

Budget Vote
June 20, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Do you know where to vote? See page 3!



June 2006
Budget Issue

CAPITAL education

Residents to vote June 20 on a revised \$169,873,460 budget

Proposed 2006-07 spending plan keeps educational program intact; avoids restrictions of a contingency budget

The Board of Education has decided to submit a reduced budget to the voters to avoid the restrictions of a contingency budget.

If this budget is not approved by the voters on June 20, the district would be required to adopt a contingency budget to take effect July 1. Under a contingency budget, state law prohibits the district from spending money associated with the community use of buildings as well as for equipment, student supplies, and certain raises.

The proposed, reduced budget is \$500 less than what spending would be under a contingency budget. There is no difference between the estimated tax rate increase in the revised budget and the increase projected under a contingency budget.

The proposed budget is \$102,472 less than the budget voters defeated in May, and the estimated tax rate increase has been reduced from 7.20 percent in the initial proposed budget to 7.09 percent in the reduced budget.

As with the initial budget, the revised budget maintains current academic programs and funds new initiatives. It supports an educational plan focused on student improve-

The proposed budget is \$500 less than a contingency budget, and without any restrictions.

ment with measures to better gauge student progress, identify students who need help and provide that support. The proposed budget also includes more enrichment opportunities and enhanced alternative education programs.

The revised spending plan reduces the overtime budgets of 12 district departments, the Board of Education budget, and eliminates the planned purchase of some maintenance equipment.

The revised budget is below contingency in a year when the fixed costs of utilities and benefits and the mandated

Please call 475-6010 or visit www.albanyschools.org/Budget for more information about:

- Voter eligibility, absentee ballots and polling place information
- The educational plan the budget supports
- The state's STAR tax break program

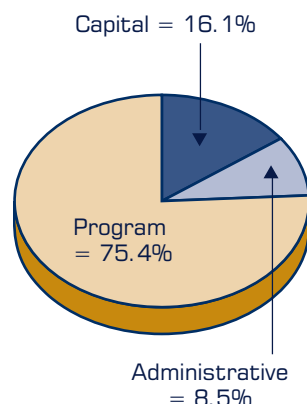
costs of charter schools and related services make up more than 75 percent of the estimated tax rate increase.

Charter school payments will not be affected if the revised budget is approved or defeated. State law requires the district to make payments to charter schools based upon a formula that the district has no control over.

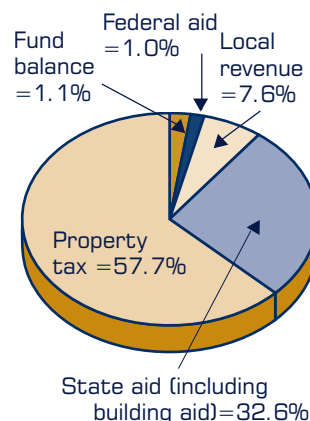
The revised budget still includes the elimination of a net total of 41.4 positions that were proposed to be eliminated in the budget proposed in May, as well as a 10 percent reduction in supplies, materials and equipment budgets from the current school year.

"To cut any further could have resulted in diminished academic programs," Superintendent Eva Joseph said. "This revised budget funds specific measures designed to help the district accomplish its goals for student achievement." ♦

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES



ESTIMATED REVENUE





The complete revised budget is available for public review in the main office of each of the district's schools.

CAPITAL education

June 2006

Contingency budget restrictions would affect the community

If the proposed budget is defeated, state law requires the district to adopt a contingency budget to take effect July 1.

Among other spending restrictions under a contingency budget, the district would be required to charge community groups and outside agencies for the use of school buildings when the district incurs a cost for such use. Groups that would be charged for the use of buildings include:

- Youth and adult sports organizations
- Non-district programs run by Big Brothers/Big Sisters, YMCA and JCC
- Neighborhood Associations
- PTA groups in the case of entertainment and social events
- Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts

