

# Exit Poll Highlights: May 16, 2017

The budget exit surveys were distributed by high school Participation in Government students in Matt Kirwan's class during the vote day. They were tabulated by 18 freshmen and junior students in Chris Crouse's classes the next day. Robert Hanlon compiled the comments and analysis.

- ▶ The number of people who completed exit polls was 179 (16.3% of total voters). That is up from the 162 polls completed in 2016 and the 129 polls completed in 2015 but down from the 271 polls in 2014, 341 polls in 2013 and 523 polls in 2012.

2017's turnout was 1,096 voters, down 95 voters from 1,191 in 2016. The previous year's turnouts were 1,145 in 2015, 1,729 in 2014, 1,555 in 2013 and 1,892 in 2012. In the past years before that, turnout was: 1,863 in 2011; 2,426 in 2010; 2,040 in 2009; 2,045 in 2008; 2,091 in 2007; and 2,707 in 2006.

This year's budget proposal received a 73.2 percent approval (803 votes), down slightly from the 75% approval (895 votes) in 2016 and 2015's 79.9% approval (915 votes), 2014's 73.2% approval (1,254 votes) and 2013's 68% approval (1,058 votes). This year's high percentage of approval came despite a relatively large tax increase proposed (3.05%).

This year's "NO" total was 293, down slightly from the 296 in 2016 but up from the 230 NO voters in 2015. The number of NO voters in the previous years were 475 in 2014 and 497 in 2013.

Among those completing surveys, 86.6% (155 voters) supported and 13.4% (24 voters) opposed the budget. That is typical: YES voters tend to complete the surveys more frequently than NO voters.

## Here are the actual vote percentages from the May 16, 2017 community vote:

- ▶ \$53.407 million 2017-18 budget: 803 YES votes and 293 NO votes (75% to 25%)
- ▶ \$565,000 bus purchase proposal: 818 YES votes and 277 NO votes (73% to 27%)

The general exit poll information below pertains to voters who cast votes on the 2017-18 budget. This is not a scientific sample and is based on a small number of responses in some categories, especially on the "No" polls where just 24 were submitted. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

DO YOU HAVE CHILDREN?			
Those who voted:	Pre-school age	School age	Older than high school
YES	12.0%	55.7%	32.3%
NO	4.8%	71.4%	23.8%

IF YOUR CHILDREN ARE IN SCHOOL, WHAT SCHOOL DO THEY ATTEND?						
Those who voted:	Glendaal	Glen-Worden	Lincoln	Sacandaga	Middle School	High School
YES	10.5%	6.5%	9.2%	23.7%	30.3%	19.7%
NO	20.0%	0.0%	0.0%	10.0%	10.0%	60.0%

*The figures above indicate the percentage of respondents who indicated the school in which they have children. Only about half of those completing a survey provided this information.*

## WHAT IS YOUR AGE GROUP?

Those who voted:	18-29	30-44	45-60	61+
<b>YES</b> .....	<b>4.1%</b> .....	<b>28.1%</b> .....	<b>28.8%</b> .....	<b>39.0%</b>
<b>NO</b> .....	<b>0.0%</b> .....	<b>18.1%</b> .....	<b>50.0%</b> .....	<b>31.8%</b>

## WHY DID YOU VOTE AS YOU DID ON THE PROPOSED 2017-18 BUDGET?

Respondents could check more than one answer. The figures below indicate how often that choice was selected.

### ▶ YES VOTERS

- 33.9% said they voted YES because “Despite the economic times, I believe in supporting the schools.”
- 28.1% said “I’m glad the budget did not keep cutting programs.”
- 21.1% said they supported the budget because “The property tax increase was reasonable.”
- 16.8% said “I have confidence/trust in the Board of Education.”

### ▶ NO VOTERS

- 34.7% said the “Economic times are difficult; I can’t afford more.”
- 26.5% said “I think budget cuts could have been made.”
- 22.4% said “The proposed tax increase is unreasonable.”
- 16.3% said “I have little confidence/trust in the Board of Education.”

