

North Colonie Central School District

2011 School Budget Vote Exit Survey Report

Introduction

The North Colonie School District conducted an exit survey during its Annual School Budget Vote on May 17, 2011. The purpose was to collect demographic data about who voted on the budget and information about why voters voted the way they did.

The survey was voluntary and anonymous. Surveys were made available to voters at the polling site for anyone who chose to fill one out after voting. While these results do not represent the opinions of all voters, they do provide many residents' perceptions about the district and its proposed budget.

The following data were compiled by the Capital Region BOCES Communications Service in cooperation with BOCES public information specialist assigned to North Colonie, Steve King, along with data entry assistance by district staff.

Please note: Percentages, where provided, are out of the number of survey participants who responded to that particular question, and not out of the total number of survey participants. For some questions, total percentages may add up to more than 100% because participants were able to select more than one answer choice.

Of the 2,774 residents who voted, 742 chose to fill out an exit survey, a response rate of 27%.

Who voted in North Colonie's annual budget vote?

In 2011, 2,774 residents voted on North Colonie's proposed budget. Despite the difficult fiscal challenges facing the district this year—including the decision to close an elementary school—voter turnout was lower than last year by about 7 percentage points.

Of the 2,774 residents who voted this year, 742 chose to fill out an exit survey, a response rate of 27%. This rate is also a decline from last year's rate of 40%.

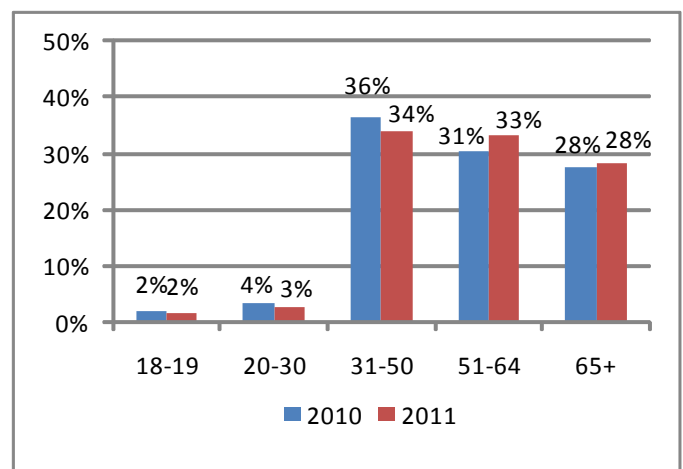
Voters by age

Based on exit survey data, 62% of voters were age 51 or older, while less than 5% were between 18 and 30 years old. The largest single age group was 31 to 50-year-olds, representing 34% of respondents. These results are consistent with last year's exit survey data.

Voters by zip code

Voters living in the 12110 zip code represented 50% of survey respondents. Another 23% said they live in the 12211 zip code. The 12189 and 12047 zip codes each represented 13%. The remaining three zip codes accounted for less than 2% of survey respondents. Again, this distribution is consistent with last year's data.

RESPONDENTS BY AGE GROUP



Parent and non-parent voters

The majority of survey respondents (70%) said they have children—up from 68% last year. Parents of children attending a North Colonie elementary school represented 28% of all respondents, or 40% of those with children, while those with children past high school age represented 27% of all respondents, or 38% of those with children. Below is the breakdown by school level for 2011:

No children	30%
Children attending Shaker High School.....	17%
Children attending Shaker Junior High School.....	11%
Children attending private/parochial school	2%
Children attending an NCCS elementary school.....	28%
Preschool-age children.....	4%
Children age 18+	27%

Typical voter habit

A majority (77%) of survey respondents said they typically vote in favor of the budget, while 12% said they typically vote against it; 10% said they had not voted in the past. These results are consistent with last year’s data.

How did North Colonie residents vote?

Of the 742 voters who completed an exit survey this year, 35 participants did not indicate how they voted on the budget. Of those who did, 498 said they voted “yes” on the budget, while 209 said they voted “no.” This represents a margin of 70% in favor and 30% opposed.

The actual approval rate of the budget was 65%—a difference of 5 percentage points—meaning that slightly more “yes” voters filled out an exit survey than did “no” voters. In our experience, this is not uncommon with school budget vote exit surveys. Last year, the actual voter approval rate was 62%, compared with 69% among survey participants.

Like last year, 83% of respondents who said they typically vote “yes” voted in favor of the budget. However, only 4% of those who said they typically vote “no” voted in favor of this year’s budget, down from 10% last year. Also, of those who said they have not voted in the past, 67% said they voted in favor of the budget this year, compared with 72% in 2010.

Budget approval rates among different voter categories

A majority of survey participants in each of the five major zip codes approved the budget, with at least two-thirds in each saying they voted “yes.” [Note: Data for zip codes 12128 and 12205 were not statistically significant.]

