

Making Difficult Choices – The 2010-11 budget

Proposed 2010-11 budget includes \$2 million in cuts, taps reserves and keeps most academic offerings

\$47.3 million budget would raise taxes a maximum of 3.1% or \$8.34 per month for typical Scotia-Glenville homeowner

Many of the several dozen residents who attended two Community Budget Forums in March came with one purpose: concern over how budget cuts would affect their child or grandchild.

Others voiced their alarm over the rising cost of education and the need to keep any tax increase reasonable, especially in light of the sour economy.

Those two views were expected and understandable.

“As they looked over the full range of reductions being considered – more than \$2 million worth of cuts that hit every area of the budget – I think people left with an understanding that this would not be a regular budget year,” said Superintendent Susan Swartz.

In fact, it has been a budget year filled with difficult choices from the minute the governor tried to cut school aid in December and then proposed deeper cuts in the spring, she said.

Rising operating costs and declining revenue through state aid created a shortfall in the 2010-11 budget.

Scotia-Glenville recognizes the economic struggles facing the community and is “tightening its belt” in the proposed budget. The plan begins no

SEE “BUDGET MAKES...,” PAGE 2



Volunteer **Margaret Carroll**, right,

GW students in the Knitting Club created the bear headbands and high school Knitting Club students made the sweaters. A note is attached to comfort a child during a traumatic time. The bears are given to children by emergency responders and to children with serious illnesses.

What will I see on the May 18 ballot?

- ✓ **2010-11 budget of \$47.3 million**
The budget increases spending by 1.4%. The estimated tax rate increase is a maximum of 3.1%. Final tax rates are set in August and will likely be lower. Scotia-Glenville lowered it's tax rate by 1.7% for the current school year.
- ✓ **\$295,000 to purchase three 65-passenger school buses**
Buses #153, 154 and 155, purchased in 1998, would be replaced. The state reimburses 74.7 percent of the cost.
- ✓ **Candidates for three seats on the Board of Education**
Two of the seats are for full three-year terms and one is for a one-year term to fill a current vacancy.

See page 7 to find out who can vote and how to get an absentee ballot.

BUDGET MAKES DIFFICULT CHOICES, from page 1

new initiatives, makes cuts to existing programs and more deeply taps the district's "emergency" fund balance and reserves.

Taxes would rise a maximum of 3.1% or \$8.34 per month on the average home

The \$47.33 million budget for 2010-11 was unanimously approved by the Board of Education. Spending would increase by 1.4% or \$677,779 above the current year's budget of \$46.65 million.

The spending plan will be considered by the community on May 18 along with a plan to replace three 12-year-old buses (*see page 7*) and the selection of three of five candidates for the Board of Education (*see pages 6 and 7*).

Voting will be held from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18. This year, new voting machines will be used at the vote (*see story at right*).

The 2010-11 budget would raise taxes by a *maximum* of 3.1 percent or 63 cents per \$1,000 on a home's assessed value. On a home assessed at \$160,000, that amounts to \$100.10 per year or \$8.34 per month, before savings from the state's STAR program (*see page 3*).

During this school year, the tax rate was *decreased* by 1.7 percent from the 2008-09 tax rate.

\$4.8 million shortfall from the start

Scotia-Glenville was faced with \$2.5 million in rising expenditures (*increases for salaries, benefits, higher mandated state pension and health care costs*) at the same time that the governor proposed cutting S-G's state aid by \$2.3 million.

From the beginning, those two factors created a \$4.8 million "hole" in the 2010-11 budget – more than 10 percent of the entire school budget. That would have required an 18.5 percent tax increase without any spending reductions.

Filling the gap

The only way to fill a budget gap is to decrease costs or increase revenue. The school district proposed doing both:

✓ \$2 million in proposed spending reductions (*see page 3*). Those included the elimination of 19.7 full-time positions, including teachers, teaching assistants, aides and monitors.

New DS-200 voting machines to be used at May 18 school vote



Scotia-Glenville voters will be using new DS200 voting machines to be used across Schenectady County at the May 18 school vote. It is a simple three-step process:

- Voters will enter the gymnasium, sign into the books and be handed a paper ballot.
- The voter then enters a privacy booth to select his or her votes by filling in ovals on the paper ballot with a pencil.
- The paper ballot is then fed into the DS200 machine shown above.

