

News

...of the Horseheads Central School District

April 2019
SPECIAL EDITION

Four propositions to be on ballot May 21

In May, voters across New York State vote on school budgets and other propositions. In Horseheads, voters traditionally vote on the budget and bus purchases, and elect members to the Board of Education.

This year, however, there are two additional propositions on the May 21 ballot. This special edition of the district newsletter provides more information on the additional propositions, which have no tax impact to residents.

2019-20 Budget

The board and administration continue to develop the 2019-20 budget. The budget development process began in February. The board has heard information on department budgets, tax cap calculation, state aid estimates, and other information during several budget meetings and presentations.

As of the printing of this newsletter, the state budget has not yet been passed. A final state budget will give the district definitive information on state aid. The board votes on adopting the budget at their April 24 meeting at 6 p.m. in the High School Multi-Media Center.

There is also a public hearing scheduled for May 9 at 6 p.m. in the Multi-Media Center as well as four community budget Q&A sessions to inform voters about the budget and propositions. (*Look for those dates and locations on page 3.*)

More information on the proposed budget will be mailed to residents closer to the vote. View the board budget presentations at www.horseheadsdistrict.com or by using the QR code on the next page.

Bus purchase

Each year, voters are also asked to vote on the purchase of buses. This allows the district to borrow funds to replace buses that are ten years old or older and have 100,000 miles or more. This replacement process meets New York State Education Department recommendations for maintenance and replacement of a bus fleet.

This year, the district seeks the purchase of eight (8) 65-passenger buses and two (2) 20-passenger buses at a cost not to exceed \$1.4 million.

The district would finance the purchase through a five-year bond, with a substantial portion of the payment covered primarily by state aid for the five years following the purchase.



Currently, the district has 75 buses and nine other transportation vehicles. Maintaining a replacement schedule allows the district to keep its bus fleet in good working order, minimizing maintenance needs. The district's Transportation Department has a passing rate for bus inspections of just under 99% as a result of the regular care they take in maintaining buses while minimizing costs.

*Budget Vote/
Board of Education
Election*

Tuesday, May 21

7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Horseheads High School

South Gym



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Capital Reserve Fund

The community will vote on establishing an additional capital reserve to be used for construction, reconstruction, and equipment for future capital projects.

This proposition asks if the district can set up this reserve. The reserve is essentially a savings account the district can use to offset a portion of the local share of future capital construction costs. The reserve would have a maximum allowable limit of \$10 million, with monies coming from sources such as any non-appropriated fund balance amounts, and state aid relating to expenditures from the capital reserve fund. Establishing this capital reserve will have **no tax impact** to the Horseheads district community.

Any use of this capital reserve fund would also require voter approval before funds could be used. The maximum term of the reserve would be ten years.

Purchase of Property

The district recently entered into a lease agreement for a building in Big Flats to relocate several district office functions during the capital improvement project at the High School. This proposition asks voters to authorize the district's purchase of this building utilizing existing funds to meet the district's long-term financial and educational goals.

The current district office space, located in the High School south wing, is needed for classrooms while certain classrooms in the High School are being renovated. This phase of the capital project involves the renovation of more than 65% of the classrooms at the High School. The space currently occupied by district offices will continue to be needed for flexible classroom space during the next several years. This plan is needed to maintain the best educational environment for our students during construction.



The property is on Hibbard Road and is currently owned by a non-profit organization. Owning the building would provide the district with a property asset, rather than expending district funds to simply lease the property with no ownership at the end of the lease.

If approved, the purchase would be completed with funds from the district's unassigned fund balance, so the purchase of the building would have **no tax impact to the district community**.

Budget Vote
Tuesday, May 21
High School South Gym
7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

*Scan this QR code to
access the budget section
of the district website.*



Questions? Email us at hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com or call (607) 739-5601, x4260.

The Horseheads Central School District offers educational programs without regard to race, color, national origin, creed, religion, marital status, military status, sex, sexual orientation, age, gender identity, predisposing genetic characteristic, or disability, and provides equal access to applicable groups under the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act. Inquiries regarding this policy may be made to Caitlin DeFilippo, Title IX/DASA Coordinator and Co-Civil Rights Compliance Officer; Anthony Gill, Co-Civil Rights Compliance Officer; or Kelly Squires, Section 504 Coordinator, Horseheads Central School District, One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845, (607) 739-5601.

