

## 2023-2024 PROPOSED BUDGET

### BUDGET VOTE:

**Tuesday,  
May 16  
1-9 pm  
Jr/Sr High  
School  
Lobby**

#### Voter

#### Qualifications:

Must be a citizen of the United States. Must be eighteen (18) years of age. Must be a resident of the district for a minimum of thirty days prior to May 16, 2023.

#### Absentee Ballots

#### Available:

Contact the District Clerk for an application at 315-677-9728.

#### Detailed Budget:

A detailed budget may be obtained by any district resident at school district offices beginning April 27, 2023 during weekday hours of 8 am - 4 pm.

*Dear LaFayette Central School District Residents:*

We are pleased to announce that our proposed 2023-2024 school district budget is one that maximizes school district tax dollars for the benefit of our students. Here are a few examples of your past tax dollars at work:

- ◆ 97% graduation for June 2022 graduates from the LaFayette Jr/Sr High and Big Picture (92% district-wide graduation rate for students in all programs).
- ◆ Several students in grades 8-12 received awards from the CNY Scholastic Arts Awards
- ◆ The High School Musical in March was a stellar performance that showcased the talent of our students
- ◆ Lancer fans had the chance to experience several great performances by our student athletes and coaches
- ◆ Increased participation in career and technical education courses at OCM BOCES with over 20 juniors and seniors pursuing CTE training
- ◆ Personalized learning and internships for students enrolled at the Big Picture School

As a district, we have relied on our mission and vision statements and core beliefs to guide our decision-making process. Our district mission is to educate, honor, and develop students who have self-respect, a commitment to the community, and a passion for excellence. Our district vision is to inspire, empower, and prepare all students to achieve excellence. Our tagline captures the distinct identity of our school community aligned to a common goal for our students- "Four Schools, Three Buildings, Two Nations, One Goal: Excellence!" Our strategic plan focuses on improving student academic performance, and addressing the social, emotional, and mental health needs of our school community.

To achieve our school improvement efforts, we need your continued engagement and input as a school community. Here are some highlights of our 2023-2024 school district budget:

- ◆ Sustained support of health and safety needs of our school building occupants
- ◆ Add a social worker at LaFayette Jr/Sr High School to support the social, emotional, and mental health needs of our students
- ◆ Improve instrumental music instruction for an additional day per week allowing for more



small group lessons and better access to the performing arts.

- ◆ Small class sizes
- ◆ Maintain instructional programs
- ◆ Support elective options
- ◆ Continue our 1:1 technology initiative providing all students with an electronic device to support learning
- ◆ Continue our maintenance equipment replacement plan
- ◆ Keep our tax levy under the allowable tax cap
- ◆ Maintain one of the lowest school tax rates in Onondaga County
- ◆ Maintain and improve the financial condition of the district in alignment with our long-term financial plan

Thank you to our Board of Education for their service, leadership, and continued support for our students. I appreciate the continued encouragement from our school community, parents and caregivers, students, and staff. You continue to set a standard of excellence that shines with Lancer Pride! We look forward to seeing you at the polls for our school district budget vote. The budget vote will be held on Tuesday May 16, 2023, from 1:00-9:00 pm at the LaFayette Jr/Sr High School Lobby. If you have any questions regarding our proposed budget, please do not hesitate to contact me - [jbelfield@lafayetteschools.org](mailto:jbelfield@lafayetteschools.org) or 315-529-9550 (cell).

*Sincerely,*

*Jeremy Belfield, Superintendent of Schools*

## STAR School Tax Exemption

You may be eligible for the following tax exemptions resulting in a reduction of your 2023/24 school tax bill. Contact your Town Assessor's office for more information. Estimates are based on a home assessed at \$100,000.

