

2024-2025 PROPOSED BUDGET

We are pleased to announce that our proposed 2024-2025 school district budget maximizes school district tax dollars for the benefit of all our students. Here are a few examples of your past tax dollars at work:

- ◆ 97% graduation rate for June 2023 from the LaFayette Jr/Sr High and Big Picture (94% 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 showcasing the talent of our students
- ◆ Lancer fans had the chance to experience great performances by our student athletes and coaches
- ◆ Strong participation in career and technical education courses at OCM BOCES with over 19 juniors and seniors pursuing career and technical education training courses
- ◆ Personalized learning and internships for students enrolled at the Big Picture School
- ◆ Continued commitment to Onondaga Language instruction for High School students from the Onondaga Nation



As a district, our mission and vision statements and core beliefs have always guided 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 while also aligning us to a common goal for all 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 2024-2025 school district budget:

- ◆ Sustained support of the health and safety needs of our school building occupants
- ◆ Continue to fund social workers at all school buildings to support the social, emotional, and mental health needs of our students
- ◆ Continued support for students enrolled in fine arts programming
- ◆ Small class sizes
- ◆ 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 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 21, 2024 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 or 315-529-9550 (cell).

Sincerely, Jeremy Belfield, Superintendent of Schools

BUDGET VOTE: Tuesday, May 21
1 - 9 pm • Jr/Sr High School Lobby

Detailed Budget: A detailed budget may be obtained by any district resident at school district offices beginning April 30, 2024 during weekday hours of 8 am - 4 pm.

STAR School Tax Exemption

You may be eligible for the following tax exemptions resulting in a reduction of your 2024/25 school tax bill. Contact your Town Assessor's office for more information. Estimates are based on a home assessed at \$100,000.

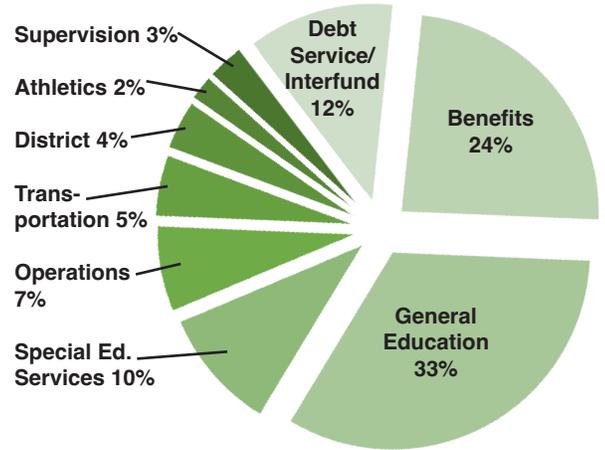
Basic Exemption: \$480 Est. Tax Savings

- 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 \$98,700 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 first \$84,000 of the full value of a home for the 2024-2025 school year.

Where the Money Goes



Budget Analysis

SCHOOL YEAR	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Budget Appropriations	\$18,735,315	\$18,964,918	\$19,567,132	\$20,324,251	\$20,631,885	\$21,389,579	\$23,721,781	\$24,195,663
\$ Budget Increase	\$573,169	\$229,603	\$602,214	\$757,119	\$307,634	\$757,694	\$2,332,202	\$473,882
% Budget Increase	3.16%	1.23%	3.18%	3.87%	1.51%	3.67%	10.90%	2.00%
Budgeted State Aid	\$9,672,816	\$9,448,217	\$9,510,217	\$9,656,458	\$9,751,904	\$10,392,042	\$11,863,307	\$11,469,869
\$ State Aid Increase	\$196,920	(\$224,599)	\$62,000	\$146,241	\$95,446	\$640,139	\$1,471,265	(\$393,438)
% State Aid Increase	2.08%	(2.32%)	0.66%	1.54%	0.99%	6.56%	14.16%	-3.32%
Tax Levy	\$5,849,176	\$5,994,765	\$6,145,312	\$6,327,190	\$6,466,481	\$6,595,164	\$6,726,408	\$6,994,792
\$ Tax Levy Increase	\$112,856	\$145,589	\$150,547	\$181,878	\$139,291	\$128,683	\$131,244	\$268,384
% Tax Levy Increase	1.97%	2.49%	2.51%	2.96%	2.20%	1.99%	1.99%	3.99%

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GRIMSHAW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ **Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS)** - We began the year by explicitly teaching what it looks like to be safe, respectful, and responsible throughout Grimshaw. During the school year, we provide reteaching of the expectations to keep them at the forefront of everything we do. Each month, we have grade level challenges and celebrate students following expectations. To celebrate our first challenge, we had a school wide dance party!
- ◆ **Press Start** - Our fall musical was Press Start! It was a great show featuring 57 of our talented students in the cast and crew.



