

Why consider an annexation???????

Each year, school districts face financial challenges such as higher than expected staffing and operating costs. Residents in the Maplewood-Colonie Common School District have seen double-digit tax increases in past years and the district is now at risk of losing instructional programs to keep tax rates down. The North Colonie Central School District continues to be financially secure, making it the highest ranked district in the region as evidenced by our credit rating of AA by Standard & Poor's.

What will North Colonie gain in an annexation?

North Colonie will receive approximately \$30 million in state Annexation Incentive Aid over the next 14 years, and an increase in state Building Aid, from 48 percent to 68 percent, for approved building projects.

Didn't we already vote on the annexation?

Both school districts held unofficial, non-binding votes in May during their Annual Elections and Budget Votes. Seventy-one percent of North Colonie voters approved the straw vote and 88 percent of Maplewood voters approved moving forward with the annexation process. Because voters in both school districts approved the non-binding vote, the New York State Education Department scheduled an official, binding vote on Thursday, October 11.

What is the difference between an annexation and a merger?

An annexation is when one school district dissolves into another. In this case, Maplewood-Colonie Common School District will be dissolved into the North Colonie Central School District. A merger is the blending of two school districts into one brand new district.

What occurred during the annexation study process?

There were a total of six Annexation Feasibility Committee study sessions held since November 2006 at both the North Colonie and Maplewood school

districts. Each session was open to the public and many questions and concerns were addressed. When the feasibility study concluded, the consultants wrote and presented a report to both boards and the public in April 2007. This report is available online at www.northcolonie.org.

How will the annexation impact taxes?

While an annexation will not have a direct impact on taxes, it will help alleviate future tax increases.

Will North Colonie students be redistricted because of this annexation?

We are not anticipating any major changes for current North Colonie students due to this annexation.

What will happen to Maplewood School if the annexation is passed?

The North Colonie Central School District has made assurances to the Maplewood community that the Maplewood School will remain open as an elementary school for at least 7-10 years with the goal being to populate the school to a greater extent. Beyond that, the future of Maplewood will be determined by the Board of Education.

What happens if the annexation proposition is passed?

If residents of both districts approve the annexation referendum on October 11, Maplewood will be annexed into North Colonie on July 1, 2008.

North Colonie Central School District

91 Fiddlers Lane, Latham, New York 12110

Board of Education

Joan Hart, *President*

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NORTH COLONIE
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
& MAPLEWOOD-COLONIE COMMON
SCHOOL DISTRICT

ANNEXATION VOTE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2007
9 A.M. TO 9 P.M.

Voting is available
at the elementary school in your area,
as well as at Goodrich School.



Please remember to vote!
Thursday, October 11, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

www.northcolonie.org

Annexation Feasibility Study Committee

“Would instructional opportunities be enhanced for all students at a similar or reduced cost to taxpayers by combining the two districts?”

- ▶ In the fall of 2006, a 26 member feasibility committee comprised of students, teachers, local businesses, non-instructional staff and senior citizens from the Maplewood-Colonie Common and North Colonie Central School Districts met to determine the answer to the central question, above, and to decide whether the annexation process should move forward.
- ▶ Members of the committee met during a series of meetings throughout the year to provide local knowledge, problem-solve, review work of subcommittees and make recommendations to both districts' Boards of Education. They also discussed a variety of issues including curriculum, tax rates, governance, transportation and tuition fees.
- ▶ After several months of deliberations, an Annexation Feasibility Study Report was completed and a straw vote was held in May 2007. The non-binding vote received a 71 percent approval rating in North Colonie, while Maplewood received an 88 percent approval rating.
- ▶ The North Colonie Board of Education provided Maplewood's Board of Education with a "Letter of Assurances," should the annexation be approved. For example, North Colonie has guaranteed that the Maplewood School would remain open as an elementary school for at least 7-10 years with the goal being to populate the school to a greater extent.
- ▶ Visit www.northcolonie.org for more information including the complete Annexation Feasibility Study Report and committee meeting minutes.

What's Next?

Attend the public forum on **Wednesday, October 3 at 7:30 p.m.** in the **Junior High School Auditorium.**

If residents of both districts support the annexation referendum on **Thursday, October 11, 2007**, the districts will become one on July 1, 2008.



Major Benefits of an Annexation

- ◆ **Significant financial incentives.** North Colonie will receive approximately \$30 million in Annexation Incentive Aid over the next 14 years. These funds will help stabilize future tax rate increases by allowing the district to make needed purchases and improvements, such as upgrades to instructional computers and other equipment. Otherwise, district residents will be asked to pay for these additional expenses through higher taxes.
- ◆ **Increased State Aid for building projects.** District architects have identified more than \$10 million in needed work to maintain existing facilities. With a 20 percent increase in State Aid for approved building projects, along with Incentive Aid, the district will be able to update facilities to meet the demands of the 21st century without further burdening local taxpayers.
- ◆ **Excellent instructional programs.** The district's instructional programs will be maintained and even expanded due to the additional resources that would follow the annexation.

www.northcolonie.org

Vote Details

Thursday, October 11, 2007
9 a.m.-9 p.m.

Vote in the elementary school in your area or Goodrich School.

Absentee ballots are available.

Qualified voters who will be out of town or unavailable on the vote date should call 785-8591, or stop by the District Office at Goodrich School from 8 a.m.-4 p.m., to request applications for absentee ballots. Applications for absentee ballots will be received until 9 a.m. on October 10.

For more information:

- ✓ Visit the Annexation Feasibility Study section of www.northcolonie.org;
- ✓ Read the Special Edition *Inside North Colonie* Annexation issue to be mailed to residents in late September;
- ✓ Attend the public forum on **Wednesday, October 3 at 7:30 p.m.** in the **Junior High School Auditorium.**



By law, all voters must be U.S. citizens, age 18 or older and residents of North Colonie for at least 30 days prior to the vote, and are not a convicted felon or judged by a court to be mentally incompetent. Proof of residency such as a driver's license may be required at the time you vote.