A prompt will show on the screen to indicate what votes the machine has read. If satisfied, the voter presses a button on the screen to cast the vote. If not satisfied, the voter presses a button to return the ballot and the voter would complete another sheet.

✓ \$2.2 million more from the school district's "emergency" fund balance, dedicated reserves set aside for specific purposes (*ie. pension cost increases*) and one-third of the anticipated assessment growth in Scotia-Glenville's tax base.

The fund balance is generated by having an operating surplus during the fiscal year (*revenues exceed expenditures*). The fund balance changes each year depending on revenues and expenditures. Part of the fund balance is used every year to reduce the impact of the annual budget on the tax levy. A total of \$4.6 million would be used in 2010-11 from the "rainy day" fund balance and reserves. 🐾

Budget Questions and Answers

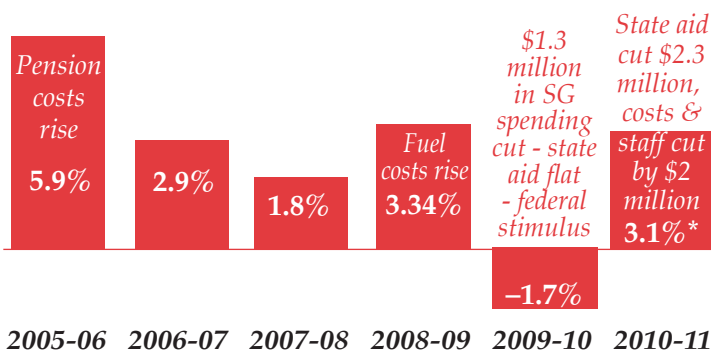
There was a lot of talk about budget cuts. Which programs were restored to the budget?

These items were initially proposed for reductions but **are included** in the 2010-11 budget being considered by the community on May 18, Several were restored after the two Community Budget Forums in March:

- ✓ Young Scholars for grades 4-6;
- ✓ Partial summer school classes for grades 8-12 – *core subjects in English, global history, US history, integrated algebra, algebra II, driver’s education and special education classes.*
- ✓ Gr. 6 foreign language exploratory course;
- ✓ Gr. 7 advanced computer projects course;
- ✓ Elementary computer lab teaching assistant - *one of the two positions was restored. This will ensure that all four elementary schools have lab support.*
- ✓ Varsity golf and swim teams;
- ✓ Partial restoration of elementary field trips;
- ✓ Partial restoration of funding for academic contests (*Odyssey of the Mind, Spelling Bee, Scotia-Glenville Traveling Museum, etc.*);
- ✓ .6 full-time float nurse (three days per week). *There will be seven full-time nurses for the six buildings as well as the part-time float nurse.*
- ✓ The 1-2-3 Success program at all four elementary schools.

2010-11 tax rate expected to raise taxes by a maximum of 3.1%; five year average is 2.4%

Scotia-Glenville’s proposed tax increase in 2010-11 is a maximum of 3.1 percent. The current school year saw a decrease of 1.7 percent in the tax rate. Scotia-Glenville’s average annual tax increase from 2005-09 was 2.4 percent.



* This is an estimated figure; tax rates are adopted in August by the Board of Education

What items have been cut in the budget?

- ✓ **Elementary (grades K-5):** door monitors; one computer lab assistant; library clerks; homework clubs; seven teacher aide positions in special education classes at Lincoln; partial social worker position; part-time reduction in music (*gr. 4 and 5 choruses will be combined*); and two teacher retirements will not be filled.
- ✓ **Secondary (grades 6-12):** one teaching position from each of the English, social studies, math, science and foreign language departments; MS teams in grades 7 and 8 will be reduced from four to three between both grades; part-time reductions in technology, family and consumer sciences, business education and Fine Arts; and reductions of teaching assistants and aides.
- ✓ **Districtwide (grades K-12):** 20 percent reduction in interscholastic athletics; partial elimination of summer school offerings; reduction of float nurse to part-time; reductions in supplies and equipment; technology replacement plan put on hold for one year; and elimination of one cleaner position.

Schools have high labor costs because they employ people to provide programs. Did any labor unions accept concessions?