Voter opinions about the district

Survey results show that 72% of respondents give the district a grade of “A” for its educational quality.

Another 22% gave it a grade of “B,” while only 5% gave the district a grade of “C” or lower.

These results are very similar to last year’s, when 72% of respondents gave a grade of “A,” 24% gave a grade of “B” and 4% gave a grade of “C” or lower.

The budget approval rate among survey respondents was 70%—compared to 65% among all voters.

Based on exit survey data, support for the budget was generally stronger among voters 50 and younger; however, even among older voters, about two-thirds of respondents said they voted “yes.” Results were not significantly different from 2010.

AGE GROUP	APPROVAL RATING	
	2010	2011
18-19	83%	100%
20-30	85%	72%
31-50	81%	80%
51-64	65%	64%
65+	70%	67%

Although a majority of survey respondents approved the budget regardless of their parental status, approval rates were lower among those without children or with children attending private/parochial schools. The approval rates among those with preschool age children or children attending private or parochial school dropped from last year; however, these two categories represent a very small number of respondents—about 7% combined.

PARENTAL STATUS	APPROVAL RATING	
	2010	2011
No children	63%	60%
Attending Shaker High School.....	77%	71%
Attending Shaker Jr. High School.....	77%	89%
Attending parochial/private school.....	67%	53%
Attending an NCCS elementary school	86%	90%
Preschool age.....	87%	79%
Children age 18+	76%	74%

Generally, approval rates for the budget declined as respondents’ opinion of the district declined. While 82% of those who gave a grade of “A” voted in favor of the budget, only 53% of those giving it a grade of “B” did. The approval rate dropped to 17% among those giving a grade of “C” or lower.

DISTRICT GRADE	APPROVAL RATING	
	2010	2011
A.....	82%	82%
B.....	57%	53%
C.....	21%	15%
D	20%	100%
F.....	33%	0%

Why do voters vote the way they do?

The following, in descending order, are the reasons given by the “yes” respondents for approving the budget:

I believe in investing in education	64%
It will improve the quality of education in North Colonie	49%
Although it is a difficult budget season, the proposed cuts are reasonable.....	47%
The proposed tax increase is reasonable	40%
It will benefit my child.....	30%
Other reason [<i>see comments, pp. 10-11</i>].....	9%

The following, in descending order, are the reasons given by the “no” respondents for voting against the budget:

The district should have cut more from the budget	59%
The projected tax increase is unreasonable.....	51%
Other reason [<i>see comments, pp. 12-14</i>].....	26%
I’m unhappy with the school district in general.....	13%
The proposed budget cuts are too strong	9%
It will not benefit my child.....	8%

From this data, one can draw a few conclusions; namely, that:

- Why did “yes” voters vote as they did? Supporting education was a strong motivating factor, with nearly two-thirds saying they believe in making the investment and nearly half wanting to improve educational quality.
- Why did “no” voters vote as they did? Economics were a big factor, with half saying the tax increase was unreasonable and nearly 60% saying the budget did not cut spending enough. Meanwhile, few were motivated to vote “no” due to excessive cuts.
- In general, opinion of the district is favorable, with only 13% of “no” voters indicating unhappiness with the district.
- It is interesting to note that the percentages of respondents citing each reason—among both “yes” and “no” voters—are very similar to last year’s exit survey results.

Factors influencing respondents’ vote

When asked how important specific factors were in determining their vote, 94% of all respondents cited the quality of the educational program as “very important,” while only 1% said it was “not important”—nearly identical to last year’s results.

The projected tax increase was cited by 67% as “very important” (up from 58% last year) and by only 4% as “not important.” The percentage of those citing

reductions in spending as “very important” also grew since last year, to 63% from 57%, while class size remained steady, with 64% indicating it as “very important.”

FACTOR	VERY IMPORTANT		NOT IMPORTANT	
	2010	2011	2010	2011
Quality of educational program.....	93%	94%	1%	1%
Class size.....	65%	64%	5%	6%
Projected tax increase.....	58%	67%	5%	4%
Reduction in spending.....	57%	63%	7%	7%
Special education services.....	53%	49%	12%	12%
Funding for activities/athletics	50%	48%	11%	14%

Where do voters get their information?

Overwhelmingly, survey respondents were well-informed about the proposed budget; only 15% said they did not have adequate information. These results are comparable to last year’s. In addition, 70% cited the district newsletter as their source of budget information, followed by local newspapers (35%), the district website (21%) and TV media (20%). All four of these sources grew in popularity since last year.

