



**Hudson**  
CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

## 2017-18 Proposed Budget Info Sheet

Budget Vote & School Board Elections

Tuesday, May 16, 2017  
12 noon – 9 p.m.

See page 2 for polling locations

### Budget Facts

The \$46,566,172 proposed budget is a 1.43% increase from the 2016-17 budget.

The process used in the development of the 2017-18 budget was a direct result of New York State's Property Tax Cap Law. The proposed budget would increase the tax levy by 2.19 percent. This is below the maximum allowable tax levy, meaning that it is within New York State's Property Tax Cap. Therefore, qualifying residents will be eligible to receive a refund check from New York State (read more below).

### Property Tax Cap Information

When New York State passed the Property Tax Cap law, elected officials often referred to the new law as a "2% tax cap." However, the law they passed requires schools to use an eight-step formula to determine how much they can increase their tax levy, which does not always work out to be an even 2 percent. Very few school districts actually have a 2% tax cap because the formula causes the cap to vary from district to district.

This year, the maximum tax levy calculated for the Hudson City School District was 2.81 percent. However, the Board of Education decided to reduce the tax levy for taxpayers and propose a budget with a smaller increase of 2.19 percent. A school district is considered tax cap compliant as long as it does not increase its tax levy by more than the amount determined by the eight-step calculation.

Visit [www.hudsoncityschooldistrict.com/budget](http://www.hudsoncityschooldistrict.com/budget) for a short video further explaining how NYS uses the formula to determine each school district's tax cap number, which rarely works out to 2 percent.

### New York State Property Tax Rebate

Because the Hudson City School District is tax cap compliant (i.e., within the maximum allowable tax levy increase), some taxpayers will be eligible for a New York State refund check due to the STAR Property Tax Rebate Law. The property tax rebate replaces the more well-known property tax freeze credit that provided property tax rebate checks to eligible taxpayers in 2014 and 2015. This tax relief program reimburses qualifying homeowners for increases in local property taxes in districts that remain within the NYS Property Tax Cap and meet efficiency requirements. The new rebate applies to the years 2016 through 2019.

To qualify for this tax rebate, homeowners must already receive the STAR Property Tax Exemption. Taxpayers who receive the STAR exemption and make less than \$200,000 a year can expect to receive a rebate check from NYS. The property must be the homeowner's primary residence and the total household

income must be \$200,000 or less. For information about the program, please visit the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance's website (<https://www.tax.ny.gov>).

## Budget Highlights

The most notable increases to the budget include contractual obligations (e.g., salaries, benefits and pension contributions) and expanding student supports and programs.

The proposed budget includes the addition of several key staff. To preserve recommended class sizes in accordance with the Hudson Teachers' Association contract, the budget would add one Grade 5 teacher and one Grade 6 teacher. A secondary-level math coach would be hired for additional support in mathematics. The proposed budget would also add a Licensed Practical Nurse and a Behavior Specialist to work with all students throughout the district, as well as an Associate Principal at the elementary level.

Last year's budget added a part-time music position to accommodate the growing student interest in the arts; however, student interest continues to swell. Therefore, the 2017-18 proposed budget includes increasing the music position from part-time to full-time. We are also looking to add an art educator for a similar reason.

## Other Items on the Ballot

In addition to voting on the proposed budget, residents will elect one member to the Board of Education and consider a proposition to donate a small piece of land behind John L. Edwards Primary School (JLE) to the City of Hudson.

Voters will be asked to select a candidate to fill one vacant seat on HCSD's Board of Education. The term of one member of the Board, President Carrie Otty, is expiring and must be filled for a three-year term. Mrs. Otty has decided to run for re-election. No one else picked up a petition so she is the only candidate on this year's ballot. Taxpayers may either vote for Mrs. Otty or write in a candidate of choice who resides within the Hudson City School District.

The ballot will also include a proposition to authorize the HCSD to donate a small corner of land behind JLE to the City of Hudson for the purpose of building sidewalks. This is related to the Safe Routes to School grant awarded to the City in 2014, which would help build additional sidewalks so city children can have safe places to walk to and from school. In order to install sidewalks in this area, voter approval is needed to authorize the school district to donate a 1521 square foot piece of land to the City (see a map on our "Budget Information" webpage). The City would maintain the sidewalks and the school district would implement a pedestrian safety curriculum.

### BUDGET VOTE

**Tuesday, May 16, 2017**  
**12 noon – 9 p.m.**

See website for more information: [www.hudsoncityschooldistrict.com/budget](http://www.hudsoncityschooldistrict.com/budget)

Polling Locations (*Please note that polling locations have been consolidated **at the request of the Board of Elections***):

**District 1** - City of Hudson - **JLE Primary School** (360 State Street, Hudson)

**District 2** - Greenport, Stottville/Stockport, Ghent - **Greenport Pumper Company No. 1 Fire House** (216 Green Street, Hudson)

**District 3** - Claverack, Livingston, Taghkanic – **A.B. Shaw Fire House** (67 NY-23, Claverack)

Visit [www.hudsoncityschooldistrict.com](http://www.hudsoncityschooldistrict.com) for information about voter eligibility and absentee ballots.