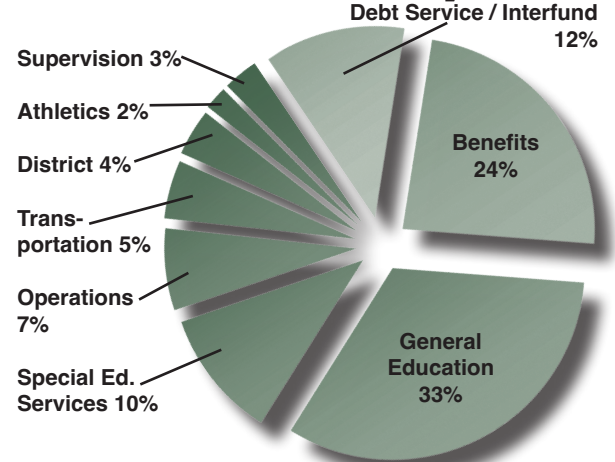
### Basic Exemption: \$529 Est. Tax Savings

- Available for owner-occupied, primary residences;
- The income limit for the Basic STAR credit is \$500,000 (the income limit for the Basic STAR exemption is \$250,000);
- Based on the first \$30,000 of the full value of a home

### Enhanced Senior Exemption: \$1,202 Est. Tax Savings

- Available on primary residence for 65+ years of age
- Household income of less than \$93,200 per year
- All Enhanced STAR recipients are required to participate in the Enhanced STAR Income Verification Program (IVP). In the first year that you apply for the Enhanced STAR exemption, your assessor will verify your eligibility based on the income information you provide. In the following years, NYS will verify your income eligibility. You will not need to reapply for the exemption or provide copies of your tax returns to your local assessor

## Where the Money Goes



## Budget Analysis

SCHOOL YEAR	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	PROJECTED 2023-24
Budget Appropriations	\$18,162,146	\$18,735,315	\$18,964,918	\$19,567,132	\$20,324,251	\$20,631,885	\$21,389,579	\$23,721,781
\$ Budget Increase	\$1,119,506	\$573,169	\$229,603	\$602,214	\$757,119	\$307,634	\$757,694	\$2,332,202
% Budget Increase	6.57%	3.16%	1.23%	3.18%	3.87%	1.51%	3.67%	10.90%
Budgeted State Aid	\$9,475,896	\$9,672,816	\$9,448,217	\$9,510,217	\$9,656,458	\$9,751,904	\$10,392,042	\$11,863,307
\$ State Aid Increase	\$1,116,367	\$196,920	(\$224,599)	\$62,000	\$146,241	\$95,446	\$640,139	\$1,471,265
% State Aid Increase	13.35%	2.08%	(2.32%)	0.66%	1.54%	0.99%	6.56%	14.16%
Tax Levy	\$5,736,320	\$5,849,176	\$5,994,765	\$6,145,312	\$6,327,190	\$6,466,481	\$6,595,164	\$6,726,408
\$ Tax Levy Increase	\$6,785	\$112,856	\$145,589	\$150,547	\$181,878	\$139,291	\$128,683	\$131,244
% Tax Levy Increase	0.12%	1.97%	2.49%	2.51%	2.96%	2.20%	1.99%	1.99%

## LCS ACHIEVEMENTS • LCS ACHIEVEMENTS • LCS ACHIEVEMENTS

### GRIMSHAW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Grimshaw is committed to supporting our students' academics, social emotional learning, mental health, and behavior. We are excited to roll out Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) this fall!
- ◆ Grimshaw students have had several opportunities throughout the year for enrichment and to enhance our curriculum
- ◆ Sixth grade students participated in an Interactive Career Day in December. Students learned about careers in architecture, engineering, and construction from professionals working on our library renovation.
- ◆ We're thankful for a strong music program! We have 90 students in our fourth, fifth, and sixth grade band this year and approximately 45 students participating in our fifth and sixth grade chorus.





## Board of Education Candidates

The terms of office for current board members, Jody Gates, Mike LaCava and Carole Dwyer will expire on June 30, 2023. There will be three 3 year terms (7/1/23-6/30/26). The three candidates receiving the most votes will be elected to the 3 year terms.

### JODY GATES



I was raised in a small farming community, attending a small school much like LaFayette. I also graduated from a small college in Iowa.

My family and I have lived in this great

and welcoming community for twenty years, raising four children who are now young adults contributing to the communities they now live in. They are all alumni of LaFayette.