INFO SOURCE	2010	2011
District newsletter.....	65%	70%
District staff members	13%	11%
District website.....	16%	21%
TV media.....	15%	20%
Local newspapers	31%	35%
School newsletters	20%	n/a
Social media (Twitter).....	n/a	1%
Budget committee meetings	9%	7%
PTA	12%	11%
Friends/neighbors	14%	11%
Other [see pp. 17-18]	8%	8%

The budget approval rate among respondents who said they received enough information was 76%, nearly the same as last year’s 77%. It was also about double the approval rate of those who said they did not have adequate information, which was 37%—a 10 percentage point drop from last year’s 47% approval rate.

A majority of respondents approved the budget regardless of information source, although approval rates were generally higher among district-generated information sources.

INFO SOURCE	APPROVAL RATING	
	2010	2011
District newsletter.....	76%.....	74%
District staff members.....	82%.....	89%
District website.....	75%.....	78%
TV media.....	59%.....	54%
Local newspapers.....	67%.....	65%
School newsletters.....	67%.....	n/a
Social media (Twitter).....	n/a.....	80%
Budget committee meetings.....	78%.....	81%
PTA.....	88%.....	93%
Friends/neighbors.....	75%.....	68%
Other [see pp. 17-18].....	64%.....	65%

Who were the “yes” voters in North Colonic?

Of the 498 survey respondents who said they voted “yes” on the budget:

- 89% said they typically vote in favor of the school budget
- 92% said they received enough information about the budget
- 49% live in zip code 12210
- 56% are at least 51 years old
- 75% have children; 34% have children at an NCCS elementary school
- 83% gave the district a grade of “A”; 1% gave it a “C” or lower
- 73% said they got their budget information from district newsletters, while 32% said local newspapers and 15% said TV media
- 99% said the quality of the educational program was a “very important” factor in determining their vote
- 58% said the projected tax increase was a “very important” factor in determining their vote; 53% said reduction in spending

Who were the “no” voters in North Colonic?

Of the 209 survey respondents who said they voted “no” on the budget:

- 47% said they typically vote in favor of the school budget
- 68% said they received enough information about the budget
- 51% live in zip code 12210
- 74% are at least 51 years old
- 55% have children; 11% have children at an NCCS elementary school
- 48% gave the district a grade of “A”; 16% gave it a “C” or lower
- 62% said they got their budget information from district newsletters, while 42% said local newspapers and 31% said TV media
- 76% said the quality of the educational program was a “very important” factor in determining their vote
- 89% said the projected tax increase was a “very important” factor in determining their vote; 85% said reduction in spending



Survey Response Summary:

Survey participants' responses to all questions







RESULTS GENERATED BY



1. How did you vote on the proposed budget?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes, in favor		70.4%	498
No, opposed		29.6%	209
answered question			707
skipped question			35

2. I voted YES because... (Check all that apply.)

		Response Percent	Response Count
It will improve the quality of education at North Colonie.		48.8%	248
Although it is a difficult budget season, the proposed cuts are reasonable.		47.2%	240
The proposed tax increase is reasonable.		40.0%	203
It will benefit my child.		29.9%	152
I believe in investing in education		64.0%	325
Other YES reason (please specify)		8.7%	44
answered question			508
skipped question			234







Q2. I voted YES because... (Check all that apply.)

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Retired teacher: I've never voted no. |
| 2 | I always vote yes for our schools. |
| 3 | My kids got a great education here. |
| 4 | State cuts are more than enough. |
| 5 | It will benefit my grandchildren |
| 6 | The good schools benefited our children when we were younger. |
| 7 | It will benefit someone's child |
| 8 | Prevent job cuts |
| 9 | I was a former NC teacher |
| 10 | Home prices |
| 11 | Knowing all the hard work behind the scenes I would vote no different. |
| 12 | Some tough choices made Board and Admin. work hard to inform public. |
| 13 | I feel teachers are under attack |
| 14 | School teachers need all the support. They are the backbone of the nation, the young people's future. |
| 15 | It will benefit my grandchildren. |
| 16 | No answer given |
| 17 | Keep teachers employed. |
| 18 | No answer given |
| 19 | Public education is a right for all children. |
| 20 | Great school district |
| 21 | All of the above |
| 22 | Why not? |
| 23 | No answer given. |
| 24 | I work in the district. |
| 25 | All of the above. |
| 26 | Support for staff |
| 27 | Get rid of JH. |
| 28 | If voted no, it'll make things worse. |

Q2. I voted YES because... (Check all that apply.)

