



Port News

PORT JERVIS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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2023-24 BUDGET VOTE!

An Overview of the Budget & Propositions

On April 20, 2023, the Port Jervis City School District Board of Education approved the budget proposal for the 2023-24 school year. On May 16, 2023, the residents of the Port Jervis City School District will have the opportunity to vote on this budget proposal. **The proposed \$90,578,206 budget will have a 0% tax levy increase.**

The budget development process focused on our priorities of improving academic programs, expanding extra-curricular offerings, upgrading facilities and enhancing school safety. This budget will maintain all current programs and add a wide variety of new student programs.

In addition to the budget and school board elections, there are four propositions to vote on:

- **An approximately \$12.3 million capital project that would have no tax increase** as it would be paid for with approximately 75% state aid and 25% fund balance. At the high school, there will be improvements made to the auditorium, library and Chase Field. At the old middle school/soon to be new elementary school, a generator will be installed, additional parking will be added and improvements will be made to Glennette Field.
- **The purchase of 150 Pike Street for \$1.7 million would result in no tax increase** as it would be paid for with fund balance. This is the current home of the district office and PPS office. The ongoing capital project included \$1.1 million to convert the ASK kindergarten wing into a district office. It makes better financial sense to use the \$1.1 million toward the building purchase and keep the classrooms intact for student use.
- **A land exchange between the City and the School District at no cost to the taxpayers.** The City of Port Jervis would get the former Sullivan Avenue School property and agree to keep the property forever in the public domain. The School District would get the former Statewide Oil property next to the old middle school/new elementary school to create a parking lot to serve the school and Glennette Field. With a new wing being added, the amount of parking has been greatly reduced. This would resolve that issue.
- **Change the student walking distances with the minimal costs included in the proposed budget with no tax increase.** Elementary students would walk up to a half mile and secondary students would walk up to one mile. The current walking distances are: elementary (1 mile), middle school (1.4 miles) and high school (1.6 miles). We believe these changes will help improve student attendance and safety.

As you can see, we are proposing many improvements to our school district with no increase in the tax levy. Voting will take place on May 16, 2023 at Port Jervis High School and Hamilton Bicentennial Elementary. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Show your
Port PRIDE
VOTE
Tuesday, May 16th
Polls Open:
7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

BUDGET VOTE AT-A-GLANCE

- **PROPOSED BUDGET**
\$90,578,206
- **BUDGET INCREASE**
\$8,289,139
- **ESTIMATED TAX LEVY INCREASE**
0%
- **ALSO ON THE BALLOT:**
Board of Education Elections

Four seats are up for election.
Three seats carry a three-year term and one seat is for one year.

BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES

JUDITH AMATO

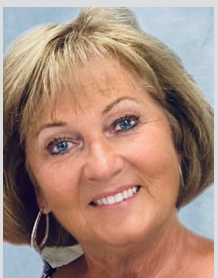


Judith (Judy) Amato is running for her 4th term as a Port Jervis City School District Board Member. She has served three full terms (2014-2017, 2017-2020, & 2020-2023) and a partial term as Board President (2017-2018). Judy is a Port Jervis alumni who graduated in 1981. Judy is a certified dental hygienist who owns and operates Dental Power Staffing Agency. Judy wants to continue helping improve our District as a Board Member should she be re-elected.

PLATFORM: "I have a personal interest in preserving and improving the quality of our school. In today's age, it's important that children, parents, and our employees feel safe in their school environment. I believe that I can also aid in helping to keep this district in a healthy fiscal state."

NANCY DUNN

Nancy Dunn is running for her first full term as a Port Jervis School District Board Member. In 2021, she was elected to finish a partial term (2021-2023). Nancy and her husband Henry raised three children in the Port Jervis community, and all three graduated from the Port Jervis High School (2001, 2004, & 2015). Nancy has been a member of the PTA (1988-2010), Odyssey of the Mind coach (1997), Pop Warner Cheerleading Coach for four years, Co-Advisor of the PJHS class of 2015, and volunteered for PJHS musical productions (2001-2002). Nancy is a retired Registered Nurse from the Port Jervis City School District. With the amount of time and dedication Nancy has put into the District and community, she hopes to continue supporting our community as a re-elected Board Member.



PLATFORM: "Having been a taxpayer, community member, parent, employee, and Board Member for the district, I

hope to continue to support a healthy school district culture for both work and learning while maintaining partnerships and collaborating with Port Jervis community members."