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Board of Education Candidates

The terms of office for current board members, Ronald Shawn Reyburn and Sarah Stanton will expire June 30, 2024. There will be two 3 year terms (7/1/2024 - 6/30/2027). The two candidates receiving the most votes will be elected to the three year terms.

Ronald Shawn Reyburn



I am currently a member of the LaFayette CSD Board of Education, serving as the Board President. I also serve on the LCSD health and safety committee and am running for my second full term as a representative to the OCM BOCES Board of education where I serve on the audit committee and the facilities committee.

I've lived in LaFayette since August of 2011 and have served the Presbyterian congregation in LaFayette and recently started serving the congregation in Otisco, which is in the Tully CSD. My family and I have participated in the LaFayette community council, where I've coached soccer and basketball. I've attended several undergraduate programs while also serving in an apprenticeship in the culinary arts. From there I served as a Journeyman Chef in the Philadelphia and Wilmington, DE area. Returning to school I finished my bachelors at Lancaster Bible College with a B.S. in Biblical Studies, which led to a M.Div. (Master of Divinity) at Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education, now known as Union Presbyterian Seminary. I've completed the coursework for a doctorate in ministry in marriage and family counseling with a family systems concentration.

I enjoy serving on the boards, encouraging staff and students to be the best version of themselves, and trying to bring the best product to the people and students who need it most. In my spare time, I enjoy being outside bike riding, hiking and fishing, to name a few activities. I also enjoy reading and try to keep several books in play at any given time; one for work, one for pleasure, and one for gaining new knowledge. I really enjoy the small and rural community where I have served and bring a unique perspective to the table with two children who are not typical students.

I hope that I will be able to continue to serve as I really believe the District is constantly looking at new ways to meet the needs of students while making the schools a central hub of knowledge and activity.

Sarah Stanton



My name is Sarah Stanton, I live in Lafayette where I've owned and operated a daycare for the past 28 years. I graduated from Lafayette Jr/Sr High School after being part of the district since the second grade. Shortly after graduation I met my husband who was born and raised here as well. I continued my education and attended college for a degree in Business Administration.

With our four children attending the Lafayette School District, I am very active in extracurricular activities. I've helped in classrooms and volunteered as a coach in numerous sports since 2015. I step in and support the District whenever I can. At home, we raise a family of outdoorsmen. We love to hike, go camping and go four wheeling, to take advantage of all the landscapes that Lafayette has to offer.

I have served as a Board member of the LaFayette Central School District for the past three years and would like to continue serving for many reasons. First and foremost being that I have young children in the District. I would like to have a voice in decisions that will directly affect, not only my own children, but also the children I coach or have coached, and the children I care for during the day. I want to bridge the gap between parents and administrators. I want to improve communication between students, faculty and administration. It is with the utmost importance that the school faculty collaborates with parents and caregivers to establish consistency in children's lives. With new generations come new challenges. We are key adults in their lives and it is important that we consistently address their issues with the same thoughtfulness as if they were our own children.

There are pros and cons to serving as a board member for the District. From my experience the last three years, the pros far outweigh the cons. With that being said, I would love the opportunity to keep my place on the Board so I can continue to be the voice that bridges the gap. I will advocate for the teachers, I will advocate for the parents and I will advocate for your child. Thank you for your support.

How You Can Cast Your Vote

Early voting ballot or absentee ballot: Qualified voters* of the District may obtain applications for an absentee ballot or an early voting ballot from the office of the Clerk of the District. Application requests to be mailed must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on May 14, 2024. All other completed applications must be received by the Clerk of the District no later than 4:00 p.m. on May 20, 2024, and picked up in person. Completed absentee and early voting ballots must be received at the District Office by 5 p.m. on May 21. A voter who casts a ballot via early voting or absentee voting will not be eligible to vote in person on May 21, 2024.

