



High school students explain their research about the careers that interest them at the Practical Math Career Fair.

Preparing for the future

Infielder Brenna Jahn signed a National Letter of Intent to play Division I softball at the University of Texas at San Antonio.



May 16 annual budget vote and school board election

What to know before casting your ballot

On Tuesday, May 16, Scotia-Glenville residents will be asked to consider a \$62,959,582 budget for the 2023-24 school year. The proposal maintains all current programs and services for students and preserves critical health and safety features of the current budget, including cyber security, a School Resource Officer, athletic trainer, and mental health services. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the high school B-wing gym.

The proposed spending plan increases by 4.45% or \$2,684,633 from the current year, and includes a tax levy increase of 2.99% or \$941,814. With an estimated tax rate increase of 2.09%, the tax bill on a \$160,000 home would increase by an estimated \$79.84 per year or \$6.65 per month before STAR.

As part of the district's ongoing bus replacement plan, the ballot will also include a proposition to purchase one 72-passenger school bus, one 57-passenger bus with wheelchair capacity, and one Suburban in an amount of \$415,000. There is no tax impact for this purchase in the 2023-24 budget. More information can be found on Page 2.

Residents will also have the opportunity to select candidates for three open seats on the Board of Education. You can read about each candidate running for the school board on Page 6.

CONTINUED ON **PAGE 2**

VOTE

Tuesday, May 16 • 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.
High School B-wing Gymnasium

Budget Snapshot

- ➔ Proposed Budget: **\$62,959,582**
- ➔ Spending Increase: **\$2,684,633 or 4.45%**
- ➔ Tax Levy Increase: **\$941,814 or 2.99%**

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Bus purchase proposal on the May 16 ballot

Two buses and a Suburban to be purchased for \$415,000

The Scotia-Glenville community will be asked to consider a proposition to purchase one 72-passenger school bus, one 57-passenger bus with capacity for five wheelchairs, and one Suburban.

The school district has historically replaced buses with deteriorating body condition after 10 years. However, the district is taking into consideration bus repairs and high maintenance costs as well as downtime as part of its bus replacement plan.

Again this year, the district is purchasing a 72-passenger, versus a 65-passenger, bus in order to increase ridership capability as bus routes are being consolidated because of the bus driver shortage. The higher capacity wheelchair bus would eliminate a double run. The Suburban will be used for checking roads, transporting students who need special medical accommodations, and transporting homeless or foster students who have been placed too far out of district for our regular bus routes to accommodate.

Two buses being replaced

The buses being replaced are #207 (unleaded fuel) and #208 (diesel). Both are eight years old. The mileage on the buses are 141,482 and 47,035, respectively.

It is expected that the new buses will be delivered in September. The two retired buses will be auctioned off and the proceeds will be used to mitigate the related debt service payments.

The debt for this purchase will not affect the budget until the 2024-25 school year. The district will pay the bond off over five years. After transportation aid reimbursement from the state, the net effect of this total purchase will be \$26,553 each year from 2024-25 to 2028-29. **\$6**

Free Meal Weeks

The district encourages all students to take advantage of our free, nutritious school breakfast and lunch weeks. The schedule for the remainder of the year is:

- **Free breakfast and lunch:** May 8-12
- **Free lunch:** June 5-9
- **Free breakfast:** June 12-16

Proposed budget preserves programs and services and keeps tax levy below the state cap

As the district prepared to adopt a spending limit for the 2023-24 school year, Superintendent Susan Swartz explained the need to start moving towards planning for our actual and anticipated enrollment—understanding that those numbers could fluctuate. Scotia-Glenville enrollment, like many schools in the region and state, has been declining.

“I want to maintain programs and services for students, and this budget does a good job at that. I want to keep the district at or preferably below the tax cap.” Superintendent Swartz said.

The Board of Education approved a budget of \$62,959,582 with a 2.99% tax levy increase at a BOE meeting on March 27. This was after weeks of working sessions to refine the total carry-forward budget of \$63,198,425 that carried a tax levy increase of 4.08%. The maximum allowable increase under the tax cap calculation is 4.33%.

“Everyone in this room would tell you we have more needs than we can meet,” said Superintendent Swartz. “In a perfect world there would be lots of things we would do here if money were no object. However, I would just remind the board that you have done a really good job of trying to move things forward and still be mindful of both the tax levy cap and also what our community can bear.”

A public hearing was held on May 3 at the middle school to inform the community about the proposed spending plan for the 2023-24 school year.