- | | |
|----|---|
| 29 | Will benefit grown up child |
| 30 | Retired teacher |
| 31 | I believe in voting regardless of how little say we have over the district policies. |
| 32 | Benefits my community and my neighborhood. |
| 33 | This is a frugal district, sometimes too much so! |
| 34 | Best District!!! |
| 35 | I believe the increase could have been slightly larger. We must protect the programs educating our children. Class sizes are getting too big. |
| 36 | After next year, my children will have graduated, but in general yes. |
| 37 | Protect property values. |
| 38 | No more layoffs. |
| 39 | Very fine district!! |
| 40 | It will benefit my grandchildren. |
| 41 | It will benefit all children. |
| 42 | Kids are our future! |
| 43 | Lowest/ best tax rate in capital district area. |
| 44 | Good school district increases property values. |

3. I voted NO because ... (Check all that apply.)

		Response Percent	Response Count
The projected tax increase is unreasonable.		50.7%	105
The proposed budget cuts are too strong.		9.2%	19
The district should have cut more from the budget.		58.9%	122
It will not benefit my child.		8.2%	17
I'm unhappy with the school district in general.		12.6%	26
Other NO reason (please specify)		26.1%	54
		answered question	207
		skipped question	535

Q3. I voted NO because ... (Check all that apply.)

1	Next time you negotiate a contract please don't give 4.9% raise each year. What were you thinking?
2	State mandates too high
3	On a fixed income, school taxes have become a major burden.
4	Won't change
5	\$\$ do not equal better education.
6	Send unions a message.
7	No attempt to reduce spending in difficult economic times.
8	Taxes too high




Q3. I voted NO because ... (Check all that apply.)

- | | |
|----|--|
| 9 | Any increase over 2% is unacceptable. |
| 10 | We need to economize. |
| 11 | I believe the budget can be funded w/o tax increases. |
| 12 | Poor administration of monies! |
| 13 | Feel administration should take pay cut or freeze |
| 14 | They never cut the budget |
| 15 | I don't have children. People don't get raises at their jobs, where do you expect we get the extra money from? |
| 16 | Have no kids! |
| 17 | No answer given |
| 18 | Cut administrative costs |
| 19 | Most people are going through a multiple year wage freeze - school districts need to tighten belts. |
| 20 | Principal salaries & Bd Pres. salaries are too high. Need to negotiate new salary scale for district employees. |
| 21 | We should have voucher |
| 22 | No children left in school. |
| 23 | Money problems, inflation |
| 24 | Too much is spent on music and sports. |
| 25 | Stop spending |
| 26 | Too much money goes to athletics - cuts should be made here. Get rid of all the standardized testing and reduce those costs too. |
| 27 | Too much money for sports, too little for education. |
| 28 | Higher property taxes |
| 29 | Cut administration. Make pensions realistic. |
| 30 | Process lacks credibility. Not a "typical" voter (take for granted) |
| 31 | No analysis of budget from top down bottom up. Falling enrollment. |
| 32 | Get used to 2% cap |
| 33 | Too much administration. |
| 34 | Can't afford tax increase. Children could do more to earn money for some of their athletic expenses. |



Q3. I voted NO because ... (Check all that apply.)

- | | |
|----|--|
| 35 | Actual vs proposed. No administrative cuts (ie: building assistant principals) |
| 36 | To much administration costs. |
| 37 | No answer given |
| 38 | Living on retired income. |
| 39 | No answer given |
| 40 | Administrative costs |
| 41 | Too many administrative costs |
| 42 | Tax increase is unreasonable in this economic climate. |
| 43 | Economy |
| 44 | No answer given |
| 45 | About time they paid attention to the word "Budget". |
| 46 | My fixed pension is being frittered away. |
| 47 | Why not have all voters vote at the place where they vote in the general election. |
| 48 | Administrators |
| 49 | No children in school. |
| 50 | Performance is lacking--No correlation between expenditure and performance. |
| 51 | Cut administration, not teachers. |
| 52 | No kids in school-retired. |
| 53 | No budget information. |
| 54 | Teacher contracts ridiculous. |



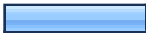







4. Have you typically voted on the school budget in the past?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes, typically in support of the budget		77.4%	557
No, typically against the budget		12.2%	88
I have not voted in the past		10.4%	75
		answered question	720
		skipped question	22

5. Do you feel you had adequate information about the proposed budget?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes, I received enough information		85.1%	604
No, I did not have adequate information		14.9%	106
		answered question	710
		skipped question	32

6. Where did you get information about the 2011-12 proposed budget? (Check all that apply.)

		Response Percent	Response Count
District newsletters		69.8%	496
District staff members		10.5%	75
District website		21.1%	150
TV media		20.0%	142
Local newspapers		35.0%	249
Social Media (Twitter)		0.8%	6
Budget committee meetings		6.9%	49
PTA		10.5%	75
Friends/neighbors		11.1%	79
Other (please specify)		7.6%	54
answered question			711
skipped question			31

Q6. Where did you get information about the 2011 proposed budget? (Check all that apply.)

