

# UTICA CITY

## SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

HOME OF THE RAIDERS | WWW.UTICASCHOOLS.ORG | MAY 2023



### A MESSAGE TO THE UTICA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY

With great pleasure, I share that we have achieved a significant milestone in creating a balanced budget without imposing any additional tax burden on our residents. Our unwavering commitment to financial accountability has allowed us to provide the best possible education to our students while being mindful of our community's economic well-being.

Our success is a result of a new and highly collaborative process. We have successfully settled the significant outstanding collective bargaining agreements in the district, reached an agreement with our teachers, improved accountability and financial transparency, and implemented time and attendance to prevent overtime abuse and no show jobs. We have also fully staffed all necessary positions, added needed teachers and staff and provided adequate supply allocations to meet our district's requirements. Our increased fiscal responsibility and oversight has resulted in the district avoiding short term borrowing of millions of dollars which resulted in the district saving almost \$400,000 in unnecessary interest payments.

We take immense pride in all our achievements being made possible through a highly inclusive and collaborative approach, which is a clear contrast to previous years. In addition, we have rigorously evaluated our existing programs and initiatives, allocated program funds more

efficiently, and created new initiatives that genuinely make a difference in our students' education.

Moreover, our partnerships with MVCC, Hamilton College, Utica University, and Suny Poly have significantly enhanced our students' education and career readiness. We are proudly pursuing the district's CTE program which will keep our students up-to-date with the latest technology and employment opportunities. We have also invited community organizations into our schools to meet students' needs, creating a positive and supportive social environment promoting diversity, inclusion, and equity.

We are grateful for the hard work of our teachers, administrators, and staff, as well as the involvement of parents and the support of community members. As a result of our collective efforts, our district is becoming a shining beacon on the hill, and we take immense pride in our schools.

Sincerely,

**Joseph Hobika Jr.**

Board of Education President | Utica City School District

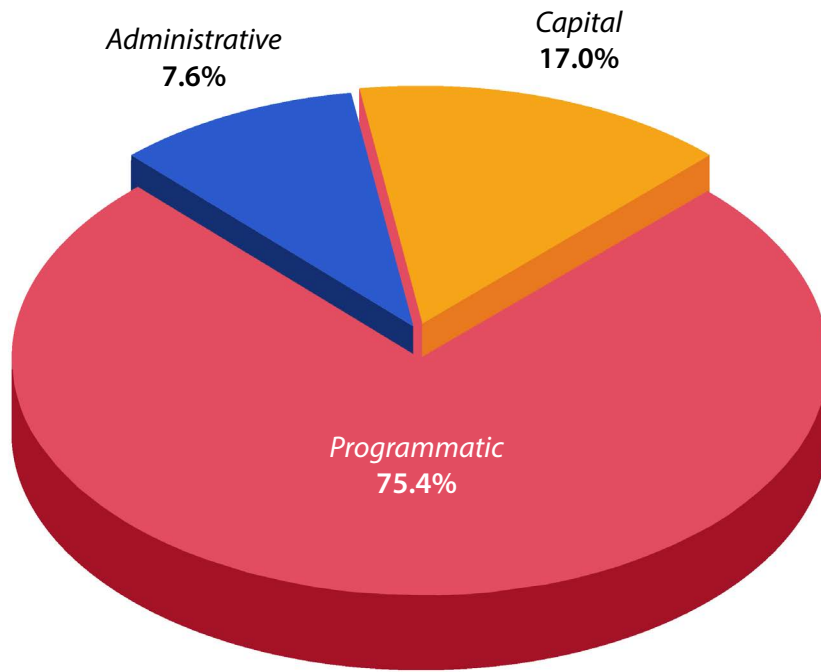
### ***You'll be Voting on:***

\$243,340,050 PROPOSED BUDGET | 0% TAX INCREASE | ADHERING TO THE PROPERTY TAX CAP | TWO (2) BOARD SEATS

**PLEASE VOTE ON TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023**

# UCSD BUDGET INFORMATION

## Your Education Dollars At Work



*All school spending can be broken down into three major categories; administrative, programmatic and capital.*

### Administrative Component

Includes, but is not limited to, salaries and benefits for all district and building administrators, clerical staff and office expenditures: the superintendent's salary and expenses, Board of Education expenses, legal services, etc.

