



# GERMANTOWN

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MAY 2023 — BUDGET EDITION

## BUDGET VOTE

TUESDAY  
MAY 16, 2023  
Noon – 9 p.m.

Elementary School Gym  
123 Main Street  
Germantown, NY 12526

3.48% TAX LEVY  
INCREASE

PROPOSED  
2023-24 BUDGET  
\$17,289,023

### BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS:

- Improve inclusion strategies.
- Build more higher education opportunities.

### ALSO ON THE BALLOT:

- Board of Education Election  
(Two Seats)

## 2023-24 Budget Focuses on District Goals

A community vote on Germantown CSD's 2023-24 budget will take place Tuesday, May 16 from noon to 9 p.m. in the Elementary School Gymnasium, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting machine. The 2023-24 school budget totals \$17,289,023 and requires a 3.48% tax levy increase, which is within New York State's Property Tax Cap limit.

This year's proposed budget will focus on improving inclusion strategies, building more higher education opportunities, and implementing an in-house construction program. The district will continue its efforts in focusing on district goals: to provide a safe, inclusive, welcoming environment for all; promote community engagement; strengthen and implement an innovative K-12 curriculum; and re-establish pre-pandemic school routines.

"We are pleased that we are able to grow programming for our students," District Superintendent Benjamin Bragg said. "It's our goal to ensure that students graduate from Germantown Central Schools college and career ready, while we strive to be good financial stewards for our community."

Additionally, the 2023-24 budget includes funding to change water tanks and pump systems, and attach a fourth well to the building. These improvements will be accomplished through a \$100,000 Capital Outlay project. These projects receive State Building Aid reimbursement in the year following project completion.

The community will also vote on two (2) open seats on the Board of Education.



*Students continue to work hard in the classroom and in athletics. Go Clippers!*

# BUDGET COMPARISON

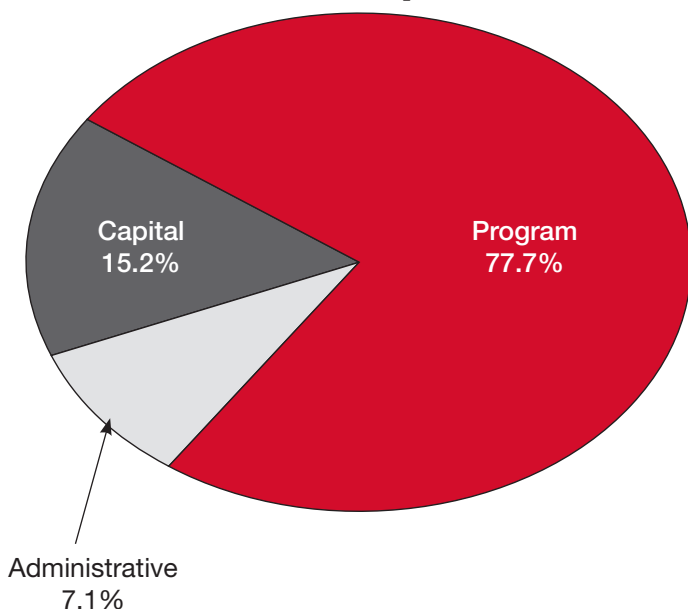
	2022-2023	2023-2024	Change	% of Budget
<b>PROGRAM</b>	\$14,887,200	\$13,438,758	(1,448,442)	77.7%
Teaching Regular School Inc. Summer School, Programs and Services for Students with Disabilities, Occupational Education, Instructional Technology, School Library, Guidance, Health Services, Social Work, Interscholastic Athletics, Co-Curricular Activities, Student Transportation, BOCES Support, Fringe Benefits				
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE</b>	\$628,852	\$1,229,250	600,398	7.1%
Board of Education, Central Administration, Business Administration/Finance, School Principals, Special Education Administrator, Purchasing, Data Processing, Auditing, Legal Services, General Insurance, BOCES Support, District Share of BOCES Admin. Cost, Fringe Benefits				
<b>CAPITAL</b>	\$1,388,118	\$2,621,015	1,232,897	15.2%
Operation of Plant, Maintenance of Plant, Security, Utilities, Construction From Operating Funds, Principal and Interest on Debt, BOCES Support, Fringe Benefits				
<b>BUDGET TOTAL</b>	<b>\$16,904,170</b>	<b>\$17,289,023</b>	<b>384,853</b>	<b>100%</b>

