



SOUTHERN CAYUGA CENTRAL SCHOOLS

BUDGET

2024-25 BUDGET

Budget Hearing

Monday, May 13 at 6 pm
Jr/Sr HS Auditorium
2384 State Route 34B
Aurora, NY 13026

Budget Vote

Tuesday, May 21
7 am to 9 pm
SCCS District Office
2384 State Route 34B
Aurora, NY 13026

Total Proposed Budget
\$19,914,840

**Proposed Budget
Increase**
\$68,920

**Proposed School
Tax Levy**
\$8,608,670

**Proposed School
Tax Levy Increase**
3%

**Southern Cayuga
Central Schools**
315-364-7211

Southern Cayuga Central School District residents will vote on a \$19,914,840 budget proposal for the 2024-2025 school year on Tuesday, May 21, 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 the purchase of school buses/student transportation vehicles, and an increase in taxpayer support for the Aurora Free Library and the Hazard Library Association.

Budget Proposition

The Board of Education is proposing a budget of \$19,914,840 that includes a 3 percent tax levy increase, which is a 0.35 percent expense increase over last year’s budget amount. This budget embodies a balanced approach by proposing to use approximately \$741,000 of fund balance/savings, eliminating 11 positions, and instituting a tax increase for the coming year. Despite the loss of federal grant funding and anticipating significant cost escalators such as contractual labor, increased special education tuitions, rising electricity expenses, and healthcare costs, we’ve diligently worked to contain these expenses, aiming to keep the overall budget increase minimal. Thankfully, the district is in a position to leverage its fund balance to cover the loss of the annual increase in foundation aid, that typically has been received year after year, due to the district’s fiduciary restraint over the past 8 years.

Transportation Proposition

Voters will be asked to approve a proposition for student transportation: purchase of (1) small wheelchair accessible bus; (1) 66-passenger bus; and (1) mini-van/SUV for student transport. This continues the annual bus/vehicle replacement plan and maximizes both state aid and trade-in value by replacing vehicles on a consistent 5-year plan. This process also allows the district to ensure a safe and reliable fleet to transport our students.

Local Library Propositions

The Aurora Free Library and Hazard Library Association are asking voters to consider an increase of \$5,000 each, for continued support and maintenance. There will be two separate propositions for your consideration.

Meet the Candidates and the Budget Hearing are scheduled for May 13, at 6:00 PM in the High School Auditorium. Thank you to the residents of Southern Cayuga for your continued support.

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

WHERE DOES THE BUDGET GO?

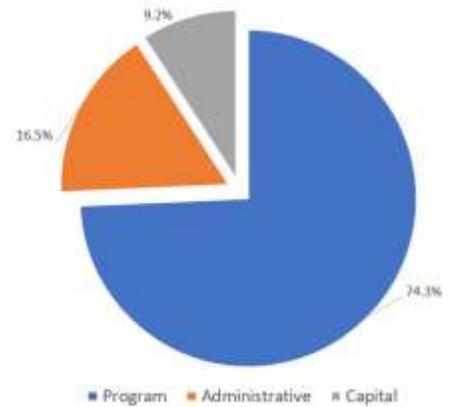
	Administrative	Program	Capital	2024-2025 Total
Administrative Support				
Board of Education	\$28,996.00			\$28,996.00
Central Administration	\$240,510.00			\$240,510.00
Finance	\$492,531.00			\$492,531.00
Legal/Personnel/Information	\$9,000.00	\$58,199.00		\$67,199.00
Buildings & Grounds			\$1,345,560.00	\$1,345,560.00
Centralized Services	\$287,932.00			\$287,932.00
Total Administrative Support	\$1,058,969.00	\$58,199.00	\$1,345,560.00	\$2,462,728.00
Instructional Program				
Curriculum, Supervisory & In-Service	\$433,379.00			\$433,379.00
Instructional Program		\$10,074,563.00		\$10,074,563.00
Interscholastics		\$17,000.00		\$17,000.00
Total Instructional Program	\$433,379.00	\$ 10,091,563.00		\$10,524,942.00
Transportation				
Pupil Transportation		\$1,174,650.00		\$1,174,650.00
Bus Garage		\$51,400.00		\$51,400.00
Total Transportation		\$1,226,050.00		\$1,226,050.00
Fringe Benefits				
Employee Retirement System	\$29,576.00	\$220,452.00	\$14,972.00	\$265,000.00
Teacher Retirement System	\$70,975.00	\$529,025.00		\$600,000.00
Social Security	\$66,965.00	\$499,138.00	\$33,897.00	\$600,000.00
Workers Compensation		\$74,912.00	\$5,088.00	\$80,000.00
Unemployment Insurance		\$14,046.00	\$953.00	\$15,000.00
Health Insurance	\$149,957.00	\$1,878,577.00	\$121,466.00	\$2,150,000.00
Dental/Vision	\$2,957.00	\$22,043.00		\$25,000.00
Flex Insurance	\$22,322.00	\$166,379.00	\$11,299.00	\$200,000.00
Total Fringe Benefits	\$342,752.00	\$3,404,572.00	\$187,675.00	\$3,935,000.00
Debt				
Bonds-Buildings			\$1,652,120.00	\$1,652,120.00
Transfer to Capital/Special Aid Fund		\$14,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$114,000.00
Total Debt			\$1,752,120.00	\$1,766,120.00
Total Proposed Budget	\$1,835,100.00	\$14,794,384.00	\$3,285,355.00	\$ 19,914,840.00

