



RENSSELAER

CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

25 Van Rensselaer Drive, Rensselaer, New York 12144

2025

MAY BUDGET NEWS

BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, May 20

Auditorium Foyer

12 Noon – 9 p.m.

What am I voting on?

- A \$34,130,520 budget for the 2025-2026 school year

VOTER QUALIFICATIONS:

All voters must be United States citizens, age 18 or older on Election Day. Voters must be residents of the Rensselaer City School District for 30 days immediately prior to Election day and registered to vote.

Applications for absentee ballots will be obtainable between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays, from the Office of the Rensselaer County Board of Elections. The Rensselaer County Board of Elections must receive completed applications at least seven (7) days before the annual vote. Absentee ballots must be received by the Rensselaer County Board of Elections not later than 5:00 p.m., prevailing time, on Tuesday, May 20, 2025. The vote of propositions shall be by ballot registered upon voting machines or by absentee ballot. The hours during which the polls shall be kept open shall be from 12:00 – 9:00 p.m., prevailing time, or for as long thereafter as necessary to enable qualified voters who are in the polling place by 9:00 p.m. to cast their ballots.

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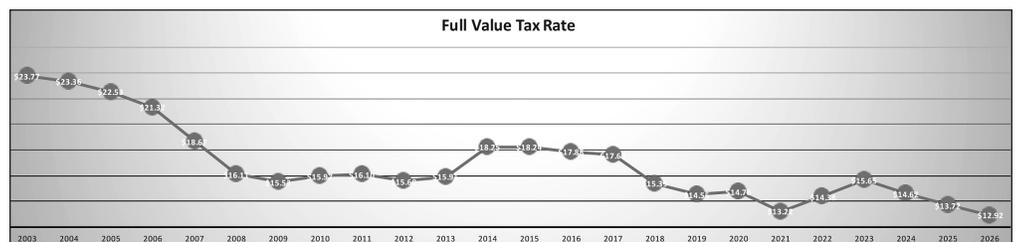
Members of the Rensselaer City School District Community,

The District would like to thank the voters of Rensselaer for supporting the capital project this December. We will do our best to protect your investment in the school building. We are happy to share again that our long-range fiscal plan continues to predict financial stability with more normal tax increases. Your past support as we “righted the ship” has helped to put the District on this path.

The current inflationary environment has many districts facing severe budget deficits and layoffs. Our district is proud to present a budget to the voters with a proposed 0.8% tax levy increase. As you can see in the chart below, Rensselaer City School District is maintaining one of the lowest full-value tax rates in the region while providing new opportunities for the students of Rensselaer.

We continue to provide an informative web page in an effort to answer the questions and concerns that we have heard from the community. This resource provides history, examples, comparisons, and a tax calculator that shows how much the proposed budget could affect each taxpayer. Please go to <https://www.rcsd.k12.ny.us/> and click on the green banner at the top.

If you have any questions regarding this or any other aspect of the budget, please feel free to email me at jkardash@rcsd.k12.ny.us or call me at 518-465-7509, and I will do my best to find answers. The Board asks for your support in continuing to provide educational opportunities for the children of our community.



RCSD 2025-2026 Budget Hearing will take place on Wednesday, May 7 at 6 p.m. in the LGI

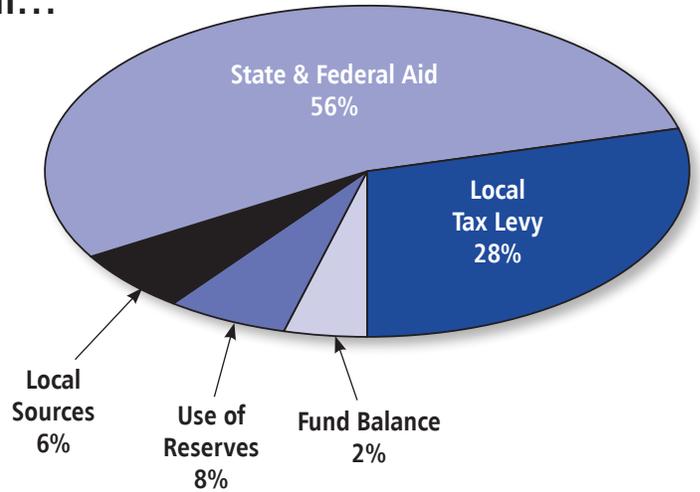
Rensselaer City School District Two-Year Budget Comparison

REVENUES: Where the money comes from...

Source of Funds	2024-2025 Budget	2025-2026 Proposed
Local Property Tax Levy	\$9,426,789	\$9,501,948
State and Federal Aid	\$17,270,277	\$18,999,636
Local Sources*	\$1,994,070	\$1,997,046
Use of Reserves	\$2,043,650	\$2,910,000
Fund Balance	\$1,339,878	\$721,890

Totals: **\$32,074,664** **\$34,130,520**

* Other Local Sources includes payments in lieu of taxes, interest & penalties, charges for services, use of facilities, & utility tax



EXPENSES: How the money is spent...