# REVENUE ESTIMATES

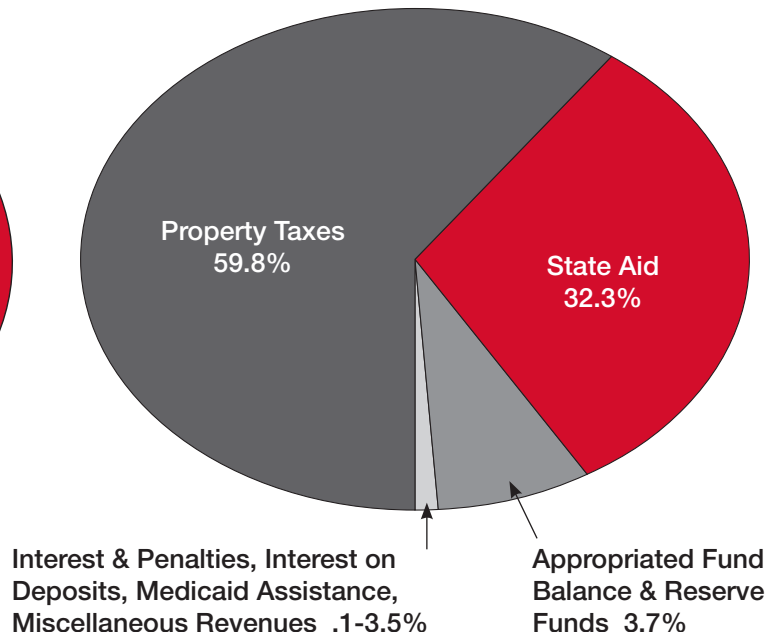
	2022-2023	2023-2024	Change	% of Revenues
Property Taxes	\$9,992,685	\$10,340,331	347,646	59.8%
State Aid*	5,786,485	5,592,217	(194,268)	32.3%
Appropriated Fund Balance & Reserve Funds	900,000	646,823	(253,177)	3.7%
Interest & Penalties (for late payment of taxes)	20,000	20,000	0	.1%
Interest on Deposits	30,000	30,000	0	.2%
Medicaid Assistance	50,000	50,000	0	.3%
Miscellaneous Revenues	125,000	609,652	484,652	3.5%
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$16,904,170</b>	<b>\$17,289,023</b>	<b>384,853</b>	<b>100%</b>

Figures based upon New York State Budget estimates at the time of printing. See the website for any changes.

## 2023-24 Expenses



## 2023-24 Revenues



# GERMANTOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2022-23 school year	Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 school year	Contingent Budget for the 2023-24 school year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 16,904,170	\$ 17,289,023	\$16,939,337
Increase/Decrease for the 2023-24 school year		\$ 384,853	\$ 35,167
Percentage Increase/Decrease in proposed budget		2.27%	0.21%
Change in the Consumer Price Index			
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 9,992,685	\$ 10,340,331	
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 Tax Year Levy (A + B + C + D)	\$ 9,992,685	\$ 10,340,331	
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	\$ 536,745	\$ 545,352	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 9,455,940	\$ 9,794,979	
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)	\$ 9,455,940	\$ 9,794,979	
I. Difference: (G - H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$ -	\$ -	
Administrative Component	\$ 628,852	\$ 1,229,250	\$ 1,204,387
Program Component	\$ 14,887,200	\$ 13,438,758	\$ 13,166,947
Capital Component	\$ 1,388,118	\$ 2,621,015	\$ 2,568,003

School districts are required by law to mail this information to all voters of the District after the date of the Budget Hearing on May 3, 2023 but no later than six days prior to the budget vote and election.

The annual Budget Vote for the fiscal year 2023-24 by the qualified voters of the Germantown Central School District, Columbia County, New York, will be held at the Germantown Elementary School Gymnasium in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m., prevailing time, at which time the polls will be open to vote by voting ballot or machine.