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.

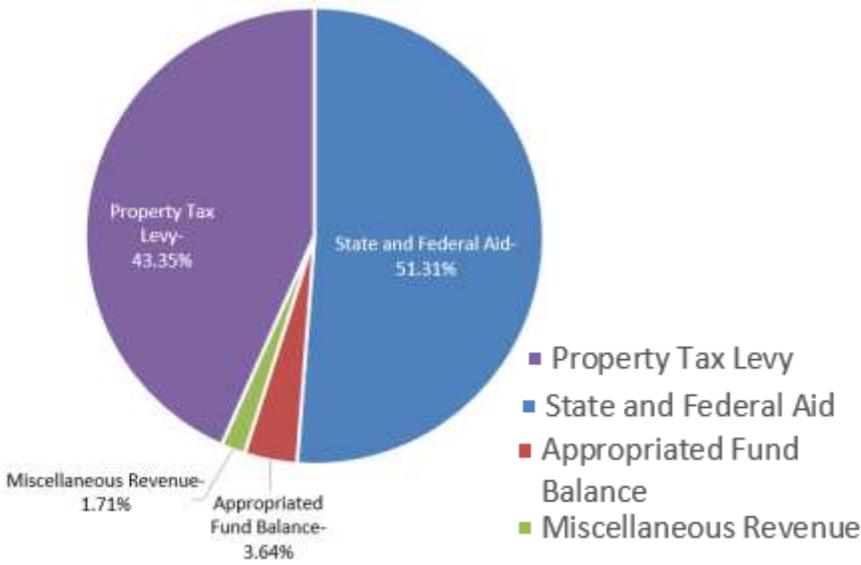
PROGRAM: Funding for all K-12 educational programs, including teacher and support staff salaries and benefits, BOCES special education and instructional services, interscholastic athletics and transportation.

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



WHERE DOES THE \$19,914,840 COME FROM?

Revenue Categories	2023/24	2024/25	Percent Change
State and Federal Aid	\$10,613,969	\$10,200,841	-3.89%
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$357,368	\$741,386	107.46%
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$478,402	\$340,500	-28.83%
Property Tax Levy, PILOTS, Penalties & Interest	\$8,396,182	\$8,632,113	2.81%
Total Revenue	\$19,845,921	\$19,914,840	0.35%



VOTER QUALIFICATIONS Individuals are eligible to vote if they are a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years old and a resident of the school district for at least 30 days prior to the vote. 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.

BALLOTS Qualified voters may apply for an absentee ballot or a military ballot. New this year, qualified voters are also allowed to vote early. Early ballot voting is available due to the new Early Mail Voter Act, effective January 1, 2024. Early voting is possible without any reasons needed for voting early. Similar to absentee ballot voting, you must fill out an application to vote early. There are separate applications for early voting or absentee ballot voting, but the application process and deadlines are the same for both.

All ballot applications are available online and at the SCCS District Office: 2384 State Route 34B, Aurora, NY 13026. Residents can also contact District Clerk Marcy Hand at handm@southerncayuga.org or by phone 315-364-7211 to request a ballot application. Applications must be received at the SCCS District Office by 4pm on May 14, 2024 if the ballot is to be mailed or 4pm on May 20, 2024 if you plan to pick up your ballot.

The completed ballot must be received by 5pm on May 21, 2024.