WILLIAM C. ONOFRY

William (Bill) C. Onofry is running for his sixth term as a Port Jervis School District Board Member. He served four full terms (2001-2004, 2009-2012, 2013-2016 & 2020-2023) and two partial terms (2004-2005 and 2008-2009). As a Board Member, Bill has been Board President for one full term (2013-2016) and one partial term (2022-2023). Bill and his wife, Susan, raised two children in the district who graduated from Port Jervis High School (1996 & 2001). Bill is a retired contractor from Onofry General Contracting. Bill hopes to continue working to represent our community should he be re-elected.



PLATFORM: "Our school district is moving in an incredible upward direction, bringing new educational opportunities to our students and vast improvements to our new and existing buildings. I would like to continue working for our community to see our capital projects through to their completion. I will continue to be a strong voice for the residents of this community and remain committed to maintaining reasonable budgets and keeping tax increases as low and fair as possible to our taxpayers."

FLORENCE T. SANTINI

Florence (Flo) T. Santini is running for her fifth term as a Port Jervis School District Board Member. She has served four full terms (2004-2007, 2014-2017, 2017-2020 & 2020 - 2023) and served as the Board's Vice President for two partial terms (2018-2020 & 2020 - 2021). Flo has been a member and the Vice President of the Port Jervis City School District's Health and Wellness Committee and serves as the Town of Deerpark Liaison. She is currently employed as the Town Clerk & Tax Collector for the Town of Deerpark. Flo is looking forward to being able to continue

serving our community as a Board Member should she be re-elected.



PLATFORM: "I have always run on a platform of looking out for the best interests of this community. If re-elected, I will continue to be available to its residents, students, and staff because everyone needs someone on their side to be their voice and to help them when they are looking for answers to solve a problem."

MICHAEL ALAN WITT

Michael Witt is running for his first Port Jervis School District Board Member term. He is a current member of the PJHS PTSA and a former member of the PJMS PTA. He is currently the PTA President in Harrison, NY. He is currently employed as an Insurance Agent for MBIA, LLC. Michael is hoping that he will be able to serve our district in a new way should he be elected.

PLATFORM: "My hope is to help secure more resources for the special education department. Securing funding through grants is a huge goal of mine. Providing the best curriculum and staff while maintaining a low tax rate is necessary for our district. I will fight very hard for this."



WHERE DO I VOTE?

Polling Places - Port Jervis City School District

The following locations are the Polling Places for School District Elections:

These changes apply ONLY to School District Elections

DISTRICT #1 - POLLING LOCATION

Port Jervis High School Gymnasium
10 Route 209, Port Jervis, NY

Designated Areas:

- City of Port Jervis General Election District No. 1;
- City of Port Jervis Wards 1, 2, 3, 4
- Town of Deerpark General Election District Nos. 3, 4, 5, 7;
- Section of the Town of Forestburgh General Election District No. 1; commonly referred to as the Rio District*

DISTRICT #2 - POLLING LOCATION

Hamilton Bicentennial Elementary School
929 Route 209, Cuddebackville, NY

Designated Areas:

- Town of Deerpark General Election District Nos. 1, 2, and 6;
- Section of the Town of Mamakating General Election District No. 4*;
- Section of the Town of Forestburgh General Election District No. 1*, commonly referred to Oakland Valley;
- Section of the Town of Mount Hope General Election District Nos. 3 & 4*

*Section is located within the Port Jervis City School District

Questions? Not sure where to vote?

Please call the District Clerk's Office,
(845) 858-3100, ext. 5511.

Voter and referendum information is also available online: www.pjschools.org

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE BUDGET IS NOT APPROVED?

Under a Contingent Budget, the District would have to reduce the budget by \$967,408. If the proposed budget is defeated by voters, by law, the Board of Education has the option to offer another vote or adopt the contingency budget. If the contingency budget is adopted, Port Jervis Schools would be required to reduce purchases of equipment, student supplies, and impact other initiatives. Fees would also be required to be imposed on all community organizations who use the school district facilities.