\*Under NYS law, a school may submit a budget to voters a maximum of two times. If the budget is defeated the Board may adopt a contingent budget or put a budget before the voters a second time. If the budget is defeated twice, the Board must adopt a contingent budget. Certain existing contingent budget requirements remain in effect that prohibit spending in specific areas including community use of buildings, certain salary increases and new equipment purchases. More significantly a district that adopts a contingent budget may not increase its current tax levy by any amount. Using the required formula the proposed budget is within the allowable tax levy limit, and requires a simple majority. The proposed tax levy increase under the proposed budget is \$35,167.

**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
	NONE	\$0
	Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year	
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>		\$402

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

## BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION

There are three (3) candidates seeking to fill two (2) open seats on the Board of Education. Both seats are for four (4) year terms beginning in July 2023. The following candidates will be listed on the ballot in the following order (as determined by random drawing):

### TERESA REPKO

I am married and have lived in Germantown for 20 years. My husband, John, and I have 4 grown children, Peter, Amelia, Amanda and Patrick who have all graduated from Germantown. I am active in the community, chair of the zoning board and have been a member of the school board for 16 years. I am committed to transparency and communication to our community. I would like to continue to help our district meet all state requirements while keeping our own traditions intact as much as possible. I would appreciate your support in this election. Thank you.

### DAVID RIFENBURGH

David Rifenburg is a lifelong resident and member of the Germantown Community. David brings a number of experiences and perspectives that will be valuable to the Germantown Board of Education. Professionally, David has 29 years of experience in finance with an emphasis in business profitability, budgeting and taxation. He is a Certified Financial Planner and a present member of the Germantown Land Use and Zoning Update Committee. As a local landowner, a husband to a certified teacher and father of three, David recognizes the need to provide a high-quality education while maintaining fiscal responsibility. David has a long track record of service to the youth in the community through his prior leadership in the Germantown Youth Basketball Program, the Southern Columbia Soccer League and Southern Columbia Soccer League.

### CHERYL DEL POZZO KASZLUGA

I have been a lifelong resident and currently live in Germantown with my husband Krzysztof. I was a 1978 graduate of Germantown Central School with two children that had also attended GCS. When I was approached about running for the school board, it took a good amount of thought due to me currently working as a Real Property tax assessor for four municipalities within two counties. In my position, I get numerous calls about school taxes and the burden it puts on the residents. I realize it is not an easy fix, although at the least, I can give an understanding of how the assessments versus taxes work. I have also been through the difficulties of having children in school and how every child has their strengths and weaknesses. Not only will I cheer on the scholars, but I will also fight for the children and their parents if they find themselves in an unfair and unjust situation.

## LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

### Board of Education

Lester Olsson, *President*  
Teresa Repko, *Vice President*  
Linda Anderson  
Ralph DelPozzo  
Andrea Foley  
Carole Neville  
Andrea Provan

### Superintendent

Benjamin Bragg

Produced by Questar III Communications Service

[www.germantowncsd.org](http://www.germantowncsd.org)



Students in the Jr./Sr. High School performed in *The Wizard of Oz* during the Spring Musical. This was the first time the new auditorium was used for a musical performance.

## VOTER INFORMATION

### When and where is the vote?

**TUESDAY, MAY 16 • NOON – 9 P.M.**

Elementary School Gymnasium  
123 Main Street • Germantown, NY 12526

**Who is eligible to vote?** Anyone who is a U.S. citizen, 18 years of age or older and is a resident of the Germantown Central School District for a period of 30 days or more prior to the day of the vote or is registered to vote with either the School District or the Columbia County Board of Elections.

**How can I vote by absentee ballot?** An eligible voter who is unable to go to the polls on May 16 can cast their vote by absentee ballot. Applications for absentee ballots may be obtained at the District Office. If you would like your ballot to be mailed to you, applications must be received by District Clerk Lisa Shanley at least seven days prior to the vote. Applications must be received by the District Clerk by May 15 if the ballot will be picked up personally by the voter. Completed absentee ballots must be received at the office of the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on May 16.

### What if I have questions?

The district website, [www.germantowncsd.org](http://www.germantowncsd.org), has additional budget resources including budget presentations. You can also call the District Office at 518-537-6281.