Expense Category	2024-2025 Budget	2025-2026 Proposed
ADMINISTRATION:		
Board of Education	\$62,144	\$58,379
Central Administration	\$266,775	\$273,989
Finance Services	\$555,131	\$591,125
Legal/Public Information	\$151,055	\$156,739
Central Services	\$647,476	\$668,393
Supervisory/Improvement	\$637,634	\$779,395
Fringe Benefits	\$561,664	\$655,680

Administration Total **\$2,881,879** **\$3,183,700**

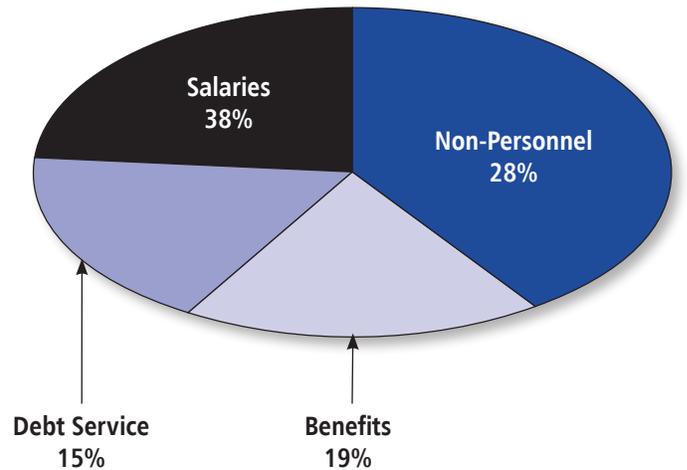
CAPITAL:		
Operation & Maintenance	\$1,656,214	\$1,733,403
Certiorari/Judgments	\$30,000	\$30,000
Debt Service	\$4,808,650	\$4,815,400
Fringe Benefits	\$448,159	\$477,261

Capital Total **\$6,943,023** **\$7,056,064**

PROGRAM:		
Regular Instruction	\$7,024,186	\$7,404,446
Special Education	\$5,731,698	\$6,282,050
Occupational Education	\$484,332	\$533,913
Library/Technology	\$732,709	\$780,435
Student Services	\$1,472,966	\$1,583,429
Transportation	\$1,430,520	\$1,599,657
Interfund Transfers	\$165,000	\$165,000
Fringe Benefits	\$5,208,250	\$5,541,826

Program Total **\$22,249,761** **\$23,890,756**

Total District Budget: **\$32,074,664** **\$34,130,520**



Rensselaer City School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Approved Budget for the 2024-25 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2025-26 School Year *										
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$32,074,664	\$34,130,520	\$33,338,667										
Increase/Decrease for the 2024-2025 School Year		\$2,055,857	\$1,264,003										
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		6.41%	3.94%										
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.95 %											
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount, Net of Reserve	\$ 9,426,789	\$ 9,501,948											
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)	\$ 9,426,789	\$ 9,501,948	\$9,426,789										
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 2,997,592	\$ 2,932,888											
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 6,429,197	\$ 6,569,060											
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$ 6,429,197	\$ 6,569,060											
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 0	\$ 0											
Administrative Component	\$ 2,881,879	\$ 3,183,700	\$ 3,018,200										
Program Component	\$ 22,249,762	\$ 23,890,756	\$ 23,282,403										
Capital Component	\$ 6,943,023	\$ 7,056,064	\$ 7,038,064										
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should the 2025-2026 proposed budget be defeated by the voters twice (in both May and June), the Board of Education would be obligated to adopt a contingency budget. A contingency budget requires that the tax levy be no greater than the levy of the prior year. After eliminating approximately \$791,853 in non-contingent expenditures, the budget would need to be reduced. A possible, but not the final, allocation of the contingent budget is reflected in the third column of this “notice” labeled “Contingency Budget for the 2025-2026 School Year”. 													
** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 80%;">Description</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> </tbody> </table>		Description	Amount									
Description	Amount												

NOTE: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: emscmqts@nysed.gov

Under the Budget Proposed
for the 2025-26 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹

\$ 431

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2025-2026 by the qualified voters of the Rensselaer City School District, Rensselaer County, New York, will be held at the Rensselaer City School District campus in said district on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, between the hours of 12:00 noon and 9:00pm, prevailing time, at which time the polls will be open to vote by voting machine. The campus is located at 25 Van Rensselaer Drive.

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

RENSSELAER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

25 Van Rensselaer Drive
Rensselaer, NY 12144

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ALBANY, NY
PERMIT NO. 836

POSTAL CUSTOMER

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jennifer Haggerty, *President*
Stacy Hover, *Vice President*
Marque James
Peter Mannella
James Preston

Superintendent:
Joseph Kardash

www.rcsd.k12.ny.us

Produced by Questar III Communications Service

BUDGET VOTE
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Rensselaer City School District Tax Estimate 2025

House Value	2024 Taxes	ESTIMATED Proposed 2025 Taxes	ESTIMATED Tax Reduction	ESTIMATED Weekly Savings
\$100,000	\$1,372	\$1,292	(\$80)	(\$1.55)
WITH STAR	\$941	\$861	(\$80)	(\$1.55)
Enhanced STAR	\$355	\$275	(\$80)	(\$1.55)
\$150,000	\$2,058	\$1,938	(\$121)	(\$2.32)
WITH STAR	\$1,627	\$1,507	(\$121)	(\$2.32)
Enhanced STAR	\$1,041	\$921	(\$121)	(\$2.32)
\$200,000	\$2,744	\$2,583	(\$161)	(\$3.09)
WITH STAR	\$2,313	\$2,152	(\$161)	(\$3.09)
Enhanced STAR	\$1,727	\$1,566	(\$161)	(\$3.09)
\$250,000	\$3,430	\$3,229	(\$201)	(\$3.87)
WITH STAR	\$2,999	\$2,798	(\$201)	(\$3.87)
Enhanced STAR	\$2,413	\$2,212	(\$201)	(\$3.87)