My six years of experience as a Board of Education trustee include helping to write new mission and vision statements, and new core beliefs. I am part of a school board that met the challenge of the pandemic by leading the way by having students in school five days per week, bringing the district successfully through a long and trying time for us all. More recently I advocated for school building improvements at Onondaga Nation.

One of my favorite things about serving on the school board is all the varying backgrounds we come from. Each one brings a unique perspective working together to make decisions. As one of my former board members so wisely said, "We may disagree on an issue but let's not be disagreeable."

If I am elected I will continue to work collaboratively with other board members, support students by encouraging them to pursue excellence, knowing that every person in every building matters and they can succeed and flourish. Every student deserves an education in a safe and secure learning environment, the district's first core value.

If elected it would be an honor to continue to serve the LaFayette community as Board of Education trustee.

### MIKE LaCAVA



Hello fellow parents, friends and LaFayette School District residents. My name is Mike LaCava and I am respectfully asking for your vote on May 16th to renew my seat on the LaFayette School

Board. Beginning in 2005, I served for twelve years and it has been an honor to represent you again in the current school year, advocating for the students, parents, teachers and community members of LaFayette.

I've lived in the community of LaFayette for the past twenty-eight years with my wife, Claire and our two kids, Chase and Riley who both had excellent educational experiences in the LaFayette schools. I grew up in Cooperstown, and Claire is from Greene, NY. We were fortunate to find another small community to raise a family here in LaFayette. In the past, I was actively involved in coaching youth sports, LaFayette Community Council, Booster Club, Optimist Club, and charitable endeavors. I currently serve on the LaFayette Planning Board, Republican Committee and as a deacon at Northside Church in Liverpool, NY.

I was employed by New York Central Mutual Insurance for over thirty-two years. At NYCM, I achieved the level of Senior Vice President working in a diverse team environment. I retired in 2017. I am currently a real estate agent with Next Home CNY Realty. My prior school board experience, as well as my business knowledge, makes me uniquely qualified to serve you on the LaFayette Board of Education. I am fiscally conservative with budgetary experience in both the business sector and the school district setting. This background is a valuable asset with appropriation of funds for the future of our district. A quality education with responsible spending is a key duty for a school board member. I will promote a collaborative approach to strive for even greater transparency with the community. I am an independent thinker and I will focus my decisions on what is best for the students of LaFayette.

I look forward to building on the many successes achieved by our schools and also will actively seek out opportunities for change through the evaluation of existing programs, making necessary adjustments to maximize the effectiveness of education for all of our children. It will be my absolute privilege to be entrusted with continuing to serve LaFayette as a member of your school board. Thank you for the opportunity to continue to represent and serve you.

### LARKIN PODSIEDLIK



I grew up just over the hill and went to Fabius-Pompey. I graduated from SUNY Geneseo for college, and Tufts University for graduate school. I received an MS in Agriculture, Food

and the Environment and a Master's in Public Health with a concentration in Nutrition. I have spent my career working in the nonprofit and agriculture sectors in urban and rural areas, doing community nutrition and garden education, philanthropy, school wellness and Cooperative Extension work. Much of my work has been connected to schools. I've trained school wellness teams to develop policies and apply for grants to boost their school wellness work, and I have taught nearly every age group from pre-K to senior citizens how to grow food, cook, and eat healthy on a budget. In my current role as Executive Director at Cornell Cooperative Extension Madison County, I work closely with a Board of Directors, which functions much like a Board of Education. In addition to my professional work, I serve on the board of CNY Regional Market Authority, multiple SUNY Geneseo Alumni committees, and am a member of the Women's Fund of CNY. I recently ended a two year term on the LaFayette Conservation Commission.

We moved to LaFayette in 2019 to raise our young family. My husband is a teacher in another district, our son is a student at Grimschaw, and our daughter is 3. After living in Boston, Rochester, and the Ithaca area we returned to CNY to be closer to family and our roots. We chose LaFayette for its rural character and the wonderful community we saw here.

