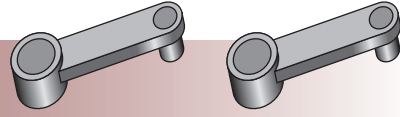




# An eye on the **BOTTOM LINE!**



**Fort Plain taxpayers are being asked to vote on a proposed \$15,530,000 budget for 2006-07 that reflects a 2.96 percent increase in spending, as compared to the 2005-06 budget.**

The total tax levy would increase 6.76 percent, with local taxpayers seeing a projected average increase of \$2.23 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

The tax impact figures are estimates because final tax bills will not be established until August when equalization rates and assessed values are set and all tax certioraris are filed.

### **Escalating costs**

Fort Plain is looking at higher costs for:

- Employee health insurance.
- Payment to New York State Retirement System.
- Energy, with prices projected to rise for gasoline, electricity, natural gas, and diesel fuel.

### **What happens if a majority of voters don't approve the budget?**

If a majority of Fort Plain residents vote "no" on the budget on May 16, the school board can either schedule another vote or adopt a contingency budget.

If the budget is defeated a second time, the board would have to adopt a contingency budget. Because the district's proposed budget essentially meets the guidelines of a contingency budget, there would be few changes under contingency, and the tax impact for residents will be essentially the same.

### **Residents to elect two to Board of Education**

Voters will be asked to elect two people to fill seats on the Fort Plain Central School District Board of Education. Term of office for each seat is three years. Newly elected board members will begin their terms on July 1.

Amy E. Sammons and incumbent Mary Beth Hudyncia are the only two names to appear on the ballot.

## Voters to decide on bus proposition

**In a separate proposition, voters will decide whether to authorize the Fort Plain Board of Education to borrow no more than \$390,000 to buy three full-size buses, one conversion van with wheelchair lift and flexible floor plan, and one sedan or small van.**

This proposition would enable the district to continue a program that voters approved in 2003 to replace buses on a five-year rotation. Replacing buses every five years assures:

- A guaranteed minimum trade-in of \$20,000 per full-size bus.

- A safe, reliable and cost-effective transportation fleet at no additional cost to the local taxpayer.  
Under current aid formula, New York State will reimburse the Fort Plain Central School District for more than 80 percent of the cost of the vehicles over five years. Financing is designed to match state aid payments. Funds remaining in a Capital Fund Bus Purchase Reserve can be used to cover the remaining cost of the debt service payments. At trade-in, the district will likely receive \$20,000 for a full-size bus, more than it has spent on the vehicle.  
The bus replacement program will continue to be self supporting in the coming school year.

Bulk Rate  
Non-profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Fort Plain, NY  
Permit No. 2

Carrier Rt. Sort

### **Fort Plain Central School**

25 High Street • Fort Plain, NY 13339

LOCAL BOXHOLDER

**BUDGET HEARING:  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 3**

7:30 p.m. in the

Harry Hoag School,

Ronald H. Thibodeau

Conference Room



**REMEMBER TO VOTE  
TUESDAY, MAY 16**

Polls open 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Harry Hoag School gymnasium



Fort Plain  
Central  
School  
District

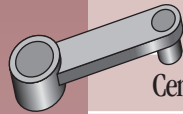
# Fort Plain Budget Vote



## Tuesday, May 16

# Fort Plain Budget Vote

on Tuesday, May 16



Residents of the Fort Plain

Central School District will go to the

polls on Tuesday, May 16 to vote on

next year's proposed school budget.

Voters will also elect two candidates to

serve on the board of education.

Polls will be open from 1-9 p.m. in the

Harry Hoag School gymnasium.

By law, voters must be U.S. citizens, age

18 or older, and residents of the district

for at least 30 days prior to the vote.

Advance registration is NOT required.

Please take the time to learn about

the proposed school district budget

during a public hearing set for

7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 3, in

the Ronald H. Thibodeau Conference

Room at Harry Hoag School.