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | None! |
| 2 | School |
| 3 | My wife |
| 4 | No answer given |
| 5 | I am a teacher at Bethlehem School District |
| 6 | State school runs |
| 7 | No answer given |
| 8 | On line |
| 9 | No answer given |
| 10 | No answer given |
| 11 | Family |
| 12 | NYSUT |
| 13 | No answer given |
| 14 | Radio |
| 15 | Experts |
| 16 | Didn't get anything |
| 17 | Nowhere |
| 18 | NYSTA mailing |
| 19 | Y & N regarding adequate information. |
| 20 | Union |
| 21 | No answer given |
| 22 | Web |
| 23 | Wife |
| 24 | FOIL Info is one sided, not complete |
| 25 | NCTA/NYSUT mailing for budget vote. |
| 26 | No answer given |
| 27 | It seems as if I have not heard as much this year as children are older/ out of school. You are not in touch. |
| 28 | Friends of Music |


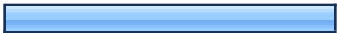





Q6. Where did you get information about the 2011 proposed budget? (Check all that apply.)

- | | |
|----|---|
| 29 | Budget mtgs. |
| 30 | AOL |
| 31 | Board member |
| 32 | School |
| 33 | No answer given |
| 34 | Observations |
| 35 | District notifier |
| 36 | I was a North Colonie employee for 33 years. |
| 37 | No mailing this year? |
| 38 | Talk from Mr. Corr |
| 39 | Never have adequate information |
| 40 | I don't remember receiving any information. |
| 41 | Spotlight Newspaper |
| 42 | Never received info in mail. |
| 43 | Internet. Nothing came by mail. |
| 44 | No answer given |
| 45 | My spouse |
| 46 | Web research |
| 47 | NYSUT |
| 48 | No answer given |
| 49 | Mail |
| 50 | District emails |
| 51 | Informed this morning. |
| 52 | None |
| 53 | When I arrived to vote. We didn't receive any literature this year. |
| 54 | District Newspapers did not come in the mail. |





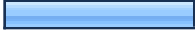
7. How important were the following to you in determining your vote?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	Response Count
Quality of educational program	93.6% (616)	5.2% (34)	1.2% (8)	658
Class size	63.9% (395)	29.9% (185)	6.1% (38)	618
Projected tax increase	66.9% (425)	28.7% (182)	4.4% (28)	635
Reduction in spending	62.6% (380)	30.3% (184)	7.1% (43)	607
Special education services	48.8% (287)	38.9% (229)	12.2% (72)	588
Funding for student activities/athletics	48.4% (287)	37.9% (225)	13.7% (81)	593
			answered question	705
			skipped question	37








8. What is your zip code?

		Response Percent	Response Count
12047		12.5%	88
12110		49.7%	350
12128		0.1%	1
12189		13.1%	92
12204		1.7%	12
12205		0.1%	1
12211		22.7%	160
		answered question	704
		skipped question	38






9. In what age group are you?

		Response Percent	Response Count
18-19		1.7%	12
20-30		2.8%	20
31-50		33.9%	242
51-64		33.3%	238
65+		28.3%	202
answered question			714
skipped question			28

10. Check all that apply to you.

		Response Percent	Response Count
No children		30.1%	195
Children attending Shaker High School		16.7%	108
Children attending Shaker Junior HS		10.5%	68
Children attending private/parochial school		2.3%	15
Children attending an NCCS elementary school		28.0%	181
Preschool age child(ren)		4.3%	28
Child(ren) age 18+		26.7%	173
answered question			647
skipped question			95

11. In general, how would you grade the quality of education provided by North Colonie?

		Response Percent	Response Count
A		72.3%	500
B		22.4%	155
C		4.9%	34
D		0.1%	1
F		0.3%	2
answered question			692
skipped question			50

Additional Comments

	Response Count
	84
answered question	84
skipped question	638

Additional Comments

1	Also 2 NC graduates.
2	Quality is between a B & C.
3	Quality between a B & C.
4	Don't cut funding for student activities/athletics and take the easy way out.
5	We are new to this area. Don't know the quality of education.
6	There should be more parking for voters who aren't going to classrooms. There are many administrators in the district. Are they checking in on what the long-term many years of experience teachers are doing? How do you know that people don't vote in more than one school?
7	Administrative costs are too high and are damaging quality of education. Have voted on the school budget in the past.
8	Super
9	Need full day K program, I spent \$14,000 to send my kids to private school.
10	Full day kindergarten.
11	High taxes do not equal high quality or vice versus.
12	Children grown, products of North Colonie.
13	Balancing the budget on the back of Maplewood is unacceptable and immoral.
14	Children did attend and very satisfied.
15	A+ Love it!!
16	It's too expensive. There's too much bloat and bureaucracy. Fund thru sales tax. End property taxes now! Fund schools thru sales tax.