In person voting: Qualified voters* of the District may vote in person via voting machine or paper ballot on May 21, 2024 at 3122 Route 11 LaFayette, New York between the hours of 1:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M prevailing time.

*A qualified voter must be (1) a citizen of the United States, (2) at least 18 years of age; and (3) a resident of the school district for a period of at least 30 days preceding the meeting or election at which you seek to vote.

Program Component

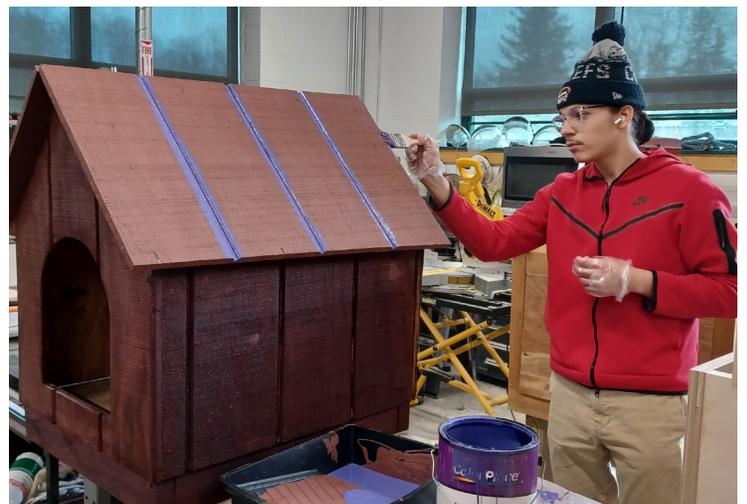
This budget category is the largest of the three budget components, representing 69.6% of the total components. It includes all expenditures directly related to the student educational program. Included are monies for all instructional personnel and programs including general education, occupational 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.

	2023/24 Adopted Budget	2024/25 Proposed Budget	\$ Change
Regular Instruction K-12 Salaries, textbooks, supplies, equipment, BOCES, tuition, contractual expense	\$5,947,280	\$6,004,499	\$57,219
Special Education Salaries, supplies, equipment, textbooks, tuition, contractual services, BOCES	\$2,393,165	\$2,350,413	(\$42,752)
Technology Staff stipends, computer equipment, BOCES support, software	\$511,664	\$579,341	\$67,677
Prevention Summer School, BOCES Services	\$214,080	\$231,460	\$17,380
Student Support Services Books, BOCES, computer equipment, contractual services, periodicals, salaries, software, and supplies	\$947,954	\$1,049,575	\$101,621
Co-Curricular Advisors, supplies, equipment	\$98,212	\$106,839	\$8,627
Athletics Coaches, equipment, officials, uniforms	\$389,080	\$414,153	\$25,073
Pupil Transportation Salaries, bus maintenance, supplies, repairs, fuel	\$1,285,672	\$1,293,737	\$8,065
Employee Benefits NYS Retirement, Health/Dental Insurance, FICA, Unemployment, Worker's Comp	\$4,795,012	\$4,807,343	\$12,331
TOTAL PROGRAM COMPONENT	\$16,582,119	\$16,837,360	\$255,241

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BIG PICTURE SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ From September 2023-March 2024, Big Picture students have experienced 4,076 hours of Real World Learning Experience.
- ◆ Students are successfully growing in our climate controlled agriculture exploration.
- ◆ Students are regularly experiencing culinary explorations by cooking for the Elder's Luncheon on the Onondaga Nation and volunteering at Clearpath for Veterans with their head chef.
- ◆ Students are volunteering for community organizations including Haven at Skanda, Rez Paws and Toys for Tots.



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 8.4% 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.

	2023/24 Adopted Budget	2024/25 Proposed Budget	\$ Change
Board of Education*			
Membership, District Clerk, district meetings	\$25,804	\$23,596	(\$2,208)
Central Administration*	\$191,740	\$204,549	\$12,809
Chief school administration, salaries, supplies, contractual services			
Finance** Salaries - payroll, accounts payable, tax collection, auditing, purchasing, business administration, supplies, contractual services	\$281,948	\$294,420	\$12,472
Legal / Personnel / Public Information*	\$90,512	\$92,305	\$1,793
Contractual services, negotiations, employee assistance program, public information			
Central Services	\$80,780	\$90,627	\$9,847
Paper, copying supplies, contractual services			
Special Items	\$170,878	\$144,267	(\$26,611)
Insurance, appraisals, BOCES administrative charges			
Curriculum Development / Planning	\$139,187	\$76,329	(\$62,858)
Staff stipends, supplies, BOCES, contractual services			
Supervision of Instruction	\$581,864	\$614,717	\$32,853
Salaries, supplies, equipment, materials			
Employee Benefits	\$475,004	\$ 481,617	\$6,613
NYS Retirement, Health/Dental Insurance, FICA, Unemployment, Worker's Comp.			
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION COMPONENT	\$2,037,717	\$2,022,427	(\$15,290)