I enjoy serving my community and seek out opportunities to put my skills in communication and leadership to good use to build a stronger rural community. I want to support and advocate for all our students at all four schools to help them receive the best possible education. I want to work with other board members to find common ground and shared values to help our youth succeed. I also understand the perspective of teachers and aim to learn from their deep understanding of student needs. Our district has unique needs and I would like to help ensure adequate resources for student success. My goal on the board would be to build consensus and shared understanding, be a good steward of taxpayer dollars, support teachers, and advocate for the success of all children in our community.

**BUDGET VOTE: TUESDAY, MAY 16 • 1- 9 PM • JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL LOBBY**

## Program Component

This budget category is the largest of the three budget components, representing 69.9% of the total components. It includes all expenditures directly related to the student educational program. Included are monies for all instructional personnel and programs including general education, occupational education, special education, technology, staff development and summer school. Also included are student services such as health, guidance, social worker, psychologist, library, co-curricular, athletics, transportation, census and the employee benefits for those programs.

	<b>2022/23 Adopted Budget</b>	<b>2023/24 Proposed Budget</b>	<b>\$ Change</b>
<b>General Education K-12</b> Salaries, textbooks, supplies, equipment, BOCES, tuition, contractual expense	\$5,621,470	\$5,947,280	\$325,810
<b>Special Education</b> Salaries, supplies, equipment, textbooks, tuition, contractual services, BOCES	\$2,274,738	\$2,393,165	\$118,427
<b>Technology</b> Staff stipends, computer equipment, BOCES support, software	\$503,657	\$511,664	\$8,007
<b>Prevention</b> Summer School, BOCES Services	\$156,857	\$214,080	\$57,223
<b>Student Support Services</b> Books, BOCES, computer equipment, contractual services, periodicals, salaries, software, and supplies	\$779,580	\$947,954	\$168,374
<b>Co-Curricular</b> Advisors, supplies, equipment	\$94,597	\$98,212	\$3,615
<b>Athletics</b> Coaches, equipment, officials, uniforms	\$361,383	\$389,080	\$27,697
<b>Pupil Transportation</b> Salaries, bus maintenance, supplies, repairs, fuel	\$1,120,314	\$1,285,672	\$165,358
<b>Employee Benefits</b> NYS Retirement, Health/Dental Insurance, FICA, Unemployment, Worker's Comp	\$4,314,784	\$4,795,012	\$480,228
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM COMPONENT</b>	<b>\$15,227,380</b>	<b>\$16,582,119</b>	<b>\$1,354,739</b>

## LCS ACHIEVEMENTS • LCS ACHIEVEMENTS • LCS ACHIEVEMENTS

### BIG PICTURE SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Internship opportunities at Big Picture are back to pre-pandemic levels and our students are learning alongside adult mentors.
- ◆ We participated in the School Exchange again. Students from Big Picture, Henninger and Liverpool met to dialogue about culture and race. Three Big Picture students took the role of peer facilitator in the exchange.
- ◆ Big Picture continues to partner with OCC in the Early College Program. Several of our students participated, earning college credits in Biology, Photography, ASL, Drawing and Hospitality Management.
- ◆ Our Sugar Shack produced several bottles of syrup this spring and our community garden produced beautiful flowers this summer and fall. We are tending to the garden now in preparation for another successful year.



## Administrative Component

As defined by NYS Education Department, this budget category includes monies for the majority of the instruction support services in the District. It is comprised of a general support section, an instructional supervision section and a section for employee benefits for personnel in associated areas. This component represents 8.6% of the components. The categories marked with \* and \*\* represent 78% and 65%, respectively, of the amount needed to operate these services; the balance is charged to the State for administering and maintaining financial records for the Onondaga Nation School.