THREE-PART BUDGET COMPARISON

ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET	2022-2023	2023-2024
General Support	\$1,422,378	\$2,966,456
District/Building Admin	\$3,428,792	\$3,033,906
Employees Benefits	\$1,843,504	\$1,973,896
Total Admin Budget	\$6,694,674	\$7,974,258
PROGRAM BUDGET		
Regular Instruction	\$21,372,172	\$21,551,314
Special Education	\$16,219,577	\$18,790,353
Instruction Support/Programs/Services	\$6,732,006	\$6,148,466
Pupil Activities	\$1,270,001	\$1,470,865
Transportation	\$5,593,905	\$5,991,650
Employee Benefits	\$14,288,601	\$15,197,049
Total Program Budget	\$65,476,262	\$69,149,697
CAPITAL BUDGET		
Operations and Maintenance	\$4,723,741	\$5,142,186
Debt Service	\$3,872,713	\$6,731,393
Employee Benefits	\$1,521,677	\$1,580,672
Total Capital Budget	\$10,118,131	\$13,454,251
GRAND TOTAL	\$82,289,067	\$90,578,206

The proposed budget represents 10.07% increase over last year's budget and a 0.00% projected increase on the tax levy.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Registered voters may vote by absentee ballot if they are unable to get to the polls on May 16th.

The application for an absentee ballot can be obtained by downloading the form from the District's website or in person from the District Clerk. Completed applications must be received by the District Clerk before an application will be issued.

In addition to mailing or hand delivering your completed absentee ballot to the District Clerk, we will also have secure ballot collection boxes* for your convenience at the following locations:

BUILDING	BALLOT BOX LOCATION	DROP TIMES
Hamilton Bicentennial Elementary	Inside Front Vestibule (front main entrance door will be unlocked)	6:00 am-7:00 pm
Buildings & Grounds Office (red building by gas pumps)	209 Complex, ASK Entrance Side (Red Building by the gas pumps)	6:00 am-7:00 pm
District Office	150 Pike St., Port Jervis NY Inside Entrance Door	7:00 am-4:00 pm

*If choosing to use our ballot boxes to return your absentee ballot, please note that all ballots must be returned to the boxes by 4 pm on Monday, May 15th. All absentee ballots mailed or hand-delivered to the District Clerk must be received by 5:00 pm on Tuesday, May 16th to be included in the vote tally.

 **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

William Onofry, *President*
 Kara Raap, *Vice President*
 Judith Amato
 Nancy Dunn
 Annie Foster
 William Harris
 Michal Hockenberry
 Jason Kahmar
 Florence Santini

 **SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. John Bell



Port Jervis

CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
 150 Pike Street
 Port Jervis, NY 12771

NON-PROFIT
 US POSTAGE
 PAID
 PORT JERVIS, NY
 PERMIT NO. 20
 12771

ECRWSS MAN

*****ECRWSSDDM*****

RESIDENT CUSTOMER

PORT JERVIS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

www.pjschools.org

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2022-23 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2023-24 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$82,289,067	\$90,578,206	\$89,610,798
Increase/Decrease for the 2022-23 School Year		\$8,289,139	\$7,321,731
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		10.07%	8.90%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.00%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$29,084,046	\$29,084,046	
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)	\$29,084,046	\$29,084,046	\$29,084,046
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$0	\$0	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$30,895,879	\$31,159,339	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$29,084,046	\$29,084,046	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$1,811,833	\$2,075,293	
Administrative Component	\$6,694,674	\$7,974,258	\$7,157,103
Program Component	\$65,476,262	\$69,149,697	\$69,124,447
Capital Component	\$10,118,131	\$13,454,251	\$13,329,248
The 2022-2023 contingency budget will require elimination of equipment purchases as well as reductions in administrative initiatives. A contingent budget would require \$967,408 in budget reductions.			

The School District Budget Notice (on left) is mandated by state law. School districts must present their costs in three prescribed components.

The budget document, which contains a summary report of tax exemptions, is available at www.pjschools.org.

If you have any questions or need more information, please call the Business Office at 858-3100, Ext. 15531 or visit the district website.

Under the Budget Proposed
for the 2023-24 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹

Basic School Tax Relief (STAR) is authorized by Section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law. Port Jervis City School District is comprised of four towns and one city. STAR Exemption amounts are different for each one. Actual savings is dependent on assessments and equalizations on rates which are not available before July 1*.

\$851.00

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year of 2023-24 by the qualified voters of the Port Jervis City School District, Orange County, New York, will be held at Port Jervis City School District schools on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 between the hours of 7:00am and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the Port Jervis High School, Port Jervis Middle School, and Hamilton Bicentennial Elementary school, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine. For more information, call Kristen Lopez in the District Office at (845) 858-3100, Ext. 15511

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