PROPOSED EXPENDITURES: Where the money goes

	2005-06 Budget	2006-07 Proposed	\$ Change
Program budget	\$120,179,970	\$128,022,423	\$7,842,453
Instruction	102,753,611	104,239,771	1,486,160
Charter school payments	10,838,128	16,551,776	5,713,648
Pupil transportation	5,723,883	6,323,143	599,260
Athletics	664,348	707,733	43,385
Lunch program assistance	200,000	200,000	0
Capital budget	\$23,127,642	\$27,394,141	\$4,266,499
Debt payments & borrowings	10,183,701	10,469,056	285,355
Building rentals	315,000	412,394	97,394
Operations & maintenance	8,215,941	8,997,052	781,111
Utilities	4,013,000	5,603,639	1,590,639
Tax refunds & judgments	400,000	1,912,000	1,512,000
Administrative budget	\$13,730,020	\$14,456,896	\$726,876
School supervision and support	12,307,740	12,819,084	511,344
Property & liability insurance	457,000	528,250	71,250
Printing, mailing & data processing	773,280	898,752	125,472
Legal & other services	192,000	210,810	18,810
Total Expenditures	\$157,037,632	\$169,873,460	\$12,835,828

ESTIMATED REVENUE: Where the money comes from

	2005-06	2006-07	\$ Change
Federal aid	\$1,347,000	\$1,742,500	\$395,500
Fund balance	5,000,000	1,900,000	- 3,100,000
Local revenue	10,975,000	12,850,916	1,875,916
State building aid	3,589,044	4,402,527	813,483
Other state aid	45,187,341	50,944,065	5,756,724
Property tax	90,939,247	98,033,452	7,094,205
Total Revenue	\$157,037,632	\$169,873,460	\$12,835,828

Estimated Tax Rates

Homestead:
\$24.47 per \$1,000 of assessed property value

Non-homestead:
\$32.81 per \$1,000 of assessed property value

School tax savings under STAR program

ESTIMATED TAX BILL

for a property assessed at \$100,000	2005-06	2006-07	Estimated Change
Without STAR exemption	\$2,286	\$2,447	\$161
*With Enhanced STAR for senior citizens	1,175	1,258	83
*With Basic STAR for other homeowners	1,619	1,734	115

**Estimated calculation based on a 7.09 percent tax rate increase and 2005 equalization rates*

STAR savings are not automatic. Homeowners must apply through the city assessor's office to be eligible for the tax break. Senior citizens who qualify for Enhanced STAR must reapply each year. Contact the city assessor at 434-5155 if you have questions.

For more information about eligibility and benefits under the STAR program, please visit www.albanyschools.org/Budget/STAR.html. ◆



CAPITAL education

More than a budget: Supporting an educational mission

The proposed 2006-07 budget is tied to goals the Board of Education adopted last fall, and includes spending for specific measures designed to meet those goals.

The district envisions smaller, safe and modern learning communities with targeted academic help and programs for students, while also providing enrichment experiences for students seeking such opportunities.

The revised budget leaves intact the educational plan for 2006-07, which is a combination of new initiatives and

2006-07 Budget Goals

1. All schools will meet and exceed New York State education standards
2. The "Achievement Gap" will be eliminated while maintaining challenges for all students districtwide.
3. Successful smaller learning communities, including alternative education programs, will be established.
4. Safe schools and student health will remain a priority.
5. Continue to rebuild Albany schools.
6. Continue to seek additional state aid and reduce the financial impact of charter schools on the City School District of Albany.

maintaining existing programs.

These programs include full day kindergarten and prekindergarten, elementary foreign language, current math and literacy programs, and the

mentor program for teachers, to name a few.

New initiatives include: an additional grade within the dual language enrichment program to give the district

a full elementary program; revamped alternative education programs to give students more academic and social support in these settings; increased integrated special education services; new math standards at the middle school level; a data management system that will allow the district to better evaluate student progress and identify students who need academic help.

The budget also provides for the continuation of the facilities project, under which a new School 16 and a new School 18 will open in January 2007. ◆

Polling locations

The polling places are the same locations as the May 16, 2006 budget vote. However, a few locations have changed since 2005 due to the facilities project, as some are unavailable and others that were previously unavailable can once again be utilized. Those that have changed since last year appear in boldface type. If you do not know your ward or election district or do not know where to vote, contact the district clerk at 475-6010.

