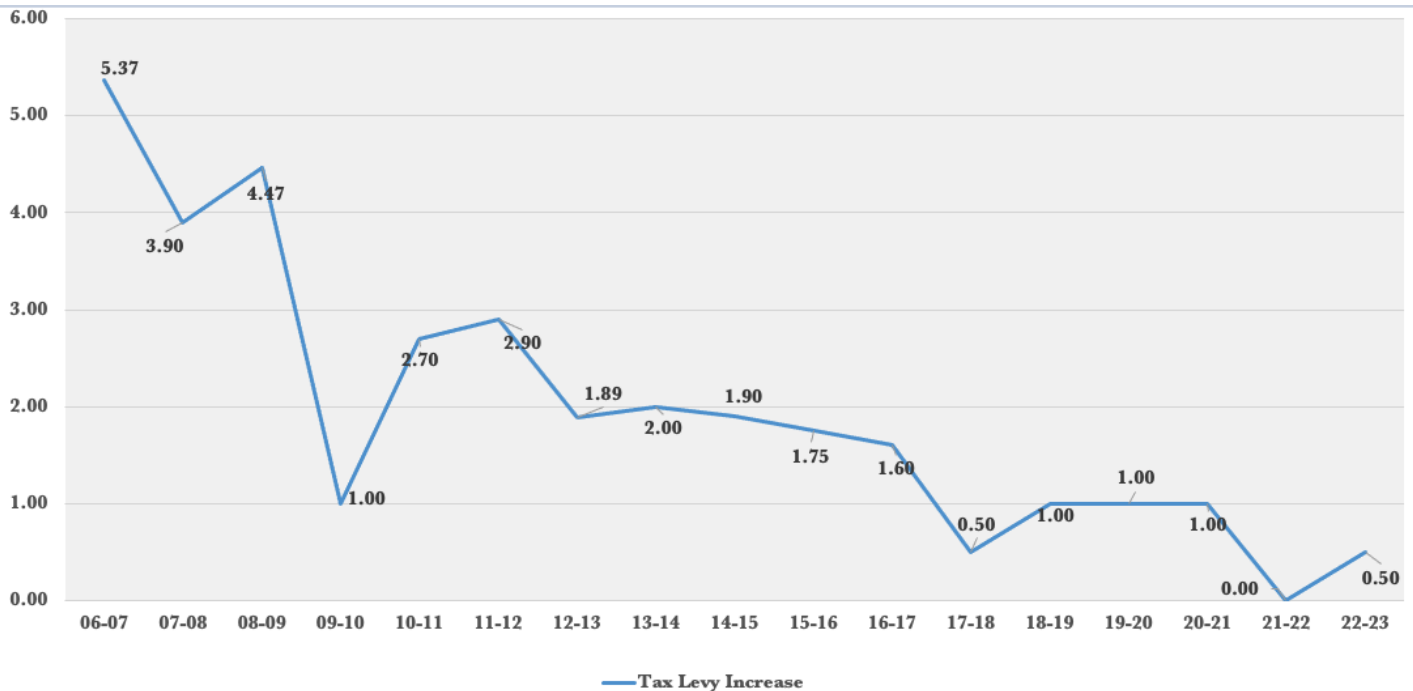
Kishan Zuber

Kishan Zuber of Aurora is running for a first term on the Board of Education. She has lived in the district for 7 years. Kishan earned a bachelor’s degree in environmental studies and a master’s degree in social science, student affairs and diversity. She is employed as a higher education administrator (vice-president) and university marketing consultant. Kishan is a Southern Cayuga athletics supporter, member of Friends of Long Point Park Trails, sponsor of Aurora Free Library and the Barn Warriors fitness group.



“Education can change lives and open doors of opportunity. I support the Board’s efforts to positively impact student experiences and set future forward priorities for the school/district. As a community member, leader in higher education and parent, I’ll bring a broad perspective to the decision-making process. I approach leadership roles as an active listener, seeking to understand and find effective solutions. Professionally, I have a strong background in budget management, resource allocation, contract negotiation, board relations, curriculum development, policy writing and community building. It is my top priority to ensure that each student is served in the best capacity based on their individual needs; understanding that providing support to our school employees is the foundation for student success. Access to education and ensuring that every student is on a path to graduation will be a primary focus. I’ll work with my Board colleagues to pursue student centered financial policies which provide and outstanding return on the communities investment in their schools.”

HISTORICAL TAX LEVY INCREASES



Southern Cayuga Central Schools
 2384 State Route 34B
 Aurora, NY 13026



Non-Profit Organization
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Permit NO. 1
 Poplar Ridge, NY 13139

**Box Holder or
 Rural Route**

School District	2022-2023 Avg. Tax Rates
Jordan Elbridge	\$20.26
Port Byron	\$20.07
Auburn	\$19.32
Weedsport	\$19.30
Groton	\$18.25
Cato-Meridian	\$17.33
Ithaca	\$17.03
Lansing	\$16.84
Moravia	\$15.61
Skaneateles	\$14.09
Union Springs	\$12.73
Southern Cayuga	\$11.73

