

NEW FAIRFIELD 21-22 BUDGET REFERENDUM FACT SHEET

Referendum is scheduled Saturday, June 5, 2021, from 10AM to 8PM at Meeting House Hill School

Voting in person and by absentee ballot is possible. Absentee ballots available on broader COVID basis through Town Clerk's office. Application for absentee ballot available through link on www.newfairfield.org or by visiting the Town Clerk's office.

Referendum is to approve the two budgets for FY 2021-2022, starting July 1, 2021 -- for the schools and town.

Budget total to be paid by property taxes is \$52,151,780.

- \$36,386,758 is for the schools (salaries programs, building maintenance, etc.)
- \$12,293,247 is for the town (roads and drainage, fire and police department, salaries, etc.)
- \$6,050,000 is for medical insurance for school and town employees
- \$3,841,896 is for debt service (school planning and construction)

Represents a 2.98 percent increase over last year's property tax amount. Of this, 2.81 percent represents the amount added to pay the debt service on bonding for school construction. The operating budgets of New Fairfield schools and municipal governments will grow by only 0.17 percent under this proposal. This includes salary increases in line with cost-of-living adjustments.

Barebones budget in line with economic hardship of the past year caused by COVID. Increases in ongoing programs and purchases were kept to a bare minimum and Board of Finance used every tool available to keep increase low.

Federal relief funding has so many restrictions on its use that it could not be used to further reduce increases in this budget proposal. The Town and Schools continue to look at ways the federal money can be used.

If the budget fails, it will have NO impact on the schools project. The projects will move ahead and the debt service in this budget for the schools will be paid regardless of budget referendum outcome. Most likely staff positions such as gym and music teachers that were much debated and fought for will be on the chopping block, as will capital expenses for the town such fire-fighting equipment (the only capital expenditure in the municipal budget that was not cut this budget season) and infrastructure repair.

The proposed budget can be viewed in the 5/20/21 Town Tribune or online at (<https://www.newfairfield.org/municipal-departments/finance-and-taxes/finance/town-budgets>).