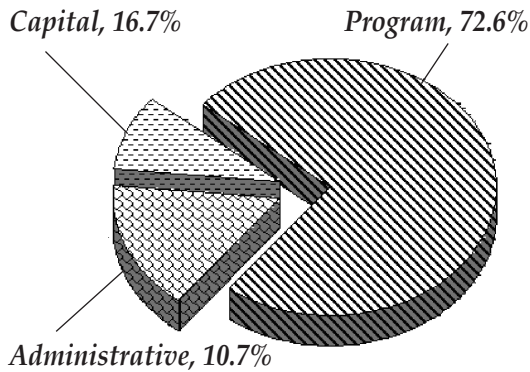
All of the labor unions were asked for concessions. Two labor unions, representing S-G administrators and nurses, agreed to wage and health insurance concessions that will save \$43,000 in each of the next two years.

How will changes in state’s STAR school tax reduction program affect my tax bill?

The STAR program is a *state-run* program and is *not* administered by the school district. STAR exemptions change based on the town’s equalization rate and how close property assessments are to market value.

At this point – and there are proposals in the state Legislature to make further changes to STAR before this fall – Basic STAR recipients in SG will receive a \$26,460 exemption (this year, it was \$29,730) and Enhanced STAR recipients (*homeowners over age 65 with qualifying incomes*) in SG would receive a \$51,090 exemption (this year, it was \$56,280).

The result is that the STAR program will save \$542 for Basic STAR recipients and \$1,047 for Enhanced STAR recipients. This year, those STAR savings were \$591 and \$1,118, respectively.



A three-way look at Scotia-Glennville's 2010-11 budget

New York state requires school districts to show their proposed budgets in three categories: Program, Capital and Administrative.

Program

72.6% of the proposed budget

This part of the budget includes the salaries and benefits of teachers, teaching assistants, teacher aides and supervisors who spend a majority of their time teaching; instructional costs such as supplies, equipment and textbooks; and transportation operating costs.

2008-09 costs	\$33,873,042 (73.9%)
2009-10 costs	\$34,535,033 (74.0%)
2010-11 costs	\$34,338,675 (72.6%)

Capital

16.7% of the proposed budget

This part of the budget includes all purchase of buses; legal judgments and settled claims; salary and benefits for custodial and maintenance staff; all facilities costs, including service contracts, supplies, utilities, maintenance, repairs, construction, renovation and debt; leasing costs; and capital transfers.

2008-09 costs	\$7,654,411 (16.7%)
2009-10 costs	\$7,548,057 (16.2%)
2010-11 costs	\$7,927,189 (16.7%)

Administrative

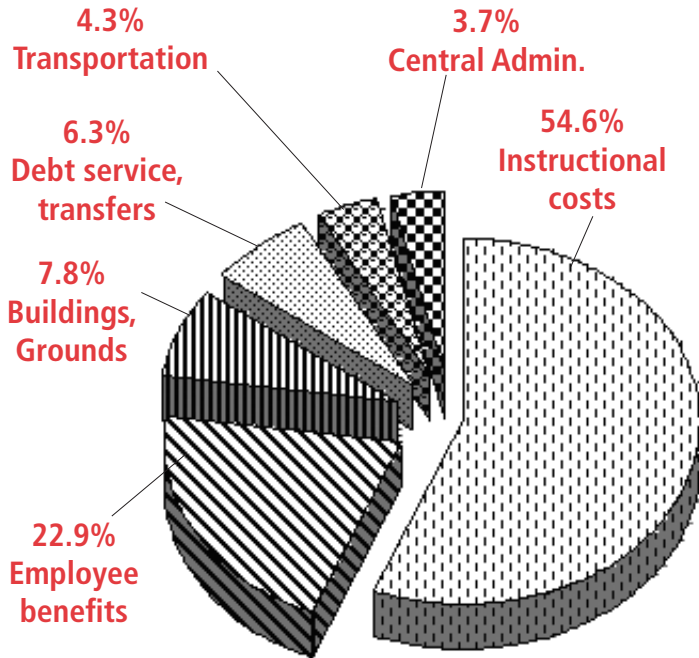
10.7% of the proposed budget

This part of the budget includes office and central administrative costs; salaries and benefits for certified and non-certified administrators who spend 50% or more of their time performing supervisory duties; data processing; supplies; legal fees; property insurance; and school board expenses.