Additional Comments

17	A++
18	Grandchildren attending NCCS Elem. school.
19	Funding for music is very important. Children are grown.
20	Children graduated.
21	We had 2 children go thru NC schools many years ago, they are very successful adults in part to that basic education.
22	Considered a No vote because of concern about high cost of high level administrators.
23	A-
24	When will there be a turf field?
25	No comment regarding quality of education. Why don't parents of children contribute more based on the number of kids they have in school!
26	Children are Shaker graduates.
27	Unsure whether I had adequate information about proposed budget. Grandchildren attending elementary and SJHS.
28	B+
29	Would like to see removing field trip funding.
30	A+
31	A+
32	Grandchildren attending NCCS Elementary school.
33	A- only because teachers are being forced to teach to test and basic skills are not being focused on.
34	Just moved here.
35	I think scheduling a dinner the same night as voting is a way of preventing people from voting because of limited parking. I will be reporting this to the Attorney General.
36	B+
37	Have voted for and against the budget in the past. Too much parking for parents, not enough parking for voters.
38	Great Schools!
39	Grandchildren - up to age 13.
40	Children graduated from NCCS K-12.

Additional Comments

- | | |
|----|---|
| 41 | Grandchildren attending an NCCS elem. school. |
| 42 | Special Ed. Services and Funding for student activities/athletics very important. |
| 43 | Too much is spent on funding student activities/athletics - it needs to be cut. |
| 44 | A- |
| 45 | Please continue to support the education reputation of the schools. |
| 46 | Too much money spent on athletics - not enough on education. Quality is N/A - child will attend next year and I'll let you know. |
| 47 | Children out of school. |
| 48 | A+ |
| 49 | A+ |
| 50 | I heard SHS wanted to put a TV in cafe - seems the district had too much money to spend wisely! I see live fishes in school, what is that for? I do not have them in my house. Why should I pay for it??? |
| 51 | Athletics should be funded by parents. Travel to daycare should be funded by parents. |
| 52 | B+ |
| 53 | Child graduated. |
| 54 | I live in Newtonville. |
| 55 | 2 children over 25. |
| 56 | Excellent quality. |
| 57 | A+ |
| 58 | A+ |
| 59 | Grandchildren attending SJHS and SHS. |
| 60 | Children educated in NC schools. |
| 61 | B- Some of the teachers need to be gone! |
| 62 | Grandchildren |
| 63 | Business Review reports, school ranking. |
| 64 | A+ |
| 65 | Children all graduated through NCCS. |
| 66 | Grandchildren! |

Additional Comments

67	Grandchildren in Blue Creek.
68	But you should send students to Votec.
69	Grandchildren attending SJHS
70	Please change the date of voting from May to Primary or General Election, so more could vote.
71	Children graduated from Shaker.
72	Administrators meetings should be after school sessions.
73	No tutors for suspended students!
74	Children all adults now.
75	A+
76	3% increase is too high. We have had no pay increases in 2 yrs plus social security has not increased in 2 yrs. Why do you need a 3% tax increase? NC teachers should not accepted their pay increases this year - just like the example set by City of Albany teachers. They voluntarily gave up their pay raises to keep budget increase at 0%.
77	Quality is between A and B.
78	Children are out of school.
79	Funding for student activities not important to a certain point. Have not voted in the past because I didn't know where to go.
80	A+
81	Teacher salaries and benefits need to be adjusted now! Passing rates for important subjects way too low!
82	Quality of education between C and D. I haven't voted in several years.
83	This is only 1 of many increases we will have and need to cut spending, even if small.
84	Don't really know quality of schools from personal experience.

Cross-Tabulation:

Budget approval rates for each answer choice

*Based on respondents' answers to each question,
what percentage voted "yes" and what percentage voted "no"?*

RESULTS GENERATED BY



How did you vote on the proposed budget?

	Have you typically voted on the school budget in the past?			
	Yes, typically in support of the budget	No, typically against the budget	I have not voted in the past	Response Totals
Yes, in favor	82.7% (440)	3.6% (3)	67.1% (49)	71.4% (492)
No, opposed	17.3% (92)	96.4% (81)	32.9% (24)	28.6% (197)
answered question	532	84	73	689
skipped question				31

How did you vote on the proposed budget?