All board meetings and budget working sessions were conducted in an open process and streamed live on the district’s YouTube page. Video links and presentation documents can also be found on the district website Budget & Taxes page. **\$6**

Budget Exit Poll

After you vote, please take a brief survey from our student volunteers before you leave the polling place. The district will assess voter feedback to further inform our policies and spending plan.



Search Scotia-Glenville CSD for:

- **YouTube** – BOE meetings, sports, special events
- **Website** – stories, school information, calendar
- **Instagram** – photos and videos of our school community
- **Facebook** – accomplishments and announcements

Q&A

Budget, tax, and voting information

Who can vote on the school budget and Board of Education candidates?

Community members who are U.S. citizens may vote in the school elections if they:

- Have been a resident of the district for at least 30 days immediately preceding the vote.
- Are at least 18 years old.

The district uses registration records from the Schenectady County Board of Elections. The vote will be held from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the B-wing gymnasium at the high school.

How do I request an absentee ballot to vote?

Qualified voters who will be out of town or unable to vote in person due to illness or disability can vote by absentee ballot. You must complete an application to receive a ballot.

Absentee ballot applications can be obtained by contacting District Clerk Bobbie DeLong by phone at (518) 347-3600 ext. 73102 or email bdelong@sgcsd.net. Ballots must be returned by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 16 in order to be counted.

Does the 2023-24 budget plan stay within Scotia-Glenville's property tax levy cap?

Yes. The state-mandated maximum tax levy cap for Scotia-Glenville in 2023-24 is 4.33% according to the state's eight-step formula. The Board of Education was able to keep the tax levy increase well below that level.

What is the difference between the tax LEVY and the tax RATE?

The tax levy is the total amount of money the district raises in taxes each year from all property owners. Tax rates are calculated by dividing the total amount of the levy by the total taxable assessed value. The tax rate is used to calculate individual tax bills.

Under the proposed 2023-24 budget, the Glenville/Scotia tax rate would increase by 2.09% to an estimated \$24.39 per \$1,000 (from the current \$23.89 per \$1,000) of assessed value. That is a 50 cent increase in the per \$1,000 assessed value tax rate.

A home with an assessment of \$160,000 would see an estimated tax bill increase of \$79.84 per year, or \$6.65 per month before factoring in the STAR rebate (see next question).

The percentage increase in the tax levy does not typically align with the tax rate. This is attributable to the changes in assessed values from the prior year related to the change in the tax levy. Target is moving onto the tax rolls in 2023-24 which generates \$11.6M in increased assessed value

to the tax rolls. Tax rolls are not finalized until May 31. The Board of Education adopts the 2023-24 final tax rates in August.

How does the state's STAR program affect my tax bill?

The New York State School Tax Relief Program (STAR) is paid by the state to the school district and is not administered by Scotia-Glenville. It is reflected as a smaller amount due on homeowner's school tax bills. This STAR exemption is no longer available to new homeowners.

Newer homeowners and others who have opted for it receive the STAR tax credit. They receive a check from the state in the STAR amount, usually in October or November.


The STAR program in 2023-24 will reduce school tax bills in Glenville by these amounts:

- **Estimated \$596 for Basic STAR recipients.** Property owners with incomes below \$250,000 are eligible.
- **Estimated \$1,199 for Enhanced STAR recipients.** Enhanced STAR is for property owners over age 65 with incomes of less than \$93,200.

What if the budget were defeated on May 16?

Should the voters defeat the budget, the district has the option of offering a revised budget to voters for a revote, or immediately adopting a contingency budget. If the budget fails a second time, then the BOE must adopt a contingency budget before July 1st.

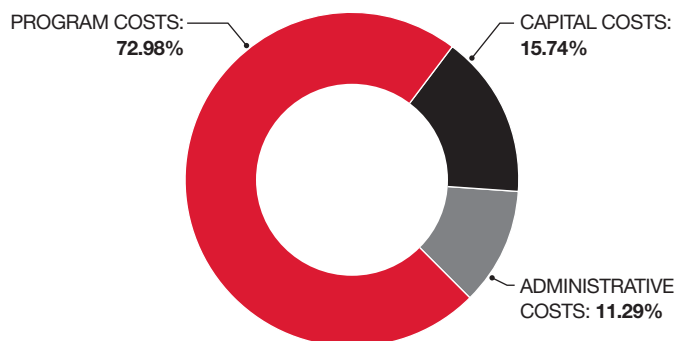
State law mandates that the contingent budget include no increase from the prior year tax levy and eliminate all non-contingent expenses such as supplies, materials, equipment and other expenditures. Plant and operations are contingent expenditures and do not have to be cut. Debt service cannot be cut. The administrative component of the contingent budget shall not comprise a greater percentage of the contingent budget exclusive of the capital component than the lesser of the (1) percentage the administrative component had comprised in the prior year budget exclusive of the capital component; or (2) the percentage the administrative component had comprised in the last proposed defeated budget exclusive of the capital component.

