

School budgets go to voters Tuesday

Also contested: 11 races for boards of education, and 1 tax-cap override

STAFF REPORTS

Monroe County residents will go to the polls Tuesday to vote on their school districts' proposed budgets for the 2016-17 school year. There are also several additional spending propositions as well as contested school board races in 11 of the 18 local suburban districts: Churchville-Chili, East Irondequoit, East Rochester, Greece, Hilton, Rush-Henrietta, Spencerport, Victor, Webster, West Irondequoit and Wheatland-Chili. (The Rochester schools budget is funded through the city, so is not subject to a popular vote, like the other "Big Five" districts in New York.) Last year, by comparison, there were contested races in nine districts.

Victor is the only district asking its residents to override the state property tax cap, meaning it will need 60 percent approval to pass.

Each district has more budget details available on its website or at the district office.

Brighton

The Brighton Central School District is proposing a budget of \$74 million for 2016-17. The proposed tax levy is \$50.1 million, up .34 percent over last year. The projected tax rate is \$27.28 per \$1,000 in assessed value, up from \$27.18 last year.

Two propositions are on the ballot — one to authorize spending \$1.5 million on structural repairs, rehabilitation of swimming pools and new safety equipment at various district schools, and one to authorize the transfer of \$500,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund for Technology to the district's General Operating Fund to buy computer-related equipment and software.

Two candidates are running for two seats on the board of education — Andrea Costanza and Karen Hatch.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Brighton High School, 1150 Winton Road South.

Brockport

The Brockport Central School District is proposing a \$78.9 million budget for 2016-17. The proposed property tax levy is \$30.1 million flat compared with last year and beneath the state property tax cap. The projected tax rate is \$24.51 per \$1,000 in assessed value, down 1.2 percent from last year's rate of \$24.80.

There is one proposition on the ballot, to authorize spending \$1.2 million to buy 12 school buses and trade in 11.

There is one candidate, Daniel Legault, running to fill one open seat on the school board.

Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the technology and training center, 40 Allen St., Building 800. For more information, go to brockport.k12.ny.us.

Churchville-Chili

The Churchville-Chili Central School District is proposing an \$82.6 million budget for 2016-17. The

proposed property tax levy is \$34.7 million, up .7 percent from last year; the increase is below the state property tax cap. The projected tax rate is \$23.60 per \$1,000 of assessed value, down .17 percent from last year's rate of \$23.64.

A proposition on the ballot would authorize the district to purchase new school buses at a maximum cost of \$1.3 million.

There are five candidates running for four seats on the board. Incumbents Gary Lawniczak and Kathleen Dillon, Leon Tucker and Steve Hogan are running for reelection along with challenger Marty Belfield. The three top vote-getters will receive three-year terms. Hogan was appointed last year to fill a board vacancy, but his appointment expires at the next election. The fourth highest vote-getter will fill the remainder of that term, now a little more than two years.

Polls are open from noon to 9 p.m. in the Middle School North Cafeteria, 139 Fairbanks Road. For more information, go to www.cccsd.org.

East Irondequoit

The East Irondequoit Central School District proposed a budget of \$76.3 million for 2016-17. The proposed tax levy is \$40.7 million, up 1 percent over last year. The projected tax rate is \$30.53 per \$1,000 of assessed value, up from \$30.18 last year.

There are no additional propositions.

Four candidates are running for three open seats on the board of education — Kimberly Lasher, Lynn Vigerzi, Jeff Petrie and Christy Ann Lynch.

Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the ninth grade gymnasium at Eastridge High School, 2350 E. Ridge Road.

East Rochester

The East Rochester Union Free School District is proposing a budget of \$27.4 million for 2016-17. The proposed tax levy is \$13.5 million, up .49 percent over last year. The projected tax rate is \$26.38 per \$1,000 of assessed value, up from \$26.06 last year.

There is one proposition on the ballot to authorize the creation of a capital reserve fund for technology, to have a term of 20 years and an ultimate amount of \$2 million.

Three candidates are running for one open seat on the board of education — Vincent Antonicelli, Matt Hogan and Mike Zutes.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the district office conference room at 222 Woodbine Ave.

Fairport

The Fairport Central School District is proposing a \$123.3 million budget for 2016-17. The proposed property tax levy is \$71.3 million, up 1.5 percent from last year; the increase is beneath the state property tax cap. The projected tax rate is \$23.11 per \$1,000 in assessed value, up 1.5 percent from last year's rate of \$22.77.

There are two propositions on the ballot. One would authorize spending \$1.4 million to purchase computers and other technology equipment. The other would authorize spending \$11.2 million to demolish and replace the transportation facility; \$3.3 million of that sum would come from a capital reserve fund.