## HOW WOULD YOU GRADE THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION PROVIDED BY SCOTIA-GLENVILLE?

Those who voted:	A (highest)	B	C	D	F (lowest)
<b>YES</b> .....	<b>43.7%</b> .....	<b>51.4%</b> .....	<b>31.2%</b> .....	<b>0.0%</b> .....	<b>0.3%</b>
<b>NO</b> .....	<b>12.5%</b> .....	<b>46.9%</b> .....	<b>60.0%</b> .....	<b>9.4%</b> .....	<b>0.0%</b>

*The responses above mirror the results from the past: YES voters tend to feel the quality of education is higher – a majority gives S-G a B – while a majority of NO voters are more critical, giving the district a C on quality.*

*As well, YES voters tend to feel they are getting good or excellent value for their tax dollar while NO voters are more critical, saying the school’s value for the money is good to poor.*

<b>HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE <u>VALUE PER DOLLAR</u> SPENT ON EDUCATION AT SCOTIA-GLENVILLE?</b>				
<b>Those who voted:</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Poor</b>
<b>YES</b> .....	<b>36.6%</b> .....	<b>51.0%</b> .....	<b>11.1%</b> .....	<b>1.3%</b>
<b>NO</b> .....	<b>4.3%</b> .....	<b>34.8%</b> .....	<b>43.5%</b> .....	<b>17.3%</b>

<b>WHICH THREE OF THE FOLLOWING NON-MANDATED AREAS WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO SEE <u>PRESERVED</u> IN THE 2018-19 BUDGET? (CHECK YOUR TOP THREE ONLY)</b>		
<b><u>Among those who voted:</u></b>	<b><u>YES</u></b>	<b><u>NO</u></b>
College-level/Advanced Placement courses .....	15.0% (#1) .....	16.3% (tied #2)
Enrichment programs (K-8) .....	11.1% (#4) .....	2.0%
Elective course offerings (gr. 6-12 courses such as technology, family and consumer sciences, languages) ..	12.5% (#3) .....	16.3% (tied #2)
Expanded art and music programs (beyond mandates) ...	14.8% (#2) .....	20.4% (#1)
Student support services (including nurses, counselors, social workers, psychologists, etc.) .....	11.9% (#4) .....	6.1% (#5)
Interscholastic athletics .....	7.0% .....	10.2% (#3)
Extracurricular clubs and activities .....	3.7% .....	8.2% (tied #4)
Instructional technology upgrades .....	3.9% .....	8.2% (tied #4)
Library Media Specialists .....	4.9% .....	2.0%
Class size .....	9.8% (#5) .....	8.2% (tied #4)
Bus transportation (beyond mandates) .....	2.2% .....	0.0%
Staff development .....	2.4% .....	8.2% (tied #4)
Administration .....	0.6% .....	2.0%

*Among YES voters, “college-level courses” edged out “expanded art and music programs” and “elective course offerings” as areas that they feel should be preserved in the next budget cycle.*

*Among NO voters, “expanded art and music programs” was by far the most popular items to preserve in the next budget cycle followed by “college-level course offerings” and “elective course offerings.”*

## WHAT WERE YOUR MAJOR SOURCES OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE 2017-18 BUDGET?

<u>Among those who voted:</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
District Newsletter (Tartan Report) .....	48.6% (#1) .....	34.1% (#1)
ScotiaGlennvilleSchools.org website .....	11.7% (#3) .....	22.7% (#2)
Scotia-Glennville' Facebook page .....	8.1% (#4) .....	4.5%
Daily Gazette .....	16.5% (#2) .....	20.4% (#3)
Times Union .....	1.2% .....	0.0%
Friends/Neighbors/Staff members .....	7.6% (#5) .....	11.4% (tied #4)
Public/PTA budget presentations .....	3.6% .....	2.3%
Didn't feel well informed .....	2.4% .....	4.5% (tied #5)

*As we have seen as in the past, the district newsletter is the primary source of information for BOTH YES and NO voters.*

*The Daily Gazette is the second source for YES voters while the school district website, ScotiaGlennvilleSchools.org, is the second source for NO voters. This year, 22.7 percent of NO voters cited the website, compared with 11.7 percent of NO voters last year.*

*One surprising set of numbers this year was the number of voters who said the school Facebook page was their major source of information.*

*Among YES voters, 8.1 percent cited the FB page and 4.5 percent of NO voters cited FB. In 2016, 4.1 percent of YES voters and no NO voters cited the FB page. The school now has nearly 2,000 followers on the Facebook page.*

*This is interesting because we know, from surveys in general, that a growing number of people are getting their new information exclusively from Facebook. That issue came up during the presidential election with the accusations of "fake news" being planted on FB and other social media.*

*As has been the case in the past, a large number of NO voters – 4.5% this year – indicated that they did not feel well informed even though they cited the same information sources as the YES voters.*