A contingent budget in 2023-24 would require a \$941,814 reduction in the tax levy and school expenditures. The school district could not exceed the 2022-23 tax levy. 



Three-part budget for 2023-24

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



Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Program

72.98% of the proposed 2023-24 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.

2022-23 ADOPTED BUDGET	2023-24 PROPOSED BUDGET
\$44,321,828 (73.53%)	45,946,109 (72.98%)

Capital

15.74% of the proposed 2023-24 budget

This part of the budget includes all purchases 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.

2022-23 ADOPTED BUDGET	2023-24 PROPOSED BUDGET
\$9,045,547 (15.01%)	\$9,906,953 (15.74%)

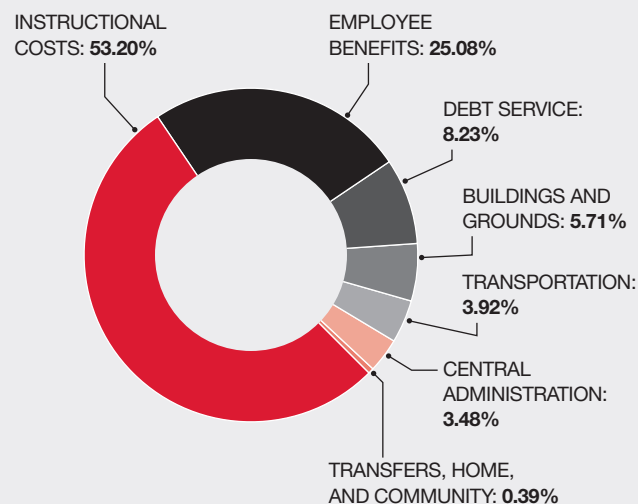
Administrative

11.29% of the proposed 2023-24 budget

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

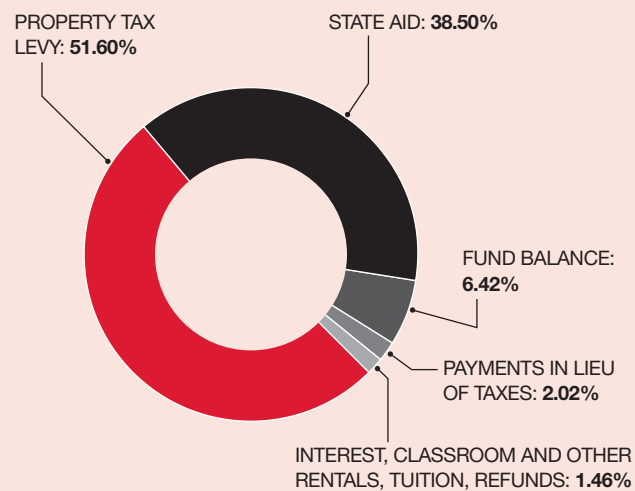
2022-23 ADOPTED BUDGET	2023-24 PROPOSED BUDGET
\$6,907,574 (11.46%)	\$7,106,520 (11.29%)

PROJECTED EXPENDITURES 2023-24



Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

PROJECTED REVENUES 2023-24



Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Expenditures

CATEGORY	2022-23 ADOPTED	2023-24 PROPOSED	% OF 2023-24 BUDGET	\$/% CHANGE FROM 2022-23 TO 2023-24
Instructional costs	\$32,518,376	\$33,496,665	53.20%	\$978,289 (3.01%)
Employee benefits	\$15,021,160	\$15,791,305	25.08%	\$770,144 (5.13%)
Buildings and grounds	\$3,527,054	\$3,592,909	5.71%	\$65,855 (1.87%)
Debt service	\$4,417,255	\$5,181,292	8.23%	\$764,037 (17.30%)
Pupil transportation	\$2,445,946	\$2,466,702	3.92%	\$20,757 (0.85%)
Central administrative functions	\$2,133,298	\$2,189,650	3.48%	\$56,352 (2.64%)
Transfer to Capital Fund	\$100,000	\$100,000	0.16%	\$0 (0.00%)
Transfer to School Lunch Fund	\$0	\$30,000	0.05%	\$30,000 (N/A)
Transfer to special aid	\$99,000	\$99,000	0.16%	\$0 (0.00%)
Home and community	\$12,859	\$12,059	0.02%	-\$800 (-6.22%)
Total expenditures	\$60,274,949	\$62,959,582	100.00%	\$2,684,633 (4.45%)

