



Niskayuna Central School District Budget Vote Exit Survey

conducted May 15, 2007

Introduction

The Niskayuna Central School District conducted an exit survey during its 2007-08 school budget vote and Board of Education elections on May 15, 2007. The purpose of the survey was to collect demographic data about voters, determine the factors that influenced voters' decisions, and learn what sources voters used to get information about the budget. (A copy of the survey is included in this report.)

The survey was voluntary and anonymous. Surveys were made available at the polling location for any community member who chose to participate after voting. Of the 2,401 residents who voted, 760 completed exit surveys — a response rate of 32 percent. While these results do not represent the opinions of all voters, they do provide insight into the 760 respondents' perceptions of the district's budget. Of those surveyed, 63 percent voted in favor of the budget. This is slightly higher than the actual vote tally of those in favor, which was 61 percent.

The following report was compiled by the Niskayuna Central School District's Office of Communications. The data was tabulated by the Capital Region BOCES Communications Service. It is important to note that percentages may be less than 100 percent in some cases because not all respondents answered every question on the survey. For some questions, percentages may add up to more than 100 percent because participants could select more than one answer. Where possible, statistical comparisons to exit surveys conducted in May 2006 and May 2005 are included. (Note: Some questions and answers have changed, so comparison numbers were not always available).

This report will also be made available on the district Web site, www.niskayunaschools.org.

Judy Frost
Communications Specialist

A large, faint, light-gray watermark of the Niskayuna logo is centered on the page, behind the text. It features the same stylized 'N' and 'NISKAYUNA' banner as the main logo.

				2006 Survey	2005 Survey
Question 1: How did you vote on the proposed 2007-08 budget?					
	Yes, in favor	480	63%	62%	60%
	No, opposed	266	35%	35%	38%
	No answer given	14	2%	—	—

Question 2: Of the factors listed below, which influenced your vote? (Check all that apply)

Note: Percentage is out of the total Yes or No voters

If you voted YES, was it because:					
	supporting the schools is important	398	83%	85%	83%
	pleased with the quality of education	245	51%	52%	51%
	the proposed budget is sound	232	48%	31%	30%
	the tax increase is reasonable	159	33%	23%	24%
	confidence in the Board of Education and administration	163	34%	13%	33%
	other	15	3%	—	—
If you voted NO, was it because:					
	the tax increase is unreasonable	191	72%	81%	78%
	no confidence in the Board of Education and administration	62	23%	30%	18%
	the proposed budget is unsound	52	20%	24%	23%
	other	39	15%	—	—
	the budget does not address all program needs	32	12%	13%	14%
	not pleased with the quality of education	29	11%	12%	9%
Question 3: In the past, how have you typically voted on the school budget?*					
	I typically vote yes	493	65%	65%	65%
	I switched my vote from year to year	119	16%	16%	15%
	I typically vote no	72	10%	10%	8%
	I am voting for the first time	57	8%	10%	*
Question 4: Where did you get information about the budget? (Check all that apply)					
	<i>Your Schools</i> newsletter	422	56%	47%	47%
	<i>Niskayuna Spotlight</i>	332	48%	41%	45%
	Board of Education meetings	48	6%	6%	8%
	<i>Daily Gazette</i>	282	37%	36%	40%
	Friends and neighbors	131	17%	17%	16%
	<i>Times Union</i>	70	9%	14%	15%
	PTO fliers/meetings	101	13%	12%	14%
	District Web site	101	13%	11%	12%
	School staff members	89	12%	11%	11%
	Students	27	4%	5%	6%
	Other	38	5%	*	*
	No answer given	47	6%	—	—

* - indicates the question was not part of the 2006 or 2005 exit survey.

				2006 Survey	2005 Survey
Question 5: In which town do you live?					
	Niskayuna	643	85%	82%	84%
	Glenville	58	8%	8%	8%
	Clifton Park	30	4%	5%	4%
	Colonie	14	2%	3%	2%
	No answer given	15	2%	—	—
Question 6: What age category best describes you?					
	31-50	289	38%	38%	42%
	51-64	212	28%	27%	26%
	65+	203	27%	28%	23%
	18-24	29	4%	7%	5%
	25-30	14	2%	2%	2%
	No answer given	13	2%	—	—
Question 7: Do you have children currently attending Niskayuna schools?					
	Yes	295	39%	41%	41%
	No	254	33%	32%	34%
	Not now, but one or more has graduated from Niskayuna	160	21%	19%	19%
	Not now, but my child(ren) will attend in the future	33	4%	2%	4%
	No answer given	18	2%	—	—
Question 8: If you answered YES to Question 7, please indicate the grade level(s) of your children?					
	Grades K-5	180	61%	*	*
	Grades 6-8	110	37%	*	*
	Grades 9-12	112	38%	*	*
	No answer given	4	1%	—	—

Cross Tabulation Results

By Voting History - Of those who typically vote yes, typically vote no, or switch their vote from year to year, how did they vote?*

				2006 Survey	2005 Survey
Typically vote yes	Yes	413	84%	84%	81%
	No	77	16%	16%	18%
Typically vote no	Yes	2	3%	4%	3%
	No	68	94%	96%	97%
Switch my vote from year to year	Yes	25	21%	14%	19%
	No	91	77%	86%	79%
Voted for first time this year	Yes	38	67%	64%	*
	No	17	30%	36%	*

* - indicates the question was not part of the 2006 or 2005 exit survey.