## The Proposed 2006-07 School Budget at a Glance ...

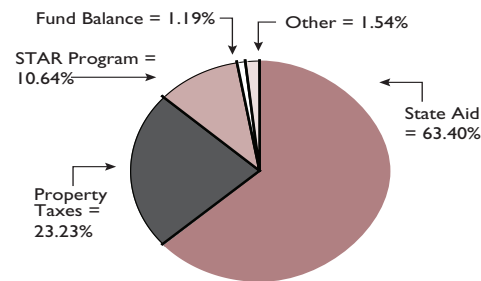
### EXPENDITURES

	2005-06 Budget	2006-07 Proposed Budget	Percent Change
General Support	\$1,572,632	\$1,748,888	11.21%
Instruction	8,110,477	8,385,622	3.39%
Pupil Transportation	767,218	826,817	7.77%
Employee Benefits	3,290,588	3,507,332	6.59%
Debt Service & Related Transfers	1,343,085	1,061,341	-20.98%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$15,084,000</b>	<b>\$15,530,000</b>	<b>2.96%</b>

### REVENUES

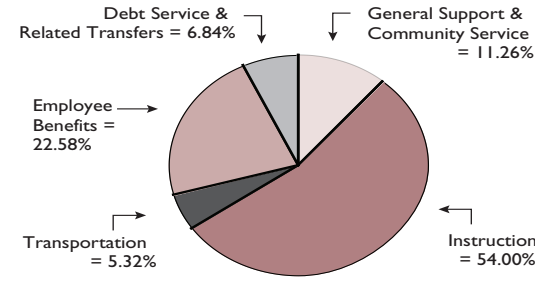
	2005-06 Budget	2006-07 Proposed Budget	Percent Change
State Aid	\$9,477,552	\$9,845,672	3.88%
Property Taxes	3,379,504	\$3,607,794	6.76%
STAR Program	1,548,293	\$1,652,884	6.76%
Fund Balance	440,000	\$185,000	-57.95%
Other	238,651	238,650	0.00%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$15,084,000</b>	<b>\$15,530,000</b>	<b>2.96%</b>

### 2006-07 Revenue Summary



A portion of the property tax levy will be paid by the state under the School Tax Relief (STAR) program. Every primary residence taxpayer throughout the state – regardless of age or income – will receive a reduction in their school taxes provided they've applied for the exemption. For more information, contact your town assessor's office. 🍏

### 2006-07 Expense Summary



Education is a people-intensive business, and this is reflected in the budget. More than 70 percent of Fort Plain's annual budget is spent on salaries and benefits and this will continue to be the case as standards and expectations rise. A quality school system, quite simply, depends on a quality staff. 🍏

## Proposed BUDGET PROVIDES

### staffing & resources to:



#### Maintain current staffing levels.

The proposed budget preserves the existing teacher-to-student ratio ensuring each student a sound, basic education.



#### Maintain an exemplary second-language program.

Fort Plain's Spanish language program enables students to meet and exceed the state's foreign language proficiency levels, making it among the most effective foreign language programs in the state.



#### Maintain existing extracurricular programs.

Interscholastic athletics, music and other extracurricular activities remain intact.

#### To meet budgetary objectives, the Board of Education:



Will no longer contract for a social worker and psychological services through Montgomery County. These services will be provided by district personnel next year.



Eliminated a business teaching position with a shift of courses to the math department.



Shifted one elementary teaching position from intermediate to primary level to reduce class size and utilize a federal grant to pay for salary and benefits.

#### The district seeks outside resources to enhance programs and services. Grant funds included:

- 🍏 \$ 384,459 for remedial education staff and benefits
- 🍏 \$222,032 for special education staff and benefits - IDEA grant
- 🍏 \$70,223 for class-size reduction & professional development
- 🍏 \$13,006 for records management
- 🍏 \$8,051 for safe and drug-free schools
- 🍏 \$7,063 for computer technology equipment and training
- 🍏 \$8,351 for preschool programs from IDEA grant
- 🍏 \$6,493 from Innovative Programs grant
- 🍏 \$ 3,372 for preschool special education