### Programmatic Component

Includes all expenditures associated with student-related programs, including, but not limited to, salaries and benefits for teachers, support staff, paraprofessionals and related services, transportation, sports, textbooks, classroom supplies and equipment.

### Capital Component

Includes facility costs and debt for the buildings. It includes, but is not limited to, costs associated with operations and maintenance, and expenditures related to the repair of facilities.

## No School Tax Increase

The proposed levy for 2023-2024 is \$30,005,865, the same as the 2022-2023 levy. This levy is below the maximum allowable tax levy as determined by NYS Law, and will only require a simple majority vote. The Utica City School District proposed budget has no school tax increase this year. NO SCHOOL TAX INCREASE!

However, because of assessments and STAR reductions, the school district has no control over a resident's final property tax bill. Again, there is no increase in your school tax.

## Additional State Revenue

New York State provided the District with an additional \$29 million over last year's allocation. This funding was a direct result of New York State honoring its commitment to the Fiscal Equity lawsuit settled several years ago. The District planned its budget with these additional funds and did not use reserve funds.

## No Short-term Borrowing

In past years, the District used a short-term loan called a Revenue Anticipation Note (RAN) as a source of revenue to meet obligations. As a result of the District's strong financial position, a RAN is not needed this year – saving the District the cost of interest payments on the loan.

# THREE-PART BUDGET

## Administrative Component

Board of Education
Central Administration
Finance
Legal Services
Personnel
Labor Relations
Public Information
Unallocated Insurance
Other Special Items
Curriculum Development & Supplies
Supervision, Regular School
Research, Evaluation & Planning
Employee Benefits
<b>TOTAL</b>

## Budget 2022-23

\$ 278,931
\$ 384,336
\$ 1,535,064
\$ 184,410
\$ 528,465
\$ 152,707
\$ 133,662
\$ 428,499
\$ 2,544,233
\$ 1,053,739
\$ 3,827,075
\$ 346,485
\$ 4,754,134
<b>\$ 16,151,740</b>

## Proposed 2023-24

\$ 282,321
\$ 434,112
\$ 1,572,028
\$ 194,427
\$ 969,053
\$ 159,994
\$ 135,609
\$ 493,000
\$ 2,665,956
\$ 1,260,643
\$ 4,716,039
\$ 455,607
\$ 5,167,375
<b>\$ 18,506,164</b>

## Difference

\$ 3,390
\$ 49,776
\$ 36,964
\$ 10,017
\$ 440,588
\$ 7,287
\$ 1,947
\$ 64,501
\$ 121,723
\$ 206,904
\$ 888,964
\$ 109,122
\$ 413,241
<b>\$ 2,354,424</b>

## Programmatic Component

Legal Services
Unallocated Insurance
Staff Development
Instruction, Regular Day
Handicapped Programs
Occupational Education
Special Schools
Library/Audio Visual/Educational TV
Computer Assisted Instruction
Attendance Services
Guidance Services
Health Services
Psychological Services
Social Worker Services
Co-curricular Activities
Athletics
District Transportation
Garage Building
Transfers to Special Aid Fund
Employee Benefits
<b>TOTAL</b>

\$ 184,410
\$ 2,000
\$ 662,889
\$ 74,321,750
\$ 23,230,001
\$ 4,298,100
\$ 364,897
\$ 2,359,097
\$ 4,703,716
\$ 324,756
\$ 1,825,516
\$ 1,155,638
\$ 791,408
\$ 1,414,848
\$ 365,032
\$ 777,334
\$ 12,163,348
\$ 52,645
\$ 200,000
\$ 34,150,677
<b>\$ 163,348,062</b>