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JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Creation of a new master schedule that incorporates a "WIN" period which allows students the opportunity to work with teachers and participate in various clubs/ intramurals all within the regular school day.
- ◆ Implemented a digital pass system which allows us to monitor the students movements throughout the building while providing our students an increased level of independence
- ◆ Implemented parent square which has increased communication between our school and community.



BUDGET VOTE: TUESDAY, MAY 21 • 1 - 9 PM • JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL LOBBY

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 21.1% of the components.

	2023/24 Adopted Budget	2024/25 Proposed Budget	\$ Change
Operation of Plant (Custodial) Salaries, supplies, equipment, utilities, contractual services	\$ 1,133,503	\$1,251,349	\$117,846
Maintenance of Plant (Buildings) Salaries, supplies, equipment, repairs, contractual services, special projects	\$463,701	\$544,037	\$80,336
Employee Benefits NYS Retirement, Health/Dental Insurance, FICA, Unemployment, Worker's Comp.	\$465,391	\$498,167	\$32,776
Debt Service Bonds & Notes, Principal and Interest, Bus Debt	\$3,039,350	\$3,042,323	\$2,973
TOTAL CAPITAL COMPONENT	\$5,101,945	\$5,335,876	\$233,931
TOTAL: THREE PART COMPONENT BUDGET	\$23,721,781	\$24,195,663	\$473,882

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GRIMSHAW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Grimshaw's **After School Academic Program** - Approximately 70 students attend Grimshaw's after school program focused on building skill in reading, writing, and math.
- ◆ **Battle of the Books** - Thank you to Mrs. McDonald for organizing this amazing event for students and to all of our coaches and students who participated! We had six teams of first and second graders, nine teams of third and fourth graders and five teams of fifth and sixth graders compete this year with three teams from each grade band moving on to the regional competition!
- ◆ **New clubs this year!** Grimshaw proudly offers several clubs for students to participate in after school every week Tuesday through Thursday. Some of the clubs we offer are: Newspaper, Student Council, Yearbook, Little Librarians, Lego Exploration, Game Club, and Wellness Club



JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Implemented a new progress monitoring system. This system places an emphasis on progress monitoring as well as quarterly screening data to determine appropriate placement within our tier intervention pyramid.
- ◆ Our new technology suite has been a great addition to the Jr./Sr. High School. The state of the art equipment and flexible furniture options have resulted in a productive learning environment for all.



2024/2025 Propositions

Proposition I - Budget

Shall the proposed budget of \$24,195,663 for the LaFayette Central School District, as recommended by the Board of Education for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, be adopted, and shall the Board of Education be authorized to levy the necessary taxes therefore.

Proposition II - Transportation

Shall the Board of Education of the LaFayette Central School District be authorized to purchase and finance three (3) 66-passenger diesel school buses, including necessary furnishings, fixtures, and equipment and all other costs incidental thereto, and expend a total sum not to exceed \$556,000, which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and said amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of said School District and collected in annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law; and, in anticipation of such tax, obligations of said School District, in the principal amount not to exceed \$556,000, shall be issued.

Proposition III - Capital Reserve Construction

Shall the Board of Education be authorized to establish a capital reserve fund with a ten (10) year probable term pursuant to Section 3651 of the Education Law in an amount not to exceed \$5,000,000, inclusive of investment earnings, to be used for renovations and additions to all District facilities, including purchase of equipment, technology upgrades, classroom equipment and/or school infrastructure equipment, site development, athletic field and playground improvements, storm and sanitary sewer, driveways, and parking lots, such reserve fund to be funded from: (i) year-end budget surplus funds known as unassigned fund balance, as available, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter for the term of the reserve fund, (ii) transfers of excess monies from Board of Education designated reserves, (iii) amounts from budgetary appropriations from time to time, (iv) New York State Aid received and made available by the Board of Education from time to time, and (v) other legally available sources, all as permitted by law.