	2022/23 Adopted Budget	2023/24 Proposed	\$ Change
<b>Board of Education*</b>			
Membership, District Clerk, district meetings	\$24,108	\$25,804	\$1,696
<b>Central Administration*</b>	\$177,839	\$186,906	\$9,067
Chief school administration, salaries, supplies, contractual services			
<b>Finance**</b> Salaries - payroll, accounts payable, tax collection, auditing, purchasing, business administration, supplies, contractual services	\$284,421	\$286,782	\$2,361
<b>Legal / Personnel / Public Information*</b>	\$89,919	\$90,512	\$593
Contractual services, negotiations, employee assistance program, public information			
<b>Central Services</b>	\$71,738	\$80,780	\$9,042
Paper, copying supplies, contractual services			
<b>Special Items</b>	\$156,197	\$170,878	\$14,681
Insurance, appraisals, BOCES administrative charges			
<b>Curriculum Development / Planning</b>	\$138,926	\$139,187	\$261
Staff stipends, supplies, BOCES, contractual services			
<b>Supervision of Instruction</b>	\$562,470	\$581,864	\$19,394
Salaries, supplies, equipment, materials			
<b>Employee Benefits</b>	\$432,837	\$475,004	\$42,167
NYS Retirement, Health/Dental Insurance, FICA, Unemployment, Worker's Comp.			
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATION COMPONENT</b>	<b>\$1,938,455</b>	<b>\$2,037,717</b>	<b>\$99,262</b>

## LCS ACHIEVEMENTS • LCS ACHIEVEMENTS • LCS ACHIEVEMENTS

### JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Creation of the first ever LaFayette Jr./Sr. High School Trap Team
- ◆ National Honor Society volunteered at Sleep in Heavenly Peace
- ◆ Ben Ryan attended the NYSPHSAA Leadership Conference in Albany
- ◆ Jr High School career fair
- ◆ Christian DeJoseph Scored his 1000<sup>th</sup> point in basketball
- ◆ School-wide Chili Cook off in culinary arts





## Capital Component

The Capital budget category, as defined by NYS Education Department, consists primarily of monies for the operation and maintenance of district facilities. Also included are related employee benefits, and debt services payments on long-term obligations. This component represents approximately 21.5% of the components.

	2022/23 Adopted Budget	2023/24 Proposed Budget	\$ Change
<b>Operation of Plant</b> (Custodial) Salaries, supplies, equipment, utilities, contractual services	\$1,082,697	\$1,133,503	\$50,806
<b>Maintenance of Plant</b> (Buildings) Salaries, supplies, equipment, repairs, contractual services, special projects	\$420,617	\$463,701	\$43,084
<b>Employee Benefits</b> NYS Retirement, Health/Dental Insurance, FICA, Unemployment, Worker's Comp.	\$416,962	\$465,391	\$48,429
<b>Debt Service</b> Bonds & Notes, Principal and Interest, Bus Debt	\$2,303,468	\$3,039,350	\$735,882
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL COMPONENT</b>	<b>\$4,223,744</b>	<b>\$5,101,945</b>	<b>\$878,201</b>
<b>TOTAL: THREE PART COMPONENT BUDGET</b>	<b>\$21,389,579</b>	<b>\$23,721,781</b>	<b>\$2,332,202</b>

## LCS ACHIEVEMENTS • LCS ACHIEVEMENTS • LCS ACHIEVEMENTS JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Creation of the new Southern Hills Storm Girls Lacrosse team
- ◆ 8th grade transdisciplinary project on the dangers of plastic pollution
- ◆ National Honor Society Inductions ceremony
- ◆ 8th Grade held a Harlem Renaissance Museum
- ◆ Teacher facilitated Professional Learning Communities



## 2023/2024 Propositions

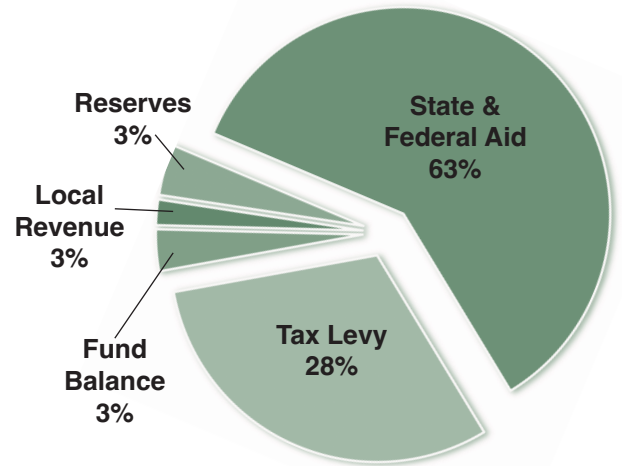
### Proposition I - Budget

Shall the proposed budget of \$23,721,781 for the LaFayette Central School District as recommended by the Board of Education for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, be adopted and shall the Board of Education be authorized to levy the necessary taxes therefore.