Incumbents Damon Buffum and Maureen Nupp are running unopposed for re-election to the school board.

Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Johanna Perrin Middle School gymnasium, 85 Potter Place. For more information, go to fairport.org.

Gates Chili

The Gates Chili Central School District is proposing a budget of \$101 million for 2016-14. The proposed property tax levy is \$50.4 million, up .6 percent over this year. The projected tax rate is \$26.19 per \$1,000 of assessed value, down .4 percent from last year's rate of \$26.29.

A proposition also on the ballot would authorize the district to purchase new buses at an estimated maximum cost of \$1.8 million.

There are three open seats on the board and two candidates will appear on the ballot: Kelly J Glover and Debra A. Bennett.

Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Gates Chili High School Field House, 1 Spartan Way. For more information, visit: www.gateschili.org.

Greece

The Greece Central School District is proposing a budget of \$225.4 million for 2016-17. The proposed property tax levy is \$104.3 million, up 1 percent over this year. The projected tax rate is \$23.85 per \$1,000 of assessed value, up .7 percent from last year's \$23.69.

There will be two additional propositions on the ballot. The first would authorize the district to purchase buses at a cost not to exceed \$2.7 million. The second would authorize the district to create a building capital reserve fund that would last up to 10 years and not exceed \$15 million-plus earnings.

There are four candidates seeking three terms on the Board of Education. Incumbents Frank Oberg and Terry Melore are seeking reelection against challengers Lloyd M. Ruffle III and Michael Valicenti.

The district this year has consolidated and relocated its polling places out of the school buildings. There are six new polling locations: Edna Tina Wilson Living Center, 700 Island Cottage Road; Hope Lutheran Church, 1301 Vintage Lane; Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 4115 Dewey Ave; New Testament Christian Church, 349 North Ave.; Barnard Fire House, 3084 Dewey Ave.; and Ridge Road Fire District, 1299 Long Pond Road. Residents have been notified of their polling place by the district. If you are unsure where to vote, call (585) 966-2010. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, visit www.greececsd.org.

Hilton

The Hilton Central School District is proposing a budget of \$80 million for 2016-17. The proposed property tax levy is \$37.3 million, up .9 percent over this year. The projected tax rate is \$23.19 per \$1,000 of assessed value, down .4 percent from last year's \$23.29 per \$1,000.

A proposition also on the ballot would authorize the district to purchase buses at a maximum cost of \$1.3 million.

Seven candidates are running for four seats on the school board. Incumbents Michelle Frechette Ames, Barbara Cutrona, Mark Hilburger and Nancy Pickering are seeking reelection against challengers Russ Byer, David Malsegna and Andre Hudson.

Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Hilton High School, 400 East Ave. for residents of Hilton, Parma and Clarkson and at Northwood Elementary School, 433 North Greece Road for residents of Greece. For more information, visit www.hilton.k12.ny.us.

Honeoye Falls-Lima

The Honeoye Falls-Lima Central School District is proposing a \$48.5 million budget for 2016-17. The proposed property tax levy is \$27.2 million, up 1 percent from last year; the increase is beneath the state property tax cap. The projected tax rate is \$23.90 per \$1,000 in assessed value, up 1 percent from last year's rate of \$23.67.

There are two propositions on the ballot. One would authorize spending \$496,000 to purchase school buses. The other would authorize spending \$30 million for an extensive district-wide capital improvement project; \$3.6 million of that sum would come from a capital reserve fund.

Three people are running for three seats on the school board: incumbents Gary Stottler and Stephanie Templeton along with David Francis.

Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the high school, 83 East St. For more information, go to hfclsd.org.

Penfield

The Penfield Central School District is proposing a budget of \$93.3 million for 2016-17. The proposed tax levy is \$60.5 million, up 1.2 percent from last year. The projected tax rate is \$25.59 per \$1,000 of assessed value, up from \$25.55 last year.

Three propositions are on the ballot — one to authorize spending for eight school buses at a cost not to exceed \$784,174, one to approve a capital project including asbestos abatement, playground renovations, and field upgrades, and one to authorize a new building capital reserve fund with a probable term of 10 years and a limit of \$15 million.

Two candidates are running for two open seats on the board of education — Barbara Larkin Babiarz and John Piper.

Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Penfield High School Gymnasium, 25 High School Drive.

Pittsford

The Pittsford Central School District is proposing a budget of \$125.5 million for 2016-17. The proposed tax levy is \$95.3 million, up .58 percent over last year. The projected tax rate is \$25.75 per \$1,000 of assessed value, up from \$25.56 last year.

