

Annual Budget Vote and Election

Questions & Answers

1. Why is the vote by absentee ballot only?

Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.26 directed all New York State School Districts to conduct their annual budget vote and election via absentee ballot.

2. Who provided the names and addresses to whom the ballots were mailed?

Districts receive a list of the names and addresses of all qualified voters residing within the district through a Nassau County service. The District's responsibility is to mail an absentee ballot to all the qualified voters with the list.

3. How can I obtain a ballot if one was not received or the ballot I received was lost or damaged?

If you are a registered voter and you have not received a ballot, or your ballot is damaged, please contact Barbara Fillios, Election Chairperson at bfillios@northbellmoreschools.org

4. What propositions are included on this year's ballot?

There are 4 propositions on this year's ballot.

- The first proposition is the North Bellmore UFSD total budget appropriation in the amount of \$58,039,655. This includes a tax levy increase of 2.71% that falls within the tax cap.

-The second proposition is the establishment of a North Bellmore UFSD Capital Reserve in the amount of \$10,000,000 to be funded over 10 years. This **WILL NOT** increase the tax levy as it is funded through the transfer of unappropriated fund balance to the extent it is available at the end of any given year during the next ten years.

-The third and fourth propositions are for the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District and they include the budget appropriation in the amount of \$166,661,464, and a capital improvement project to be funded by an existing capital reserve fund.

5. What happens if the proposed budget does not pass?

If the proposed budget were to fail on June 9th, the state has offered no guidance on a possible revote. It is critically important to know that should a revote not be permitted, the Board will be forced to adopt a contingency budget, requiring \$1.1 million of reductions across all areas of the budget. This is in addition to potential 20% reduction in state aid as indicated by Governor Cuomo on several occasions. Therefore, programs and initiatives in all schools and all grades will be affected, including academics and the arts, and reductions in staff at all levels will be required. Reductions of \$1.1 million in the budget will have negative and long-term ramifications for the District, and it will

take many years to restore programmatic and other reductions.

6. Are there any elections included on the ballot this year?

Yes, there are two elections included on the ballot.

- The first is an election for a member of the North Bellmore Board of Education. The two candidates running for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2020, are Peter Mayo and Christine Malloy. You may view a recording of the Meet the Candidates Forum by accessing the District's website at www.northbellmoreschools.org.

- The second is an election for a member of the North Bellmore Public Library Board of Trustees. The three candidates running are Ralph Esposito, Steve Freeman, and George Keenan.

7. How can I submit my absentee ballot?

The Governor's Executive Order establishes a voting process by absentee ballot through the mail. As such, all registered voters received a pre-paid postage return envelope included with the ballot. There is expressed concern that voters may not be able to timely return their ballot by mail for various reasons including, but not limited to, delayed postal delivery service. As such, the school district is providing an alternate delivery for the return of the ballots for these voters at a **secured locked drop box** located at

the front of Martin Avenue School, 2616 Martin Ave., Bellmore, NY 11710.

Please remember to sign the Oath Envelope. This envelope **must be signed** in order for the vote to be counted.

8. Will the counting of ballots be by hand or electronic?

The counting (tallying) of all absentee ballots are conducted by hand. Absentee ballots are not scannable.

9. When will the results of the vote be announced and accepted by the Board of Education?

Depending on the number of ballots received and the time it takes to tally the votes, the District is permitted to continue tallying the votes on the following day, June 10, 2020. After the tallying is completed, the Board will accept the results and the public will be informed.

10. Is the list of voters available for inspection?

Yes. A list of voters who were issued absentee ballots for the June 9, 2020 budget vote and school election may be obtained from the district clerk by emailing the district clerk at JCanavan@northbellmoreschools.org. Any qualified voter may, upon examination of such list, file a written challenge of the

qualifications of any person whose name appears on such list, stating the reasons for such challenge. The written challenge shall be submitted to the district clerk by email or mail by 5:00 PM on June 9, 2020.

11. Where will the canvassing of ballots take place and will it be open to the public?

The canvassing will take place at Martin Avenue School. There are rulings from the Commissioner of Education that state the canvass of absentee ballots must be done in public. However, due to the Governor's Executive Orders, and the limitations on public gatherings, **the public cannot appear at the polling site for this vote.** As such, the canvass will be available for viewing through a non-interactive live stream which will not include an audio component. The link for the live stream viewing will be available on the District's website at www.northbellmoreschools.org no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 9, 2020.

12. What is the process for tallying ballots?

The signature and voter information on each oath envelope is compared with the list of registered voters received from the Nassau County Board of Elections to check the person has the same name and address. If the name and residence as stated on the envelope is not on the register, or there is no signature on the envelope, the envelope shall be laid aside unopened and returned unopened to the district clerk. As long as the envelope is signed and such person is found to be registered in the school district,

and there is no sustained objection to the qualifications of the voter, the oath envelope is opened and the folded ballot is removed and tallied. The opened oath envelope and the ballot will be segregated in separate piles with the aggregate number of oath envelopes and folded ballots counted and documented. The folded ballots will be placed into a locked box prior to being tallied. The opened oath envelopes will be placed in a separate box. When the election inspectors are prepared to tally the votes, the absentee ballots are removed from the locked box and the votes recorded on a tally sheet. After being counted, the opened ballots will be returned to a locked box. The tally recorded by each election inspector will be merged onto a final tally sheet and the results of the election announced by the chairperson of the election or district clerk.