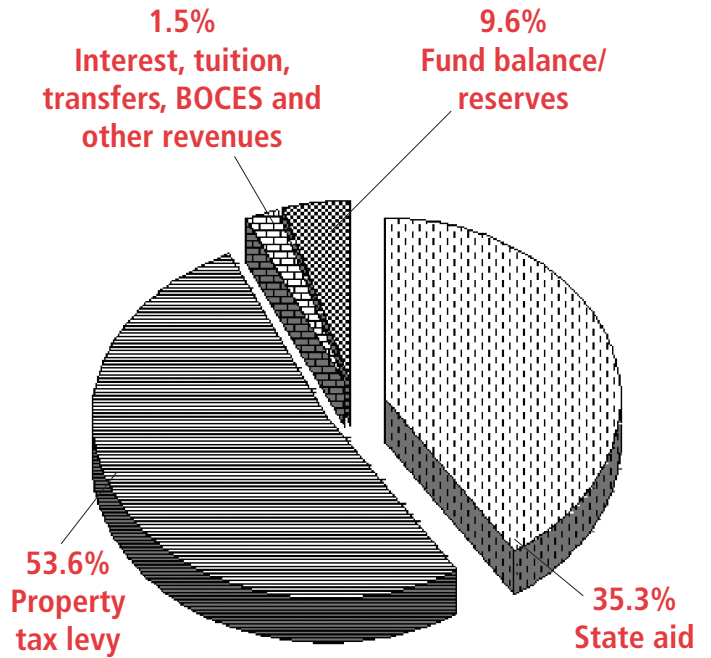
2008-09 costs	\$4,329,679 (9.4%)
2009-10 costs	\$4,568,291 (9.8%)
2010-11 costs	\$5,063,296 (10.7%)

PROJECTED EXPENDITURES	2009-10 <i>Adopted</i>	2010-11 <i>Budget</i>	% of 2010-11 <i>Budget</i>	Change from 09-10 to 10-11
Instructional costs	\$26,166,750	\$25,834,107. . . . .	.54.6%	-\$332,643
Employee benefits	\$9,858,747	\$10,858,682. . . . .	.22.9%	+\$999,935
Buildings and grounds	\$3,753,825	\$3,703,294. . . . .	.7.8%	-\$50,531
Debt service.	\$3,141,150	\$2,994,355. . . . .	.6.3%	-\$146,794
Pupil transportation.	\$1,939,913	\$2,028,245. . . . .	.4.3%	+\$88,332
Central admin. functions	\$1,711,956	\$1,751,437. . . . .	.3.7%	+\$39,481
Transfer to special aid	\$79,040	\$159,040. . . . .	.0.3%	+\$80,000
Total expenditures	\$46,651,381.	\$47,329,160	100.0%	+\$677,779

How would the 2010-11 budget be spent?



Where would the money come from?



SHIFTING THE BURDEN: State aid accounted for nearly 41% of district revenue in the current 2009-10 budget; next year, state support drops to 35.3% of the 2010-11 budget if the proposed state cuts are made.

PROJECTED REVENUES	2009-10 <i>Adopted</i>	2010-11 <i>Budget</i>	% of 2010-11 <i>Budget</i>	Change from 09-10 to 10-11
Total state aid	\$19,016,035	\$16,705,065	35.3%	-\$2,310,970
Foundation Aid	\$12,510,682	\$10,639,975		
Building	\$2,385,241	\$2,400,169		
Transportation*	\$1,352,753	\$1,641,009		
BOCES*	\$1,142,906	\$989,854		
High cost special ed.*	\$544,189	\$738,380		
Software, hardware, textbook, library aid*	\$274,141	\$295,678		
Full-day kindergarten aid	\$806,123	\$0		
Payments in lieu of taxes (PILOT)	\$120,382	\$120,382	0.2%	\$0
BOCES rental, miscellaneous	\$160,000	\$160,000	0.4%	\$0
Interest, Medicaid, Medicare aid	\$200,000	\$175,000	0.4%	-\$25,000
Tuition, admissions, etc.	\$247,676	\$247,676	0.5%	\$0
Transfer from reserves (tax, retire.)	\$350,000	\$850,000	1.8%	\$837,000
Fund balance	\$2,135,000	\$3,720,000	7.8%	\$1,248,000
Property tax levy	\$24,422,264	\$25,351,037	53.6%	\$928,749
Total revenues	\$46,651,381	\$47,329,160	100.0%	+\$677,779

*Aid marked with an * is reimbursement for costs and programs already paid by the school district.*

Five candidates seeking three seats on the Board of Education May 18



Five candidates are seeking three seats on the Board of Education.