\$ 194,427
\$ 2,000
\$ 771,028
\$ 80,760,277
\$ 26,773,752
\$ 4,411,482
\$ 499,527
\$ 2,366,807
\$ 6,965,264
\$ 272,944
\$ 2,211,094
\$ 1,405,652
\$ 1,604,572
\$ 1,610,526
\$ 403,862
\$ 1,233,760
\$ 14,664,511
\$ 55,277
\$ 200,000
\$ 37,119,140
<b>\$ 183,525,902</b>

\$ 10,017
\$ -
\$ 108,139
\$ 6,438,527
\$ 3,543,751
\$ 113,382
\$ 134,630
\$ 7,710
\$ 2,261,548
\$ (51,812)
\$ 385,578
\$ 250,014
\$ 813,164
\$ 195,678
\$ 38,830
\$ 456,426
\$ 2,501,163
\$ 2,632
\$ -
\$ 2,968,463
<b>\$ 20,177,840</b>

## Capital Component

Operation of Plant
Maintenance of Plant
Judgments and Claims
Refund of Taxes
Employee Benefits
Debt Service
Capital Projects
<b>TOTAL</b>

\$ 6,056,581
\$ 4,521,745
\$ 51,500
\$ 1,500
\$ 4,073,741
\$ 19,307,693
<b>\$ 34,012,760</b>

\$ 7,243,873
\$ 5,936,248
\$ 51,500
\$ 1,500
\$ 4,427,841
\$ 19,847,021
\$ 3,800,000
<b>\$ 41,307,984</b>

\$ 1,187,292
\$ 1,414,503
\$ -
\$ -
\$ 354,100
\$ 539,328
<b>\$ 3,495,223</b>

## TOTAL BUDGET

**\$ 213,512,562**

**\$ 243,340,050**

**\$ 29,827,488**

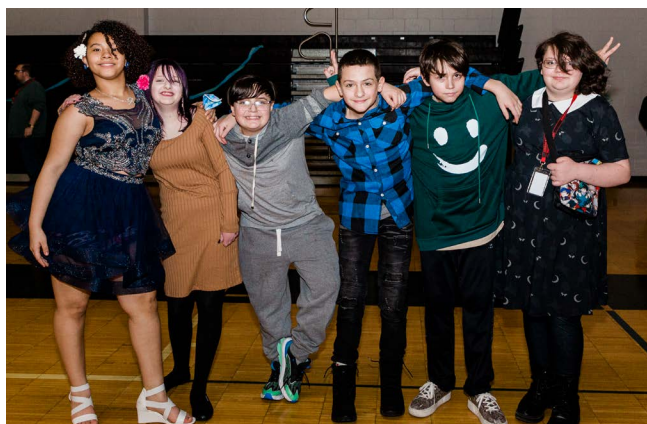
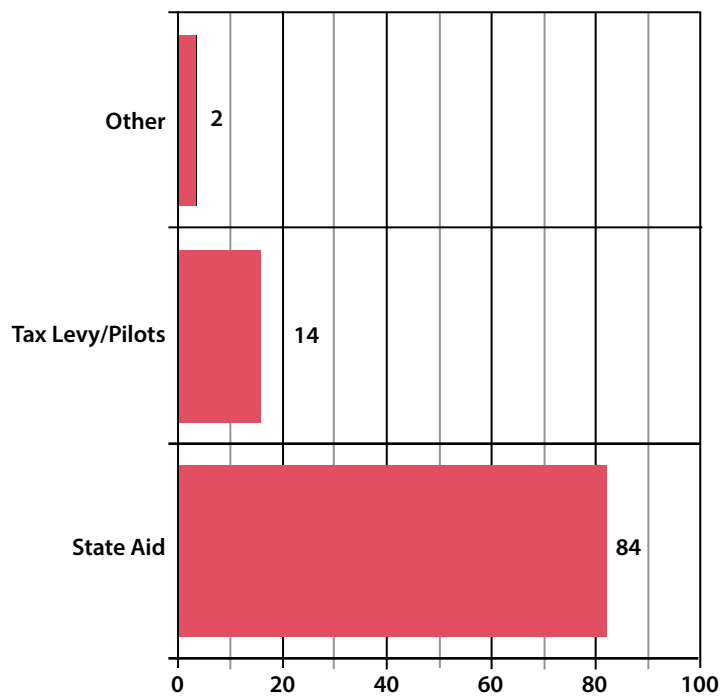
PLEASE VOTE ON MAY 16, 2023

