



# CATSKILL

## CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Community / Achievement / Talent / Success*

### BUDGET VOTE

May 21, 2019

1:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Catskill High School  
Gymnasium  
341 West Main Street

Total Budget: **\$42,640,929**  
 Spending Increase: **2.03%**  
 Allowable Tax Levy Limit Cap: **3.89%**  
 Actual Tax Levy Increase: **3.34%**

#### Catskill Public Library

Shall the sum of \$801,928 be raised by annual levy of a tax upon the taxable real property within the Catskill Central School District for the purpose of funding the Catskill Public Library?

#### School Board Election

Selection of candidates to fill four open seats on the Board of Education (this may include write-in candidates). The candidate whose name will appear on the ballot is:

- Allan A. Couser

More information on Catskill's 2019-2020 budget and educational plan can be found on the "Budget Information" link at [www.catskillcsd.org](http://www.catskillcsd.org).

### 2019-2020 BUDGET

## Funding Excellence in Education

Residents of the Catskill Central School District will head to the polls on May 21, 2019 to decide on a \$42,640,929 budget for the 2019-2020 school year. The proposed budget is up a total of \$847,901, a 2.03 percent increase from the current year's budget. This increase is due largely to contractual obligations, instructional equipment purchases for technology and music, computer leases, and inflation.

The budget carries a projected tax levy increase of 3.34 percent, which is under the allowable limit of 3.89 percent set by the NYS property tax cap. Because the 2019-2020 budget stays under the cap, most homeowners living in the District will be eligible for the NYS STAR Property Tax Rebate this fall.



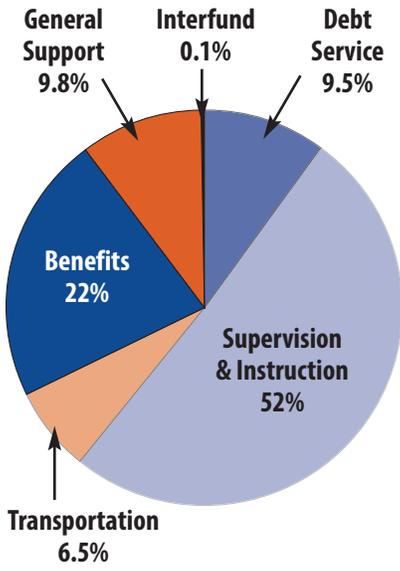
Budget highlights include the addition of an Early College Program that will give Catskill juniors and seniors the ability to earn up to 24 college credits through a partnership between our District, Bard College, and Questar III BOCES. The budget also strengthens the High School's distance learning program with an additional course and updated electives such as Anatomy & Physiology, AP Psychology, Spanish IV, and AP Economics, among other offerings.

School officials adjusted staffing levels to match program needs and student enrollment. Following retirements at the end of this school year, the District will not fill two special education teaching positions at the Middle/High School, one social worker position at the Middle School, and one reading teacher position at the High School, which allows these cuts to be made without layoffs. The budget also eliminates one math academic intervention teaching position and one English academic intervention teaching position at the Middle School, both grant-funded, one-year contracts that expire at the end of this school year. Additionally, four teaching assistant positions (one Elementary School, two Middle School, and one High School) were eliminated from the budget. These reductions reflect the decline in student enrollment that Catskill has seen and therefore will not impact what the District offers its students. The District also appropriated \$915,330 in fund balance to reduce the impact of cost increases on the tax levy.

"By maintaining appropriate levels of staffing and following conservative, long-term financial planning practices, we were able to not only maintain a quality instructional program that meets the needs of all students, but also grow our program in a fiscally responsible way," said Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Ronel Cook. "This budget contains no cuts to programs, improves opportunities for students, and offers taxpayers a spending plan that keeps taxes below the tax cap." Voters will also be asked to elect four candidates to the Board of Education.

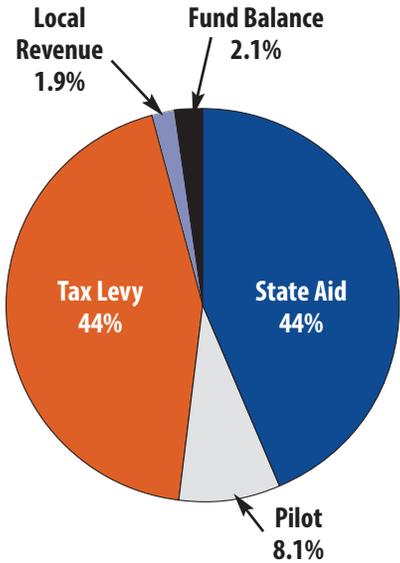
Included on the ballot as a wholly separate proposition is the appropriation for the support of the annual budget of the Catskill Public Library.