	Do you feel you had adequate information about the proposed budget?		
	Yes, I received enough information	No, I did not have adequate information	Response Totals
Yes, in favor	76.3% (442)	36.6% (37)	70.4% (479)
No, opposed	23.7% (137)	63.4% (64)	29.6% (201)
answered question	579	101	680
skipped question			30

How did you vote on the proposed budget?

	Where did you get information about the 2011 -12 proposed budget? (Check all that apply.)					
	District newsletters	District staff members	District website	Social Media (Twitter)	Budget committee meetings	Response Totals
Yes, in favor	74.3% (353)	89.0% (65)	77.6% (111)	80.0% (4)	81.3% (39)	74.8% (409)
No, opposed	25.7% (122)	11.0% (8)	22.4% (32)	20.0% (1)	18.8% (9)	25.2% (138)
answered question	475	73	143	5	48	547
skipped question						24

How did you vote on the proposed budget?

	Where did you get information about the 2011 -12 proposed budget? (Check all that apply.)					
	TV media	Local newspapers	PTA	Friends/neighbors	Other (please specify)	Response Totals
Yes, in favor	54.4% (74)	65.3% (156)	93.2% (68)	68.4% (52)	65.4% (34)	68.9% (283)
No, opposed	45.6% (62)	34.7% (83)	6.8% (5)	31.6% (24)	34.6% (18)	31.1% (128)
answered question	136	239	73	76	52	411
skipped question						14

How did you vote on the proposed budget?						
	What is your zip code?					
	12047	12110	12189	12204	12211	Response Totals
Yes, in favor	76.7% (66)	71.3% (238)	75.0% (66)	81.8% (9)	67.5% (102)	71.8% (481)
No, opposed	23.3% (20)	28.7% (96)	25.0% (22)	18.2% (2)	32.5% (49)	28.2% (189)
answered question	86	334	88	11	151	670
skipped question						32

How did you vote on the proposed budget?						
	In what age group are you?					
	18-19	20-30	31-50	51-64	65+	Response Totals
Yes, in favor	100.0% (12)	72.2% (13)	80.4% (189)	63.8% (148)	66.8% (123)	71.2% (485)
No, opposed	0.0% (0)	27.8% (5)	19.6% (46)	36.2% (84)	33.2% (61)	28.8% (196)
answered question	12	18	235	232	184	681
skipped question						33

How did you vote on the proposed budget?						
	Check all that apply to you.					
	No children	Children attending Shaker High School	Children attending Shaker Junior HS	Children attending an NCCS elementary school	Child (ren) age 18+	Response Totals
Yes, in favor	60.0% (114)	71.2% (74)	89.4% (59)	89.7% (156)	73.8% (121)	73.5% (449)
No, opposed	40.0% (76)	28.8% (30)	10.6% (7)	10.3% (18)	26.2% (43)	26.5% (162)
answered question	190	104	66	174	164	611
skipped question						22

How did you vote on the proposed budget?			
	Check all that apply to you.		
	Children attending private/parochial school	Preschool age child(ren)	Response Totals
Yes, in favor	53.3% (8)	78.6% (22)	69.0% (29)
No, opposed	46.7% (7)	21.4% (6)	31.0% (13)
answered question	15	28	42
skipped question			0

How did you vote on the proposed budget?						
	In general, how would you grade the quality of education provided by North Colonie?					
	A	B	C	D	F	Response Totals
Yes, in favor	81.8% (396)	53.1% (77)	15.2% (5)	100.0% (1)	0.0% (0)	72.1% (479)
No, opposed	18.2% (88)	46.9% (68)	84.8% (28)	0.0% (0)	100.0% (1)	27.9% (185)
answered question	484	145	33	1	1	664
skipped question						28

Cross-Tabulation:
How respondents voted (yes/no)
cross-tabulated with each question

*Of those who voted "yes" or "no," what percentage
fell into each voter category?*

RESULTS GENERATED BY



Have you typically voted on the school budget in the past?

	How did you vote on the proposed budget?		Response Totals
	Yes, in favor	No, opposed	
Yes, typically in support of the budget	89.4% (440)	46.7% (92)	77.2% (532)
No, typically against the budget	0.6% (3)	41.1% (81)	12.2% (84)
I have not voted in the past	10.0% (49)	12.2% (24)	10.6% (73)
answered question	492	197	689
skipped question			18

Do you feel you had adequate information about the proposed budget?

	How did you vote on the proposed budget?		Response Totals
	Yes, in favor	No, opposed	
Yes, I received enough information	92.3% (442)	68.2% (137)	85.1% (579)
No, I did not have adequate information	7.7% (37)	31.8% (64)	14.9% (101)
answered question	479	201	680
skipped question			27

Where did you get information about the 2011 proposed budget? (Check all that apply.)