Two of the three seats are for three-year terms; one seat is for a one-year term to fill a vacancy. The candidate receiving the third highest number of votes wins the one-year seat and takes his or her seat immediately. All positions are unpaid. Current board member Margaret Smith did not seek a fifth term. Below is the order they will appear on the ballot.

Colleen R. Benedetto, of 513 Charles Street, is seeking a second term on the board.

She owns and operates the Just Charming custom jewelry business from her home.

She studied child psychology at Schenectady County Community College.



Colleen Benedetto

Benedetto has been involved in Highland Soccer, Girl Scouts and the Sacandaga PTA. She is active with the American Diabetes Association. She attends the First Reformed Church of Scotia.

She and her husband, Ken, have three children: Gabby, grade 9 at the high school; Ally, grade 6 at the middle school; and Nick, grade 3 at Sacandaga.

She is a lifelong district resident. 🍷

Beth D. Fucci, of 152 Horstman Drive, is seeking a first term.

She is a paralegal and holds an associate's degree in humanities and social science. She was previously employed in social work.

She has been active in Pop Warner and is a volunteer in the Head Start program at Glen-Worden. She is a member of the Policy Council for Head Start, the YMCA and Catholic Charities caregivers. She attends St. Joseph's Church in Scotia.



Beth Fucci

She and her husband, Fred, have six children: Tamara, a SUNY Morrisville student; John, grade 6 at the middle school; Eugene, grade 5; Ryan, grade 3; and Nadia, kindergarten, all at Glen-Worden; and Nicholas, age 4.

She has been a district resident for four years. 🍷

Mark W. Furnish, of 407 Vley Road, is seeking a first term on the board.

He is a counsel to New York State Senator Thomas Duane, D-Manhattan. He handles overall legislative coordination for Duane and works on criminal justice

and civil liberties issues.

He graduated from Cardinal Mooney High school in Rochester, NY; holds a bachelor's degree from the State University at Albany; and a law degree from Albany Law School.



Mark Furnish

He attends St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Scotia.

Furnish and his wife, Kimberly, have one son, Isaac, age 2.

He has been a district resident for two years. 🍷

Andrew W. Crapo, of 2443 Washout Road, is seeking a first term.

He is an information scientist for GE Global Research in Niskayuna.

He holds a bachelor's degree in physics; a master's in energy systems; and a doctorate in decision sciences and engineering systems.

Crapo has been involved in Boy Scouts of America for 25 years and is an assistant scoutmaster for Troop 101.



Andrew Crapo

He attends the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. His church service includes two years of full-time missionary service in France and five years as a lay bishop in Schenectady and Glenville.

He and his wife, Nancy, have six children, all graduates of SG: Peter, class of 1995; Eileen, 1997; Janet, 1998; Sharon, 2000; Spencer, 2002; and Lana, 2004.

He holds eight patents.

He has been a district resident for 30 years. 🍷



Leslie Smith

Leslie A. Smith, of 2399 Ridge Road, is seeking a first term.

She is a teacher on special assignment and instructional coach

SEE "FIVE CANDIDATES..." NEXT PAGE

Three 12-year-old buses to be retired under replacement plan

Community asked to consider \$295,000 purchase of three new buses on May 18

Buses #153, 154 and 155 would be replaced if voters approve a purchase proposal on the May 18 ballot. This replacement is part of an ongoing program to keep S-G's 44 buses in good shape and able to pass stringent state Department of Transportation inspections.



The cost of keeping these three buses, purchased in 1998, in working shape rises each year, said Transportation Director David Van Schaick.

The buses all have underbody corrosion – usually a red flag to DOT inspectors – and the bus bodies are listed as being in “poor” condition, he added.

The three new buses would cost \$295,000 before state reimbursement and after trade-in of the old buses.

The state reimburses 74.7% of the cost for the purchase of buses as an incentive to maintain school bus fleets.

This purchase *would not* affect the 2010-11 budget or tax rate because the buses will not be delivered until 2011. The first payment would not be due until 2011-12.

Scotia-Glenville buses transport 2,224 students every day to 26 schools on 146 routes. Last year, S-G buses traveled 509,334 miles or 2,667 miles per day. 🚗

Five candidates seeking three seats on the Board of Education May 18, *continued from page 6*

at Paige Elementary School in Schenectady.

She holds SBL and SDL administrative certificates; a master's in curriculum development and instructional technology; a bachelor's in elementary education; and an associate's in early childhood development.

Smith is chair of the Parent Partnership Team at Paige and an active member of the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and Instructional Technology Team. She attends St. Joseph's Church in Scotia.