By Information Source - Of those who said they got their budget information from the Board of Education Niskayuna Spotlight, friends and neighbors, etc., what percentage voted yes or no on the budget?

				2006 Survey	2005 Survey
Board of Education meetings	Yes	32	67%	61%	68%
	No	16	33%	39%	31%
<i>Niskayuna Spotlight</i>	Yes	219	66%	60%	58%
	No	109	33%	40%	40%
Friends and neighbors	Yes	91	70%	57%	55%
	No	37	28%	43%	44%
District Web site	Yes	68	67%	64%	63%
	No	33	33%	36%	35%
<i>Daily Gazette</i>	Yes	157	56%	54%	49%
	No	120	43%	46%	49%
Students	Yes	22	82%	66%	61%
	No	5	19%	34%	38%
<i>Times Union</i>	Yes	37	53%	46%	53%
	No	32	46%	54%	46%
<i>Your Schools</i> newsletter	Yes	289	69%	67%	66%
	No	130	31%	33%	33%
PTO fliers/meetings	Yes	74	73%	76%	82%
	No	26	26%	24%	18%
School staff members	Yes	75	84%	82%	78%
	No	14	16%	18%	21%

By Town - Of those living in Niskayuna, Glenville, Clifton Park and Colonie, what percentage voted yes or no on the budget?

Niskayuna	Yes	408	64%	62%	60%
	No	224	35%	38%	38%
Glenville	Yes	34	59%	62%	69%
	No	23	40%	38%	38%
Clifton Park	Yes	21	70%	59%	92%
	No	9	30%	41%	32%
Colonie	Yes	12	86%	77%	80%
	No	2	14%	23%	17%

By Age - Of those identifying an age category, what percentage voted yes or no on the budget?					2006 Survey	2005 Survey
18-24	Yes	22	76%		69%	54%
	No	7	24%		31%	46%
25-30	Yes	10	77%		75%	78%
	No	3	23%		25%	22%
31-50	Yes	198	69%		72%	69%
	No	88	30%		28%	29%
51-64	Yes	129	61%		56%	59%
	No	82	39%		44%	39%
65+	Yes	119	59%		55%	49%
	No	77	38%		45%	48%

By Parental Status - Of those identifying themselves as a parent with school-age children, with graduates, etc., what percentage voted yes or no on the budget?

Children currently attending Niskayuna schools	Yes	211	72%		74%	75%
	No	82	28%		26%	23%
No children currently attending Niskayuna schools	Yes	134	53%		50%	45%
	No	113	45%		50%	52%
Not now, but one or more children have graduated from Niskayuna	Yes	106	66%		59%	58%
	No	51	32%		41%	41%
Not now, but child(ren) will attend in the future	Yes	23	70%		66%	60%
	No	10	30%		34%	39%

By Enrollment - Based on grade level, what percentage of Niskayuna parents voted yes or no on the budget?

Grades K-5	Yes	136	76%		*	*
	No	42	23%		*	*
Grades 6-8	Yes	73	66%		*	*
	No	35	32%		*	*
Grades 9-12	Yes	79	71%		*	*
	No	32	29%		*	*

* - indicates the question was not part of the 2006 or 2005 exit survey.

NISKAYUNA

Voter Survey



May 15, 2007

1. How did you vote on the proposed 2007-08 budget? Yes No

2. Of the factors listed below, which influenced your vote? (Check all that apply.)

If you voted YES, was it because:

- You believe the proposed budget is sound
- You believe the tax increase is reasonable
- Supporting the schools is important
- You have confidence in the Board of Education and administration
- You are pleased with the quality of education
- Other _____

If you voted NO, was it because:

- You believe the proposed budget is unsound
- You believe the tax increase is unreasonable
- You do not have confidence in the Board of Education and administration
- You are not pleased with the quality of education
- You believe the budget does not address all program needs
- Other _____

3. In the past, how have you typically voted on the budget?

- I typically vote yes
- I typically vote no
- I switch my vote from year to year
- This is my first time voting on the Niskayuna budget

4. Where did you get information about the budget? (Check all that apply.)

- Board of Education meetings
- Daily Gazette*
- Your Schools* newsletter
- Niskayuna Spotlight*
- Students
- PTO fliers/meetings
- Friends and neighbors
- Times Union*
- School district staff members
- District Web site
- Other: _____

5. In which town do you live? Niskayuna Glenville Clifton Park Colonie

6. What age category best describes you?

- 18-24
- 25-30
- 31-50
- 51-64
- 65+

7. Do you have children currently attending Niskayuna schools?

- Yes
- Not now, but one or more has graduated from Niskayuna
- No
- Not now, but my child(ren) will attend in the future

8. If you answered yes to question 7, please indicate the grade level(s) of your child/children?

- Grades K-5
- Grades 6-8
- Grades 9-12

**Please write any other comments on the back of this sheet.
Thank you for your input!**