Revenues

CATEGORY	2022-23 ADOPTED	2023-24 PROPOSED	% OF 2023-24 BUDGET	\$/% CHANGE FROM 2022-23 TO 2023-24
Total New York State aid	\$22,192,020	\$24,240,963	38.50%	\$2,048,943 (9.23%)
• Foundation aid	\$14,360,192	\$15,545,941	24.69%	\$1,185,749 (8.26%)
• Building aid	\$2,876,684	\$3,718,305	5.91%	\$841,621 (29.26%)
• Transportation aid*	\$2,018,067	\$1,994,000	3.17%	-\$24,067 (-1.19%)
• BOCES aid*	\$1,707,581	\$1,681,112	2.67%	-\$26,469 (-1.55%)
• High cost special ed. aid*	\$993,320	\$1,068,803	1.70%	\$75,483 (7.6%)
• Software, computer, textbook, library aid*	\$236,176	\$232,802	0.37%	-\$3,374 (-1.43%)
Payments in lieu of taxes (PILOT)	\$1,338,398	\$1,273,218	2.02%	-\$65,180 (-4.87%)
BOCES rental, refunds, misc.	\$190,000	\$180,000	0.29%	-\$10,000 (-0.05%)
Interest, Medicaid, Medicare aid	\$240,000	\$485,000	0.77%	\$245,000 (1.02%)
Tuition, admissions, etc.	\$247,676	\$247,678	0.39%	\$2 (0%)
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$4,519,504	\$4,043,558	6.42%	-\$475,946 (-10.53%)
Property tax levy	\$31,547,351	\$32,489,165	51.60%	\$941,814 (2.99%)
Total revenues	\$60,274,949	\$62,959,582	100.00%	\$2,684,633 (4.45%)

*These are for reimbursement of services that S-G has already paid out.



Candidates for three open seats on the Board of Education

Voting will be held from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the B-wing gym at the high school. The seats each carry three-year terms and are unpaid. Candidates will be in this order on the ballot based on a random drawing:

Karnjit Singh

Karnjit Singh of Scotia is seeking a first term on the board.

Mr. Singh works as a manufacturing technician specialist at SABIC. He is also a New York State EMT.

Mr. Singh and his wife, Laxmi, are the parents of three Scotia-Glenville elementary students. They have lived in the area for seven years and have been involved in the school district. Mrs. Singh works as a teaching assistant at Glen-Worden.

Mr. Singh is an assistant coach on the S-G girls softball team and is a member of the Glen-Worden PTA. For the past four years, Mr. Singh has helped as a volunteer for Glen-Worden "Fun Fridays."



Kimberly Boucher Furnish

Kimberly Boucher Furnish of Scotia is seeking a first term on the board.

Mrs. Furnish and her husband, Mark, have a son in high school. She is currently the SGHS PTSA secretary and SGCSO PTA Council secretary, and was formerly the Sacandaga PTA president.

Mrs. Furnish has lived in the area for 15 years and works as assistant counsel at the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance. She graduated cum laude with a bachelor's in French education and a minor in political science from Longwood University, and she earned a Juris Doctor, cum laude, from Albany Law School.

Mrs. Furnish is a Friends of Music member, served on the board for the S-G Jr. Tartans football league, and received the PTA Founders Day Honorary Life Membership Award.



Pamela Carbone

Pamela Carbone of Scotia is seeking a 10th term on the board.

Ms. Carbone was first elected to serve on the board in 1996, is currently the vice president, and was president from 2009-14.

She has a grandson who attends Scotia-Glenville Middle School, and a son and grandson who graduated from S-G High School.

Ms. Carbone is a retired middle school science teacher in the Schenectady City School District, has lived in Scotia for 38 years, and has been a member of the PTA since 1988. Ms. Carbone was presented with the PTA Founders Day Honorary Life Membership Award in 1997.

Ms. Carbone has a bachelor's in physics and mathematics from Transylvania University; and a master's in physics from Wright State University.



Richard Frederick

Richard Frederick of Glenville is seeking a second term on the board.

Mr. Frederick was first elected to serve on the board in 2020. He and his wife, Sandy, have three children who attend the school district's high school, middle school, and elementary school, respectively.

He works as a managing data scientist at Assurant, Inc. and has a bachelor's and master's in mathematics from the University at Albany.