She and her husband, Roger, have two children: Sara, age 3; and Marissa, age 1.

She is a lifelong district resident. 🚗

WE THINK YOU SHOULD KNOW...

Who can vote on May 19?

Scotia-Glenville community members who are US citizens may vote in the May 18 school elections if they:

- ▶ Have been a resident for at least 30 days before the May 18 election; and
- ▶ Are at least 18 years old.

The district uses registration books from the Board of Elections during voting. Voting will be held from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the old high school gym, Sacandaga Road. 🚗

Can I vote by absentee ballot?

Residents who are either disabled, in the hospital or will not be in town on the day of the vote may cast their vote by absentee ballot. Absentee voters must *first* complete an application to vote and *then* complete the ballot.

▶ **Tuesday, May 11:** To have a ballot mailed to your home, you must have the application completed by this date.

▶ **Monday, May 17:** To request an absentee ballot in person, you must do so by this date.

▶ **Tuesday, May 18:** All ballots are due back to the district office by 5 p.m. 🚗

Why are we replacing the front sign at the high school? Who pays for that?

Funding for the new double-sided electronic sign has come from four sources and is in a special dedicated fund that can *only* be used for the sign: Sen. Hugh Farley provided a \$25,000 grant and the classes of 2006, 2008 and 2009 donated money to the school to be used for a new sign to replace the decades-old sign there now. The Olson Sign Co. was the lowest of four bidders to do the work. 🚗

Why are we providing free student breakfasts?

Chartwell's, the company that administers the breakfast and lunch programs at Scotia-Glenville, has offered free lunch and breakfast days over the past few months.

The free breakfast promotion begun in April is an effort to increase awareness and use of the combined breakfast and lunch programs at all six Scotia-Glenville schools.

Money for the promotion comes out of the breakfast/lunch fund, which is separate from the general fund and can *only* be used for that purpose.

As is required under the district's health and wellness policy, healthy and balanced lunch and breakfast options continue to be offered to students. 🚗

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 Benjamin A. Conlon
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Scotia-Glenville

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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ScotiaGlenvilleSchools.org

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 Maureen A. Long
 Director of Curriculum and Instruction
 Andrew M. Giaquinto
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SCOTIA-GLENVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

2010-11 BUDGET

State-Required School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal

	Budget adopted for the 2009-10 school year	Budget proposed for the 2010-11 school year	Contingency budget for the 2010-11 school year*
Total budgeted amount	\$46,651,381	\$47,329,160	\$46,651,381
Increase/decrease for the 2010-11 school year		\$677,779	\$0
Percentage increase (decrease) in each proposed budget		1.45%	0%
Change in the consumer price index		- 0.4%	
Resulting est. property tax levy, 2009-10 school year		\$25,351,037	\$24,673,258
Administrative component	\$4,568,291	\$5,063,296	\$4,984,121
Program component	\$34,535,033	\$34,338,675	\$33,740,071
Capital component	\$7,548,057	\$7,927,189	\$7,927,189

*Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2010-11 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated: **Further reductions in spending for supplies, technology, maintenance, classroom and other equipment; staff; other services; and community use of district facilities.**

Basic and Enhanced STAR Exemption Impact

The state's STAR program reduces a home's assessment before computing individual school tax bills. Applications are available from the town assessor's office in each town. The Basic STAR program is available to primary homeowners regardless of income; the Enhanced STAR program provides a larger savings for those over age 65 with qualifying incomes. Application deadlines are March 1. Call the Glenville town assessor at 688-1200 extension 403.

	Budget adopted 2009-10	Budget proposed 2010-11
School Tax increase (or decrease) on a \$100,000 full-value assessment	(\$13.67)	\$62.56
Basic STAR tax savings (full-value reduction of \$26,460) on a \$100,000 full-value assessment	\$596.66	\$542.09
Enhanced STAR tax savings (full-value reduction of \$51,090) on a \$100,000 full-value assessment	\$1,129.50	\$1,046.69

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2010-11 by the qualified voters of the Scotia-Glenville Central School District, Schenectady, Montgomery and Saratoga counties, New York, will be held at the Senior High School in said district on **Tuesday, May 18, 2010**, between the hours of **6 a.m. and 9 p.m.**, prevailing time in the **Senior High School**, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine. Voters must be 18 and a resident of Scotia-Glenville for 30 days.