

95.3% of School Budgets Passed



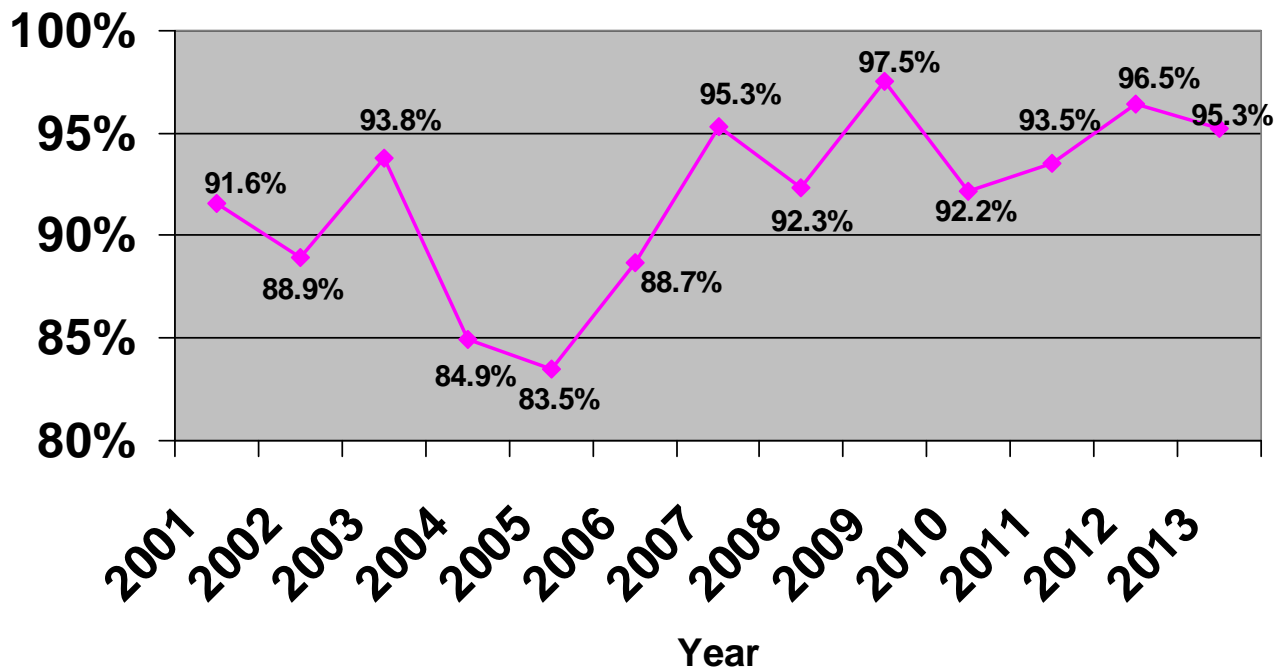
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May 2013

On May 21st, voters across the state approved 644 school budgets and defeated 32 – a 95.3% approval rate. Despite this high approval rate many voters were faced with school budgets that contained reductions to educational programs because school districts continue to grapple with the property tax cap and because districts are still feeling the impact of state aid cuts that were enacted in both the 2010-11 school year and the 2011-12 school year. Also, districts that tried to exceed their calculated tax levy limit, meaning they needed a super-majority (60%), did not fare well—of these 28 districts just 7 achieved the required super-majority.

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 18th – 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.

2013 Budget Defeats

(by county)

CAYUGA	Moravia*	ONEIDA	Remsen
CHAUTAUQUA	Bemus Point	ONONDAGA	North Syracuse*
CHEMUNG	Elmira Heights*	ORANGE	Cornwall* Valley-Montgomery*
ERIE	Alden Clarence*	ROCKLAND	East Ramapo
ESSEX	Newcomb* Minerva*	SCHENECTADY	Niskayuna*
FRANKLIN	Tupper Lake*	SCHOHARIE	Middleburgh
GREENE	Cairo-Durham	SENECA	South Seneca*
JEFFERSON	General Brown*	SUFFOLK	East Quogue* North Babylon* Sachem* South Country*
NASSAU	Baldwin* Manhasset*	ULSTER	Marlboro
NIAGARA	Lewiston-Porter* Niagara-Wheatfield Wilson	WESTCHESTER	Briarcliff Manor* Elmsford Mount Vernon Scarsdale*

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

There were 28 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 28 districts, 7 were successful in reaching that 60% threshold and 21 were defeated. Of the 21 defeated districts, 14 achieved a majority vote (greater than 50%), but failed to reach the 60% threshold. Those 14 districts were: Baldwin, Briarcliff Manor, Cornwall, East Quogue, Elmira Heights, General Brown, Manhasset, Moravia, Newcomb, North Babylon, North Syracuse, Sachem, South Country, and South Seneca.