Mr. Frederick is a lifelong resident of Glenville, is president of Tartan Youth Lacrosse, director of Tartan Youth Recreation Basketball, and a member of Beukendaal Lodge #915 in Scotia. He is a Glen-Worden PTA member and a supporter and volunteer for several local nonprofit organizations.

Mr. Frederick is the recipient of the PTA Founders Day Award and Jacob Morton Award.



State required school district budget notice

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	\$60,274,949	\$62,959,582	\$62,017,768
Increase/Decrease for the 2023-24 School Year		\$2,684,633	\$1,742,819
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		4.45%	2.89%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		8.0%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$31,547,351	\$32,489,165	
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)	\$31,547,351	\$32,489,165	\$31,547,351
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$886,518	\$1,320,255	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$30,663,457	\$31,594,464	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$30,660,833	\$31,168,910	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$2,624	\$425,554	
Administrative Component	\$6,907,574	\$7,106,520	\$6,980,362
Program Component	\$44,321,828	\$45,946,109	\$45,130,453
Capital Component	\$9,045,547	\$9,906,953	\$9,906,953
* Under state law, boards of education typically may submit a budget to voters a maximum of two times. The Board of Education may adopt a contingent budget and set the tax levy at the 2022-23 levy amount. That would require \$941,814 in reductions in staffing, materials, supplies, equipment, public use of the buildings and other expenditures.			
** 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)	DESCRIPTION		AMOUNT
	Purchase one 72-passenger bus, one 57-passenger bus with wheelchair capacity and one Suburban.		\$415,000
	UNDER THE BUDGET PROPOSED FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR		
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$596.00		

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023-24 by the qualified voters of the Scotia-Glenville Central school district, Schenectady, Montgomery and Saratoga Counties, New York, will be held in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2023. Voting will be held from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the B-wing gymnasium at the High School, Sacandaga Road, Scotia, NY. Absentee ballots must be returned by 5 p.m. on May 16. Voters must be a U.S. citizen, 18 years of age and a resident of Scotia-Glenville for 30 days immediately preceding the vote.

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

Board of Education

Harold M. Talbot
PRESIDENT

Pamela S. Carbone
VICE PRESIDENT

David J. Bucciferro
Richard J. Frederick
David M. Massaro
Emily G. Orr
Kimberly C. Talbot

Scotia-Glenville CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Susan M. Swartz
SUPERINTENDENT

Karen Swain
**ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
FOR CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

Andrew M. Giaquinto
SCHOOL BUSINESS MANAGER

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Scotia-Glenville CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

News

2023-24 BUDGET

What will I see on the May 16 ballot?

From 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the high school B-wing gym, Scotia-Glenville residents will vote on these proposals:

- \$62,959,582 budget for 2023-24 – carrying a 2.99% tax levy increase.
- \$415,000 to purchase one 72-passenger school bus, one 57-passenger bus with wheelchair capacity, and one Suburban.
- Selection of three candidates for the Board of Education.



Outdoor ecology observations

Rounding out an ecosystem unit, Mr. Swain's sixth grade class explored the schoolyard.



Seven year history of school budgets, spending and taxes at S-G

SCHOOL YEAR	BUDGET TOTAL*	BUDGET SPENDING INCREASE/DECREASE	TOTAL NET NY STATE AID	GLENVILLE TAX RATE PER \$1,000 ASSESSED*	TAX BILL FOR \$160,000 HOME ASSESSMENT*
2023-24 (proposed)	\$62.9 million	\$2,684,633	\$24.2 million	\$24.40	\$3,904
2022-23	\$60.3 million	\$1,147,524	\$22.2 million	\$23.90	\$3,824
2021-22	\$59.1 million	\$966,542	\$21.6 million	\$23.66	\$3,786
2020-21	\$58.1 million	\$1,205,143	\$21.0 million	\$23.77	\$3,803
2019-20	\$56.9 million	\$966,044	\$20.7 million	\$23.36	\$3,738
2018-19	\$55.9 million	\$2,582,710	\$21.2 million	\$22.74	\$3,638
2017-18	\$53.4 million	\$1,358,419	\$20.1 million	\$22.16	\$3,546

If the proposed 2023-24 budget is approved by the community on May 16:

- Spending will have increased by \$9.5 million or 17.8% since July 2017 (2.54% per year on average).
- Typical tax bills will have increased by 10.1% or \$358 since September 2017 (1.44% per year on average).

* Final tax rates are set by the Board of Education in August. Percentages and dollar amounts are rounded.
Typical tax bills are BEFORE savings from the state's STAR school tax reduction exemption, veterans' and income exemptions.