There is one proposition on the ballot to authorize spending for 12 new school buses and a service truck at a

maximum cost of \$1.4 million.

Two candidates are running for two seats on the board of education — Amy Thomas and Peter Sullivan.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Barker Road Middle School, 75 Barker Road.

Rush-Henrietta

The Rush-Henrietta Central School District is proposing a \$119.9 million budget for 2016-17. The proposed property tax levy is \$72.1 million, up 2.3 percent from last year; the increase is beneath the state property tax cap. The projected tax rate is \$20.07 per \$1,000 in assessed value, up 1 percent from last year's rate of \$19.87.

There are two propositions on the ballot. One would authorize spending \$2.2 million to purchase school buses. The other would authorize the establishment of a capital reserve fund that eventually would grow to \$15 million over 10 years and pay for building improvements.

There are five candidates running for two seats on the school board. Incumbent Phyllis Wickerham is running along with challengers Rhonda Delaney, Robert Logel, Simeon Banister and Annmarie Strzyznski.

Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the transportation center, 1133 Lehigh Station Road. For more information, go to rhnet.org.

Spencerport

The Spencerport Central School District is proposing a \$74.9 million budget for 2016-17. The proposed property tax levy is \$35.5 million, up 0.5 percent from last year; the increase is beneath the state property tax cap. The projected tax rate is \$24.09 per \$1,000 in assessed value, flat from last year.

There are no additional propositions.

There are five candidates running for two three-year terms on the school board as well as one one-year interim term. Incumbents William Sweeney and Gary Bracken and interim incumbent Janet Tyler are running along with challengers Katherine Czarnecki and Greg Kincaid.

Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Munn Elementary School, Taylor Elementary School and the district office; to determine your polling place or for more information, go to spencerportschools.org.

Victor

The Victor Central School District is proposing a \$65.1 million budget for 2016-17. The proposed property tax levy is \$41.3 million, up 4 percent from last year. That increase is above the state property tax cap of 1.8 percent, meaning that at least 60 percent of voters must approve the budget for it to be adopted.

The projected tax rate is \$16.32 per \$1,000 in assessed value, up 0.6 percent from last year's rate of \$16.22.

There are no additional propositions.

There are four candidates running for three seats on the school board. Incumbents Timothy DeLucia and Michael Young are running alongside challengers Kristin Elliott and Christopher Parks.

Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the intermediate school, 953 High St. For more information, go to victor schools.org.

Webster

The Webster Central School District is proposing a budget of \$163.9 million for 2016-17. The proposed tax levy is \$98.8 million, up 1.64 percent over this year. The projected tax rate is \$24.12 per \$1,000 in assessed value, up from \$24.04 last year.

On the ballot are two propositions — one to authorize spending not to exceed \$1.685 million for 15 new school buses and another to authorize the creation of a district capital reserve fund that would last 10 years and will not exceed \$15 million.

Four candidates are running for three open seats on the board of education — Lauren Falanga, Tammy Gurowski, Linda Dioguardi and Mike Gustin.

Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Webster Schroeder High School, 875 Ridge Road.

West Irondequoit

The West Irondequoit Central School District is proposing a budget of \$71.2 million for 2016-17. The proposed tax levy is \$37.7 million, up .73 percent from last year. The projected tax rate is \$28.47 per \$1,000 of assessed value, up from \$28.25 last year.

There is one proposition on the ballot for the authorization of a capital reserve fund to be funded for 10 years, with an amount not to exceed \$10 million.

Three candidates are running for two seats on the board of education — Brian M. Charles, Amanda R. Insalaco and Carolyn Iman Stahl.

Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. at a new polling location at St. Paul Boulevard Fire Department, 433 Cooper Road.

Wheatland-Chili

The Wheatland-Chili Central School District is proposing a budget of \$17.4 million for 2016-17. The proposed tax levy is \$9.2 million, up .8 percent over this year. The projected tax rate is \$23.97 per \$1,000 of assessed value, up from \$23.67 this year.

Also on the ballot is a proposition authorizing the district to spend up to \$235,000 on new buses and another proposition authorizing the district to spend \$15,000 from the school equipment reserve fund on instructional equipment.

Three candidates are running for two open seats: Carol Davis, Gregory Berl and Michelle Rocha.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the high school gymnasium, 940 North Road. For more information, go to wheatland.k12.ny.us.

Compiled by staff writers Meaghan M. McDermott, Justin Murphy and Sarah Taddeo.



Suzanne Hess holds her daughter Lauren while voting at the United Church of Pittsford last month.

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