What you'll see at the polls May 21

Proposition No. 1 – Adoption of the Budget

SHALL the proposed budget of the Horseheads Central School District for 2019-2020 be approved in accordance with Section 2022 of the Education Law and that the balance of said budget after applying public monies thereto, be raised by a tax upon the taxable property of said district?

Proposition No. 2 – Purchase of Buses

SHALL the Board of Education of the Horseheads Central School District be authorized to: (1) acquire eight 65-passenger buses and two 20-passenger buses, at a maximum aggregate cost of \$1,400,000; (2) expend such sum for such purpose; (3) levy the necessary tax therefore, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education taking into account state aid; and (4) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, issue bonds and notes of the District at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed \$1,400,000, and levy a tax to pay the interest on said obligations when due?

Proposition No. 3 – Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Board of Education establish a capital reserve fund under the provisions of Education Law 3651(1)? The purpose of the fund is for construction, repair and reconstruction of capital improvements and the acquisition of equipment, including incidental expenses in connection therewith. The ultimate amount of the fund shall be \$10,000,000, plus interest income related to investments of money in the fund. The probable term shall be 10 years. The source from which funds will be obtained can include any or all of the following: incentive aid; non-appropriated fund balances from the general fund as determined by the Board of Education, from time to time; State aid related to expenditures from the capital reserve fund; and any other additional monies thereafter authorized by the voters of the District.

Proposition No. 4 – Acquisition of Property

Shall the District be authorized to spend an amount not to exceed \$595,000 to purchase the property, facility, and improvements at 143 Hibbard Road, Big Flats, NY, a full description of the parcel being available at the District Offices during regular business hours, weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to be used as space for District Administration, and other lawful purposes of the District? The source of the funds shall be from unassigned fund balance.

Upcoming...

All meetings are open to the public.

April 24	Wednesday	Board of Education Meeting	High School Multi-Media Center	6 p.m.
April 25	Thursday	Budget Q&A	Big Flats Town Hall	7 p.m.
April 29	Monday	Budget Q&A	Horseheads Town Hall	7 p.m.
April 30	Tuesday	Budget Q&A	Horseheads Village Hall	7 p.m.
May 2	Thursday	Budget Q&A	Erin Town Hall	7 p.m.
May 8	Wednesday	Candidates' Forum <i>(tentative)</i>	Multi-Media Center	7 p.m.
May 9	Thursday	Public Hearing	Multi-Media Center	6 p.m.

Budget Vote • Tuesday, May 21 • High School South Gym • 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Questions? Email us at hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com or call (607) 739-5601, x4260.

Look for the budget newsletter in May

Budget Vote/ Board of Education Election

Tuesday, May 21

7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

**Horseheads High School
South Gym**

All district residents are eligible to vote, as long as they meet the following requirements:

- Are a U.S. citizen
- Are 18 years of age or older on the day of the vote
- Have lived in the district for at least 30 days prior to the vote on May 21
- Are not restricted from voting in general elections based on election law

Please note: You do not have to be registered in general elections or own property in order to vote in school budget votes. If you are not registered to vote in general elections, please bring identification to the vote May 21.

Events

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| April 24 | Board of Education Meeting, High School Multi-Media Center, 6 p.m. |
| April 25 | Budget Q&A, Big Flats Town Hall, 7 p.m. |
| April 26 | High School Report Cards |
| April 29 | Budget Q&A, Horseheads Town Hall, 7 p.m. |
| April 30 | Budget Q&A, Horseheads Village Hall, 7 p.m.;
Music Faculty Recital, High School Aud, 7 p.m. |
| May 1-2 | New York State Grades 3-8 Math Assessment |
| May 2 | Budget Q&A, Erin Town Hall, 7 p.m. |
| May 6-10 | Big Flats/Center Street Kindergarten Screening |
| May 7 | Middle School Choir Concert, High School Auditorium, 7:30 p.m. |
| May 8 | (tentative) Board of Education Candidates' Forum, Multi-Media Center, 7 p.m. |
| May 9 | Ridge Rd Kindergarten Orientation, 9 a.m.
Public Hearing, Multi-Media Center, 6 p.m. |
| May 10 | Ridge Road Grades 1-3 Concert, High School Auditorium, 6:30 p.m. |

Horseheads Central School District
One Raider Lane • Horseheads, NY 14845
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Dr. Thomas J. Douglas

Contact

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