

96.5% of School Budgets Passed



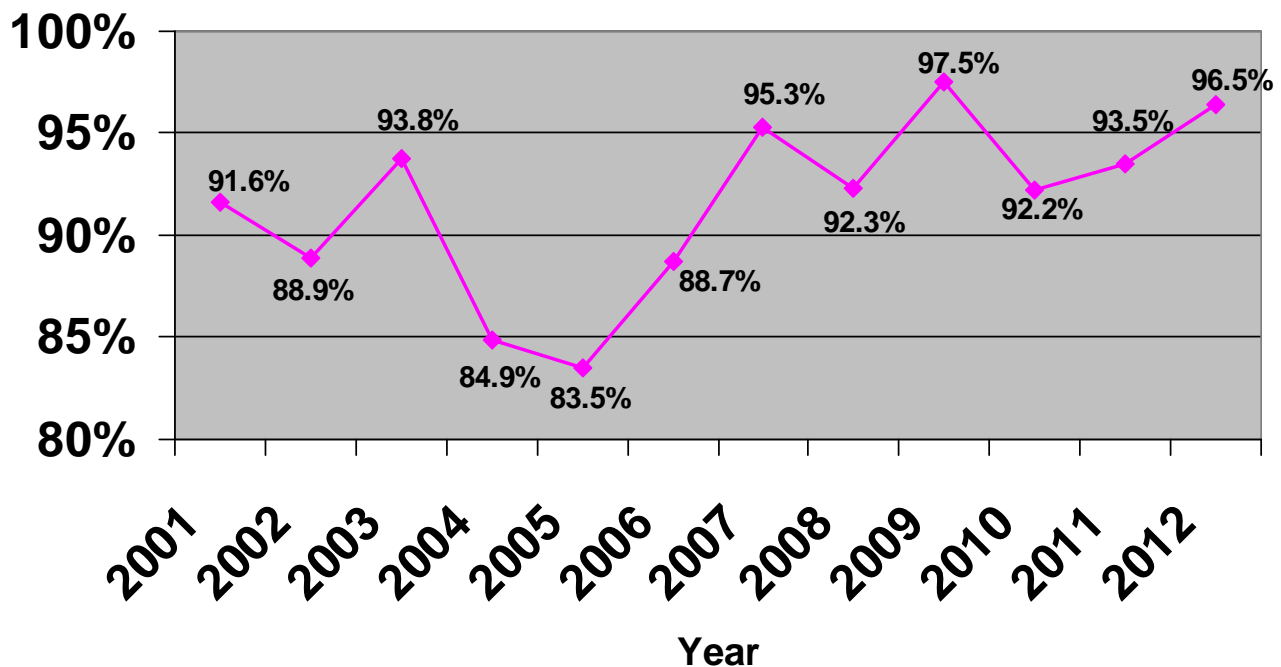
12-23

June 2012

On May 15th, voters across the state approved 654 school budgets and defeated 24 – a 96.5% approval rate. Despite this high approval rate many voters were faced with school budgets that contained numerous reductions to educational programs because school districts were dealing with the new property tax cap and because districts are still feeling the impact of the \$1.3 billion cut in state aid to education that was enacted in the 2011-12 school year.

Districts with a defeated budget may resubmit the same budget to the voters, resubmit a revised budget to the voters, or adopt a contingency budget. If a school district chooses to have a budget revote, it must occur on June 19th – the third Tuesday in June. If a second budget proposal is defeated, the district must adopt a contingency budget. Districts that adopt a contingency budget may not increase the tax levy above the previous year's levy—a 0% cap.

Percentage of School Budgets Approved on Initial Vote



The following page provides a listing of those districts that had their budget defeated.

2012 Budget Defeats

(by county)

ALLEGANY	Bolivar-Richburg	ROCKLAND	East Ramapo
CHEMUNG	Elmira*	SARATOGA	Stillwater*
CHENANGO	Unadilla Valley*	SCHOHARIE	Cobleskill-Richmondville*
CLINTON	Plattsburgh*	SUFFOLK	Center Moriches* Comsewogue* East Islip* Mt. Sinai* Oysterponds Three Village* Tuckahoe
COLUMBIA	Germantown*	ULSTER	Highland* New Paltz*
ERIE	Cheektowaga-Sloan		
FULTON	Oppenheim-Ephratah*		
MONTGOMERY	Fonda-Fultonville*		
NASSAU	Elmont* Floral Park-Bellerose*	WYOMING	Wyoming*
NIAGARA	Niagara-Wheatfield*		

* *District needed a super-majority (60%) for approval*

Based on published news articles and select data from the State Education Department, there were 49 school districts that attempted to override their tax levy limit, meaning the budget proposal required a “super-majority” 60% YES vote in order to be adopted. Of those 49 districts, 30 were successful in reaching that 60% threshold and 19 were defeated—a success rate of approximately 61%. Of the 19 defeated districts, 10 achieved a majority vote (greater than 50%), but failed to reach the 60% threshold. Those 10 districts were: Comsewogue, Elmira, Elmont, Floral Park-Bellerose, Highland, Mt Sinai, New Paltz, Stillwater, Three Village, and Unadilla Valley.