## Comments from May 17, 2016 School Budget Vote Exit Poll:

### Why did voters **SUPPORT** the budget?

#### Yes voters wrote:

- There was no parking!
- 1. More field trip money  
2. facilities are in high disrepair. The high school needs a major remodel. State money for grants  
3. Fields are dangerous for our athletes - need improvement  
4. Sidewalks to Middle School - only a matter of time before a kid is going to get hit! Need a safer way to walk to Middle School from Sacandaga Road.
- The value of my house depends, in part, on the quality of the schools.
- As a wizard of the highest order, I feel that education is important, however, I am hurt at the lack of enthusiasm taken to preserve the activities that make high school passable like music, art, facts and the like. I would enjoy and appreciate an increase interest in these courses. Meh...
- 1. As an educator in another district (along with my husband, who's also an educator), we are surprised by the lack of time for art/music in K-5. Most districts offer this 1X per week and some have a system for missed days.  
2. Concerned with the increase of class size at Sac. due to budget cuts of one position.
- I am extremely distressed that the State Ed Dept, is dropping or changing the mandate for FACS and Tech. Both need to be offered . Just heard about the change in mandate today and all the details weren't available yet. We need Tech and FACS as they prepare students for life!
- Support the arts in schools.
- While I believe AP programs have the potential for success, in the current form at SG, they are not a good use of tax dollars. I am a graduate of Scotia-Glenville High School and can honestly say that the AP courses I took did absolutely nothing to prepare me for college. This school has some excellent teachers, but often times, they weren't teaching the AP courses.
- Please consider expanding buses to include NYS licensed daycares within district but outside of immediate elementary school bus zones.
- When are we getting a pool?
- It's the right thing to do!
- We need to provide a well rounded education for our children. As a district/community, we need to strive to meet academic, social, emotional and physical needs of our young community members. I am concerned about the well being of our children and teens. Social issues (mental illness, drugs, alcohol, suicide, etc.) must be addressed with input from community agencies. Too important to neglect. Continue supporting well rounded education for all - music, art, libraries, outdoor education, family and consumer challenges, trades, etc.

## CONTINUED: Why did voters SUPPORT the budget?

### Yes voters wrote:

- I think that when land is available for the school district to purchase, it should. Also, all of our athletic fields need to be upgraded.
- Get rid of IReady.
- Dyslexia education.
- Please provide art and music at least 1X per week.
- Please consider expanding bus transportation to include NYS licensed daycare providers outside of elementary school zones.  
Example: we live in GW zone but our preschoolers daycare provide is in Lincoln/Sac. zone. Our 1st grade son requires separate after school care because we cannot take a bus/ transfer bus to the daycare facility.
- Please consider changing the approach to the budget communications. More details about actual programs that will be offered with 2017-18 budget and less “doom and gloom” and “draconian cuts” references. Legislature always adds more money to the governor’s budget; don’t act surprised and claim it saves programs on the chopping block! Thank You!
- UNDER THE AREA: NON-MANDATED AREAS TO PRESERVE IN THE 2018-19 BUDGET:
  - You pick - these are all important to students
  - Special education services
  - Field trips
  - Tech classes for seniors
  - Before and after school programs
  - Summer school
- Once again, BE FORWARD THINKING. Add programs like advanced classes, languages like Arabic and Chinese, Honors English for 6th graders, Nano, computer science in earlier grades. Attract a more educated population to the community and you won’t have to worry about the tax base.
- Stop giving money to failing sports teams and give it to the music program, which is actually good.
- I support the schools.
- Note: I supported the bus purchase because, if it were defeated, it would affect negatively special education services because of shifted resource allocation.
- While I have grave misgivings about the artificial turf proposals, I could not justify voting against the budget based on that one issue. Please continue the fact-finding before committing to fake turf.
- Improve athletic fields - they are far below average of all school districts!! Unsafe!!
- Art department is impressive.
- We need to improve our schools!
- It is in the best interest of students and their learning.

## Why did voters **OPPOSE** the budget?

### No voters wrote:

- Not impressed with the superintendent.
- School board not in reality.
- Budget better!
- Teachers need to make the same sacrifices as everyone else.
- I don't like reading "increased spending" without information as to why (social studies).
- I only get a 2% raise each year.
- The only option the board ever comes up with is a tax increase.
- Veteran tax break.
- More trades.
- There is a lot of wasteful money.  
Teach cursive
- Why spend up to the maximum cap? Why not give taxpayers a break and reduce taxes.
- Why increase number of guidance counselors? What is their job, especially at the lower grades?
- Sports should be slashed.
- It is too bad that the teachers have to tell their 18 year olds to vote yes for the budget so they can keep their jobs!