	How did you vote on the proposed budget?		Response Totals
	Yes, in favor	No, opposed	
District newsletters	73.2% (353)	61.6% (122)	69.9% (475)
District staff members	13.5% (65)	4.0% (8)	10.7% (73)
District website	23.0% (111)	16.2% (32)	21.0% (143)
TV media	15.4% (74)	31.3% (62)	20.0% (136)
Local newspapers	32.4% (156)	41.9% (83)	35.1% (239)
Social Media (Twitter)	0.8% (4)	0.5% (1)	0.7% (5)
Budget committee meetings	8.1% (39)	4.5% (9)	7.1% (48)
PTA	14.1% (68)	2.5% (5)	10.7% (73)
Friends/neighbors	10.8% (52)	12.1% (24)	11.2% (76)
Other (please specify)	34 replies (7.1%)	18 replies (9.1%)	7.6% (52)
answered question	482	198	680
skipped question			27

How important were the following to you in determining your vote?

		How did you vote on the proposed budget?		
		Yes, in favor	No, opposed	Response Totals
Quality of educational program	Very Important	98.9% (468)	76.1% (118)	
	Somewhat Important	1.1% (5)	18.7% (29)	
	Not Important	0.0% (0)	5.2% (8)	
		473	155	628
Class size	Very Important	72.5% (321)	35.1% (52)	
	Somewhat Important	25.1% (111)	47.3% (70)	
	Not Important	2.5% (11)	17.6% (26)	
		443	148	591
Projected tax increase	Very Important	57.6% (247)	89.0% (161)	
	Somewhat Important	37.1% (159)	8.3% (15)	
	Not Important	5.4% (23)	2.8% (5)	
		429	181	610
Reduction in spending	Very Important	52.8% (217)	85.2% (144)	
	Somewhat Important	38.7% (159)	10.7% (18)	
	Not Important	8.5% (35)	4.1% (7)	

		411	169	580
Special education services	Very Important	55.0% (232)	27.7% (39)	
	Somewhat Important	35.8% (151)	48.9% (69)	
	Not Important	9.2% (39)	23.4% (33)	
		422	141	563
Funding for student activities/athletics	Very Important	55.6% (235)	25.0% (36)	
	Somewhat Important	37.1% (157)	43.1% (62)	
	Not Important	7.3% (31)	31.9% (46)	
		423	144	567
	answered question	483	191	674
			skipped question	33

What is your zip code?			
	How did you vote on the proposed budget?		
	Yes, in favor	No, opposed	Response Totals
12047	13.7% (66)	10.5% (20)	12.8% (86)
12110	49.4% (238)	50.5% (96)	49.7% (334)
12128	0.2% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.1% (1)
12189	13.7% (66)	11.6% (22)	13.1% (88)
12204	1.9% (9)	1.1% (2)	1.6% (11)
12205	0.0% (0)	0.5% (1)	0.1% (1)
12211	21.2% (102)	25.8% (49)	22.5% (151)
answered question	482	190	672
skipped question			35

In what age group are you?			
	How did you vote on the proposed budget?		
	Yes, in favor	No, opposed	Response Totals
18-19	2.5% (12)	0.0% (0)	1.8% (12)
20-30	2.7% (13)	2.6% (5)	2.6% (18)
31-50	39.0% (189)	23.5% (46)	34.5% (235)
51-64	30.5% (148)	42.9% (84)	34.1% (232)
65+	25.4% (123)	31.1% (61)	27.0% (184)
answered question	485	196	681
skipped question			26

Check all that apply to you.

	How did you vote on the proposed budget?		Response Totals
	Yes, in favor	No, opposed	
No children	25.0% (114)	45.0% (76)	30.4% (190)
Children attending Shaker High School	16.2% (74)	17.8% (30)	16.6% (104)
Children attending Shaker Junior HS	12.9% (59)	4.1% (7)	10.6% (66)
Children attending private/parochial school	1.8% (8)	4.1% (7)	2.4% (15)
Children attending an NCCS elementary school	34.2% (156)	10.7% (18)	27.8% (174)
Preschool age child(ren)	4.8% (22)	3.6% (6)	4.5% (28)
Child(ren) age 18+	26.5% (121)	25.4% (43)	26.2% (164)
answered question	456	169	625
		skipped question	82

In general, how would you grade the quality of education provided by North Colonie?

	How did you vote on the proposed budget?		Response Totals
	Yes, in favor	No, opposed	
A	82.7% (396)	47.6% (88)	72.9% (484)
B	16.1% (77)	36.8% (68)	21.8% (145)
C	1.0% (5)	15.1% (28)	5.0% (33)
D	0.2% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.2% (1)
F	0.0% (0)	0.5% (1)	0.2% (1)
answered question	479	185	664
skipped question			43