1st Ward: School 18 (previously Montessori) 75 Park Ave. and Eagle St.	10th Ward: Albany High School, 700 Washington Avenue
2nd Ward: Giffen Memorial Elementary School, 274 South Pearl St.	11th Ward: First Lutheran Church, 646 State St.
3rd Ward: Sheridan Preparatory Academy, 400 Sheridan Ave.	12th Ward, Election Districts 1, 3, 5 & 11: Harriet Gibbons High School, 75 Watervliet Ave.
4th Ward, Election Districts 1-5 & 12: North Albany Academy (previously School 20) 570 North Pearl St.	12th Ward, Election Districts 2, 4 & 9, North Albany Academy (previously School 20), 570 North Pearl Street.
5th Ward: Philip Livingston Magnet Academy, 315 Northern Boulevard	12th Ward, Election Districts 6-8 & 10: Montessori Magnet Academy (previously School 26) 65 Tremont St.
6th Ward: Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science and Technology, Lincoln Park	13th Ward: Pine Hills Library, 517 Western Ave.
7th Ward: St. James School, 50 Summit Ave.	14th Ward: Eagle Point Elementary School, 1044 Western & Russell Rd.
8th Ward, Election Districts 1-3, 9, 11 & 12: Albany School of Humanities, 108 Whitehall Rd.	15th Ward, Election Districts 1-3, 5, 8 & 9: Eagle Point Elementary School, 1044 Western Ave. & Russell Rd.
8th Ward: Election Districts 4-8 & 10: St. Catherine of Siena School, 35 Hurst Ave.	15th Ward, Election Districts 4, 6 & 7: Teresian House, Washington Ave. Ext.
9th Ward: School 19, 369 New Scotland Ave.	



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June 2006

School districts are required by state law to mail this information to all households within the district.

If you would like additional information about the budget, please call the Superintendent's Office at 475-6010.

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2006-2007 by the qualified voters of the Albany City School District, Albany County, New York, will be held at various locations in said district on Tuesday, June 20, 2006 between the hours of 7 a.m. and 9 p.m., prevailing time in the various locations, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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

** Estimated tax levy and Basic STAR tax savings, school tax increase/decrease and Net Basic STAR tax savings are contingent upon finalization of the state aid budget and receipt of \$1.5 million in Magnet School Aid. This will result in an estimated tax rate increase of 7.09%

Albany City School District Budget Notice

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL	Budget Adopted for the 2005-06 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2006-07 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2006-07 School Year
Total budgeted amount	\$ 157,037,632	\$***169,873,460	\$ 168,373,960
Increase (decrease) for the 2006-07 school year		\$ 12,835,828	\$ 11,336,328
Percentage increase (decrease) in each proposed budget		8.17%	7.22%
Change in the consumer price index		3.40%	
Resulting est. property tax levy for the 2006-07 school year		\$ **96,533,452	\$ 96,533,952
1. Administrative Component	\$ 13,730,020	\$ 14,456,896	\$ 14,253,515
2. Program Component	\$ 120,179,970	\$ 128,022,423	\$ 126,885,238
3. Capital Component	\$ 23,127,642	\$ 27,394,141	\$ 27,235,207

What happens if the 2006-07 budget is not approved by a majority of voters?

Under state law, school boards can submit a budget to voters a maximum of two times. If the budget is defeated twice, the board must adopt a contingency budget, which would require a spending reduction of \$1,499,500. *****Assuming Magnet Aid of \$1.5 million is finalized in the state budget, a budget amendment would be authorized by the Board in July 2006 that would reduce the proposed budget by \$1.5 million to \$168,373,460.** This budget figure represents an amount of \$500 below a contingency budget cap of \$168,373,960. The following cuts must occur during a contingent budget:

- All student supplies
- All equipment
- Certain employee raises
- Non-school sponsored use of facilities would result in charging outside organizations for additional costs incurred by the district.

BASIC STAR EXEMPTION IMPACT

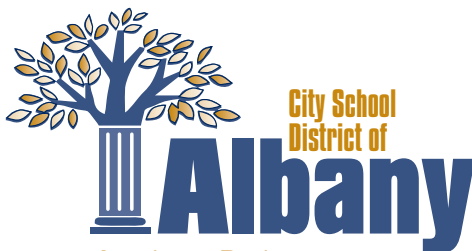
Estimated Basic STAR* exemption savings based on a hypothetical home within the school district with a full value of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000)

	Budget Adopted for the 2005-06 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2006-07 School Year
Basic STAR tax savings	\$ 666	\$ **713
School tax increase/decrease	\$ 85	\$ **161
Net Basic STAR tax savings	\$ 581	\$ **552

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