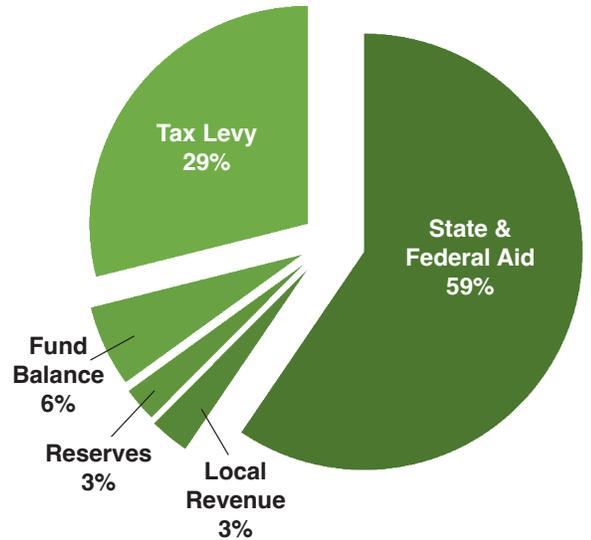
Proposition IV - Capital Reserve Vehicles

Shall the Board of Education be authorized to establish a capital reserve fund with a ten (10) year probable term pursuant to Section 3651 of the Education Law in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000, inclusive of investment earnings, to be used for the acquisition of vehicles, such reserve fund to be funded from (i) year-end budget surplus funds known as unassigned fund balance, as available, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter for the the term of the reserve fund, (ii) transfers of excess monies from Board of Education designated reserves, (iii) amounts from budgetary appropriations from time to time, (iv) New York State Aid received and made available by the Board of Education from time to time, and (v) other legally available sources, all as permitted by law.

Proposition V - Ex-Officio Student BOE Member

Shall a high school senior student be designated to serve as an ex-officio member of the Board of Education, and thereby be entitled to sit with the Board members at all its public meetings, and participate therein, but without authority to vote on matters before the Board or to attend executive sessions.

Where the Money Comes From



How is the Budget Funded?

	<u>2024/25 Proposed</u>
Summary of State & Federal Aid	
New York State	11,469,869
Other State Aid	2,895,000
Medicaid Reimbursement	30,000
TOTAL AID	14,394,869
Local Sources	
County Sales Tax	26,000
Interest & Earnings	225,000
Other Local Revenues	466,400
TOTAL LOCAL SOURCES	717,400
Use of Reserves	
Retirement Reserve	451,000
Unemployment Reserve	20,000
Employee Benefit Liability Reserve	150,000
TOTAL RESERVES	621,000
APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE	
Offset Tax Levy	1,467,602
TOTAL BEFORE TAXES	17,200,871
PROERTY TAXES	6,994,792
TOTAL REVENEUS	24,195,663

LaFayette CENTRAL SCHOOLS

5955 Route 20, West
LaFayette, NY 13084

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage Paid
PERMIT NO. 3
LaFayette, NY 13084

OCCUPANT
Rural Route/Boxholder
LaFayette, NY 13084

Overall School District Budget Proposal

	Budget Adopted for the 2023/24 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2024/25 School Year	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Total Budget Amount	\$23,721,781	\$24,195,663	\$473,882	2.0%
Administrative Component	\$2,037,717	\$2,022,427	(\$15,290)	(-0.8%)
Program Component	\$16,582,119	\$16,837,360	\$255,241	1.5%
Capital Component	\$5,101,945	\$5,335,876	\$233,931	4.6%
	Actual Beginning Balance 2023/24	Estimated Beginning Balance 2024/25		
Restricted Fund Balance	\$5,452,152	\$5,452,152		
Assigned Fund Balance	\$1,007,061	\$1,467,603		
Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$948,871	\$967,827		
Unrestricted Fund Balance as a Percent of Total Budget**	4.0%	4.0%		
Change in Consumer Price Index	4.12%			

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2024/25 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 21, 2024 between the hours of 1:00pm and 9:00pm.

Proposed Tax Rate per \$1,000 Assessed Value		
Current 2023/24	Est. Proposed 2024/25	Est. Annual Change
\$14.29	\$14.86	\$0.57