# UCSD BUDGET INFORMATION

## Where Do the Educational Dollars Come From?

General Fund Revenues	2022-23 Final Budget	2023-24 Proposed Budget
State Aid Projection	\$ 179,111,997	\$ 209,247,185
Local Tax Levy	\$ 30,005,865	\$ 30,005,865
Pilots	\$ 600,000	\$ 600,000
Medicaid	\$ 400,000	\$ 300,000
Medicare Part D	\$ 400,000	\$ 300,000
Interest on Investments	\$ 50,000	\$ 25,000
Miscellaneous	\$ 544,700	\$ 462,000
Refund Prior Year	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000
Taxes on Utilities	\$ 1,400,000	\$ 1,400,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 213,512,562</b>	<b>\$ 243,340,050</b>

### Revenues



### Voter Qualifications:

1. You must be a citizen of the United State of America.
2. You are at least 18 years of age.
3. You are a registered voter OR a resident of the school district for at least 30 days prior to the election and execute a residency acknowledgment prior to voting.
4. You are not otherwise prohibited from voting under the provisions of section 5-106 of the Election law.

No eligible voters shall be denied the right to vote based upon their inability to read and write English.



# OUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

## ALBANY



## COLUMBUS



## CONKLING



## GENERAL HERKIMER



## HUGHES



## JEFFERSON



PLEASE VOTE ON MAY 16, 2023



# OUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

## JONES



## KERNAN



## MLK



## WATSON WILLIAMS





## OUR MIDDLE SCHOOLS

### DONOVAN



### JFK



## OUR HIGH SCHOOL

### PROCTOR HIGH SCHOOL



PLEASE VOTE ON MAY 16, 2023



**Utica City School District**  
929 York Street  
Utica, NY 13502

**Nonprofit Org.**  
**U.S. Postage**  
**PAID**  
**Permit No. 566**  
**Utica, NY**

### Board Members

Joseph Hobika, *President*  
Danielle Padula, *Vice President*  
Robert Cardillo  
Donald Dawes  
Tennille Knoop  
James Paul  
David Testa

### Acting Superintendent

Brian Nolan

## UTICA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted 2022-2023	Budget Proposed 2023-2024	Contingency Budget 2023-24 *
Total budgeted amount, not including separate propositions	\$213,512,562	\$243,340,050	\$242,495,050
Increase / decrease for the 2023-2024 school year		\$29,827,488	\$28,982,488
Percentage increase (decrease) in each proposed budget		13.97%	13.57%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.70%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$30,005,865	\$30,005,865	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable			
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **			
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy			
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$30,005,865	\$30,005,865	\$29,160,865
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	\$0	\$0	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$31,340,480	\$31,019,318	
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy for School Purposes, <u>Excluding</u> Permissible Exclusions and Levy for Library Debt, Plus Prior Year Tax Cap Reserve (E - B - F + D)	\$30,005,865	\$30,005,865	
I. Difference: (G - H): (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval See Note Below Regarding Propositions) **	\$1,334,615	\$1,013,453	
Administrative component	\$16,151,740	\$18,506,164	\$18,506,164
Program component	\$163,348,062	\$183,525,902	\$183,015,902
Capital component	\$34,012,760	\$41,307,984	\$40,972,984

\* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2023-24 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to section 2023 of the Education Law. The contingent budget reflects the removal of non state aided equipment purchases in the amount of \$845,000.

\*\* 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).

### Basic STAR Exemption Savings

	Under the Budget Proposal for the 2023-2024 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$471

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Classroom Instructional Equipment	\$(100,000)
Maintenance Equipment	\$(335,000)
Security Equipment	\$(100,000)
Non Aidable Computer Equipment	\$(100,000)
Other Equipment	\$(210,000)

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023-2024 by the qualified voters of the Utica City school district, Oneida County, New York, will be held at 24 voting locations in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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