## Expenditures: How is the money spent?



	2018-2019 BUDGET	PROPOSED 2019-20 BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
General Support	\$4,211,541	\$4,166,458	-\$45,084
Supervision & Instruc.	\$21,310,983	\$22,273,727	\$962,744
Transportation	\$2,895,883	\$2,787,921	-\$107,962
Benefits	\$9,264,713	\$9,338,165	\$73,452
Debt Service	\$4,076,908	\$4,041,658	-\$35,250
Interfund Transfer	\$33,000	\$33,000	\$0
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$41,793,028</b>	<b>\$42,640,929</b>	<b>\$847,901</b>

## Revenues: Where does the money come from?



	2018-2019 BUDGET	PROPOSED 2019-20 BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
Tax Levy	\$18,284,797	\$18,894,778	\$609,981
PILOT Payments	\$3,575,055	\$3,455,976	-\$119,079
State & Federal Aid	\$18,181,896	\$18,571,845	\$389,949
Local Revenues	\$803,000	\$803,000	—
Fund Balance	\$948,280	\$915,330	-\$32,950
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$41,793,028</b>	<b>\$42,640,929</b>	<b>\$847,901</b>

## What happens if the budget is defeated?

If voters do not approve the proposed budget on May 21, the Board of Education can put the same budget or a revised budget up for vote on June 18, or adopt a contingency budget. If the budget is again defeated on June 18, the Board must adopt a contingency budget.

A contingency budget holds the tax levy increase at 0%, regardless of inflation, contractual obligations, and other cost increases incurred by the District. A contingency budget also prevents spending on new equipment, except when concerning safety, and limits

public use of District facilities. However, all state mandated programs, including those not funded by state aid, would need to be retained. These regulations mean that in the contingent budget, the Board would need to cut \$750,571 from the current budget proposal. Included in these cuts would be the use of school facilities by community groups, two elementary teacher positions, an assistant principal position at the secondary level, and all technology, instructional, art, music, and athletic equipment purchases.

## Just a few of the great things happening at Catskill CSD this school year:

- The NYS Education Department upgraded CES' status to "School in Good Standing."
- The District's graduation rate rose to 91% in 2018, above the NYS average of 80%.
- The CHS girls volleyball, girls soccer, and boys basketball teams all won Patroon Conference titles this school year.
- District staff and community stakeholders created a shared vision for a Capital Project that will soon make major improvements to our school facilities. Voters approved the project in February, 2019 and construction is expected to begin in summer, 2020.
- The District earned Utica National Insurance's 2019 "School Safety Excellence Award."

### AT CATSKILL CSD, CATS CAN AND CATS WILL!



The CHS production of Disney's Beauty and the Beast delighted audiences and earned two Proctors HS Musical Theatre Awards nominations.

## CATSKILL CSD BUDGET NOTICE

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	41,793,028	42,640,929	41,890,358
Increase/Decrease for the 2019-20 School Year		847,901	97,330
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.03%	0.23%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.44%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	18,284,787	18,894,778	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable			
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **			
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy			
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	18,284,797	18,894,778	18,284,797
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	122,366	402,027	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	18,037,431	18,619,232	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	17,890,632	18,492,751	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	146,799	126,481	
Administrative Component	3,980,111	4,147,563	4,006,509
Program Component	30,656,955	31,401,814	30,860,032
Capital Component	7,155,962	7,091,552	7,023,818
Under a contingent budget the District would have to make program reductions including staff layoffs in instructional and non-instructional areas. Equipment would be purchased only to preserve property and assure the health and safety of students and staff and maintain mandated special education programs. Use of school facilities by outside groups would be eliminated under a contingent budget.			
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>			Under the Budget Proposed for the 2019-20 School Year
			\$ 504

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2019-20 by the qualified voters of the Catskill Central School district, Greene County, New York, will be held at Catskill High School in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 between the hours of 1:00pm and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the Catskill High School, 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.



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## POSTAL PATRON

# School Budget Vote: May 21, 2019

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### 2019 Board of Education Election

There is one candidate running with four open seats on the Board of Education. Open seats may be filled by write-in candidate. The three highest vote getters will serve three-year terms from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022. In addition, the highest vote getter will also fill the remainder of an unexpired vacant seat for a term running May 22, 2019 through June 30, 2019. The fourth highest vote getter will serve the remainder of an unexpired vacant seat for a term running May 22, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

The candidate whose name will appear on the ballot is:

- **Allan A. Couser**

*Information about Mr. Couser is on our "2019 Board Election" link at [www.catskillcsd.org](http://www.catskillcsd.org)*

### Absentee Ballots

Qualified voters who are unable to appear during the voting hours of 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 may vote by absentee ballot. To obtain an absentee ballot you must first complete an application explaining why you are unable to appear to vote for one of several reasons:

- You are a patient in a hospital, or unable to appear personally because of physical disability
- Your duties, occupation, business or studies require such absence
- You will be on vacation elsewhere on voting day

An application can be obtained by contacting the Board Clerk at the Superintendent's Office, 518-943-4696. Completed applications must be received by the Board Clerk no later than the day before the election if the ballot is to be issued to the voter in person, or at least seven days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter.

***Absentee ballots must be received by the Board Clerk, not later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 21, 2019.***

### Voter Qualifications

To be eligible to vote on May 21, you must be:

- A citizen of the United States 18 years of age or older
- A resident of the Catskill Central School District for a period of 30 days or more directly preceding the date of the vote
- Registered to vote with either the School District or the Greene County Board of Elections

[www.catskillcsd.org](http://www.catskillcsd.org)