VOTERS TO DECIDE ON FOUR PROPOSITIONS AND TWO BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES**1.) PROPOSITION for 2024/25 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 \$19,914,840; and levy the necessary tax therefore for the 2024/2025 school year?

2.) PROPOSITION for the PURCHASE OF STUDENT TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES in 2024/25

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 purchase student transportation vehicles including incidental equipment and expenses in connection therewith, at an aggregate maximum estimated cost not to exceed \$309,568 therefor, and that \$309,568 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 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 \$85,000 (which is an increase of \$5,000 from the levy in effect from 2023-2024 in the sum of \$80,000) 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?

4.) 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 \$61,825 (which is an increase of \$5,000 from the levy in effect from 2023-2024 in the sum of \$56,825) 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?



Southern Cayuga Central School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2023-24 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2024-25 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 19,845,920	\$19,914,840	\$19,729,735
Increase/Decrease for the 2024-25 School Year		\$68,920	\$(116,185)
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		.35%	(.59%)
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.12%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$8,357,932	\$8,608,670	
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)	\$8,357,932	\$8,608,670	\$8,357,932
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$618,027	\$511,923	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$7,857,566	\$7,945,214	
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	\$8,096,747	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$117,661	-\$151,533	
Administrative Component	\$1,887,753	\$1,835,100	\$1,822,989
Program Component	\$14,594,458	\$14,794,384	\$14,737,450
Capital Component	\$3,363,709	\$3,285,355	\$3,169,296

*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:

Description	Amount
Bus Purchase Proposition	\$309,568

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year \$331
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The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2024-25 by the qualified voters of the Southern Cayuga School District, Cayuga County, New York, will be held at the District Office on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 between the hours of 7:00am and 9:00pm, prevailing time, 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.

Christopher Howe

Christopher Howe of King Ferry is running for a first term on the Board of Education. He has lived in the district for 1 ½ years. Chris earned a bachelor's degree in ministry. He is employed as pastor of Bethel Independent Baptist Church. He and his wife Michelle have four children and four grandchildren. "I am a born again Christian and pastor who believes in the absolute truth and final authority of the word of God I believe based on the bible that parents, not government, have the God-given right + responsibility to raise and educate their own children. I believe that the government, including our public schools, are accountable to the citizens not to government and their agendas. I believe that children need to be taught basic life sustaining skills and the education necessary to be successful and stable in life and not taught societal agendas which change and vary at times."



Robert H. Jetty II

Robb Jetty of Scipio is seeking a new term on the Board of Education. He has lived in the district for over 35 years, he was born and raised here. Robb earned an associate's degree in data processing from SUNY Alfred and a bachelor's degree in business management from the University of West Florida. He is retired from working in information technology management. Robb and his wife Lin have one son and daughter in law and two grandchildren. His community activities include involvement with Scipioville Presbyterian Church, Evergreen Cemetary Board and the Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES Board of Education representing Southern Cayuga Central School. He is a former Southern Cayuga Central Schools Board of Education member and past president. "The most important activity we undertake is educating our children. The purpose of a Board of Education is to provide policy that allows the district to provide the best education possible for all of our children. It is increasingly difficult in a district with a gradually declining enrollment. It is mandatory we provide programs that prepare our children for their future. I believe the Board of Education needs to develop a view of what our district will look like in the future and then develop the policies that will provide the best educational environment possible. I would appreciate your vote as I offer you my years of experience in the educational environment and a desire to be a part of that planning effort on behalf of our students. Thank you!"



David Harvatine

David Harvatine of King Ferry is seeking a fourth term on the Board of Education. He and his wife Leigh-Ann have two daughters, both attend Southern Cayuga Jr/Sr High School. Dave earned a bachelor's degree in Animal Science from Cornell University. He worked for Cargill Animal Nutrition in southern Pennsylvania as a Dairy Management Consultant before spending the last 22+ years as a herd manager and partner at Aurora Ridge Dairy LLC. He has coached basketball through CCYO, softball through Little League, and is a volunteer coach with varsity softball this year. Dave is actively involved in the dairy industry and is a member of the Board of Managers of Cayuga Marketing LLC. He has been a member of various Board committees including Athletics, Facilities, Budget/Finance, Policy, Transportation, and Directions.