### Proposition II - Transportation

Shall the Board of Education be authorized to purchase two (2) replacement student transportation vehicles, including related furnishings and equipment incidental thereto, expend, therefore a total sum not to exceed \$334,000 which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and pay for such vehicles by the levy of a tax which is hereby voted and approved in the amount of \$334,000 which shall be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education and in anticipation of the collection of such tax, bonds, and notes of the District are hereby authorized to be issued at one time, or from time to time, in the principal amount not to exceed \$334,000, and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on said obligations when due.

## Where the Money Comes From



## How is the Budget Funded?

### 2023/24 Proposed

#### Summary of State & Federal Aid

New York State	\$11,863,307
Other State Aid	\$2,995,000
Medicaid Reimbursement	\$30,000

<b>TOTAL AID</b>	<b>14,888,307</b>
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#### Local Sources

County Sales Tax	\$26,000
Interest & Earnings	\$140,000
Other Local Revenues	\$481,400

<b>TOTAL LOCAL SOURCES</b>	<b>\$647,400</b>
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#### Use of Reserves

Retirement Reserve	\$451,000
Unemployment Reserve	\$20,000
Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve	\$150,000

<b>TOTAL RESERVES</b>	<b>\$621,000</b>
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#### APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE

Offset Tax Levy	\$838,666
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<b>TOTAL BEFORE TAXES</b>	<b>\$16,995,373</b>
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<b>PROPERTY TAXES</b>	<b>\$6,726,408</b>
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<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$23,721,781</b>
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## Capital Outlay

Capital outlay projects are currently allowed for just one building each year up to \$100,000. All of the proper paperwork must be filed with the State Education Department in advance and be approved before the work can be done. The advantage is that the aid is received in full for this project in the following year, whereas with all other capital projects, the project aid is spread out over 15, 20 or 30 years depending upon the type of construction involved.

This year's capital outlay project will consist of converting the remainder of the lighting at the Jr/Sr High School to LED. This will provide cost savings as well as enhancing the lighting within the school. This project will complete the LED lighting conversion at the Jr/Sr High School.

# PLEASE VOTE

# LaFayette CENTRAL SCHOOLS

5955 Route 20, West  
LaFayette, NY 13084

Non-Profit Organization  
US Postage Paid  
PERMIT NO. 4238  
Syracuse, NY

OCCUPANT  
Rural Route/Boxholder  
LaFayette, NY 13084

## Overall School District Budget Proposal

	Budget Adopted for the 2022/23 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2023/24 School Year	Dollar Change	Percent Change
<b>Total Budget Amount</b>	<b>\$21,389,579</b>	<b>\$23,721,781</b>	<b>\$2,332,202</b>	<b>10.9%</b>
Administrative Component	\$1,938,455	\$2,037,717	\$99,262	5.1%
Program Component	\$15,227,380	\$16,582,119	\$1,354,739	8.9%
Capital Component	\$4,223,744	\$5,101,945	\$878,201	20.8%
	<b>Actual Beginning Balance 2022/23</b>	<b>Estimated Beginning Balance 2023/24</b>		
Restricted Fund Balance	\$5,174,799	\$5,198,697		
Assigned Fund Balance	\$867,905	\$838,667		
Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$855,274	\$948,871		
Unrestricted Fund Balance as a Percent of Total Budget**	4.0%	4.0%		
Change in Consumer Price Index	8.00%			

\*\*Legal limit for 2022/23 is 4%

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023/24 by the qualified voters of the LaFayette Central School District, Onondaga County, New York, will be held at LaFayette JR/SR High School in said district on May 16, 2023 between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Proposed Tax Rate per \$1,000 Assessed Value		
Current 2022/23	Est. Proposed 2023/24	Est. Annual Change
\$15.93	\$16.24	\$0.31