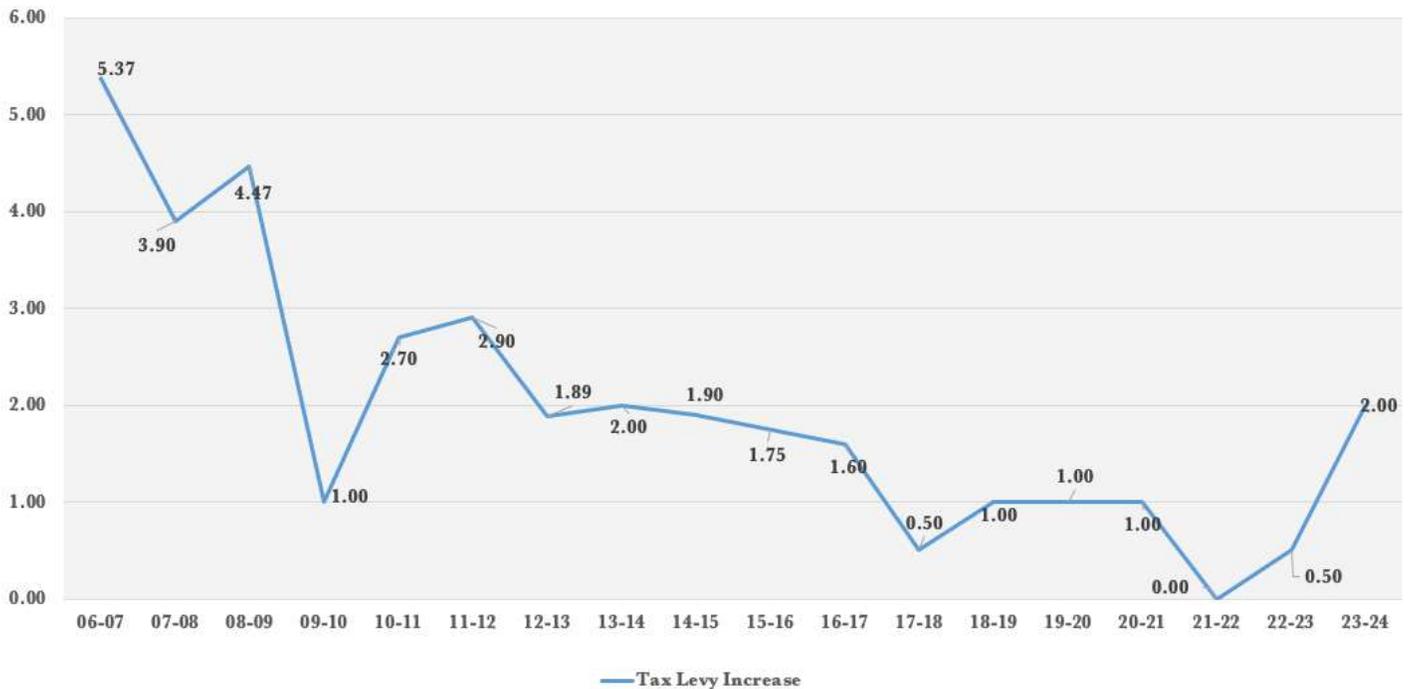
STUDENT TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES

On May 21, voters will be asked to consider a proposition for the purchase of school buses and a vehicle to transport students. If approved, the district will borrow \$264,567 to purchase (1) new 28 passenger wheelchair school bus, (1) 66-passenger school bus, and (1) mini-van/SUV for student transport. The original purchase price is \$309,567 but we will utilize trade-in discounts for the older higher mileage buses to reduce the costs. The bus purchase is also eligible for approximately \$147,630 in state aid, which is more than half of the purchase price. This cost is calculated in the debt service for 2024/25, so it does not increase the proposed budget.

These purchases are part of our on-going 5-year bus replacement plan to preserve the resale value of bus trade-ins and provide coverage under a 5-year/150,000-mile warranty for parts and service, reducing expenses.



HISTORICAL TAX LEVY INCREASES



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



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POSTAL PATRON

Board of Education

Kelsey Rossbach,
President
Matthew Bennett,
Vice-President

David Harvatine
Janet Lehman
Rachel McCarthy

Timothy Pallokat
Heather Rejman

School District	2023-2024 Average Tax Rates
Jordan-Elbridge	\$24.86
Weedsport	\$23.22
Lansing	\$21.42
Auburn	\$20.77
Port Byron	\$20.27
Ithaca	\$19.58
Cato-Meridian	\$17.92
Groton	\$17.46
Moravia	\$13.38
Skaneateles	\$13.10
Union Springs	\$12.43
Southern Cayuga	\$11.47

