

Record Approval of School Budgets

2017-18 School Budget Vote



New York State
Association of School
Business Officials

Advancing the Business of Education

June 21, 2017

June Budget Vote

On June 20, 2017 voters in five school districts that had defeated 2017-18 school budget proposals came to the polls to vote on revised budgets. All of these votes were successful; no district will be required to adopt a contingency budget with no levy increase.

Figure 1. June Vote Results

School District	Vote Outcome
DeRuyter	Passed
East Ramapo	Passed
Hinsdale	Passed
Pittsford	Passed
Putnam	Passed

While three of the five school budgets that were defeated in May had looked to override the Tax Cap (DeRuyter, East Ramapo, and Pittsford), all the proposed June budgets were tax cap compliant. In fact, four of the five June budgets lowered the proposed levy increase.

Figure 2. Proposed Levy Increase in May and June Budgets

School District	Original Proposed Levy Increase	Updated Proposed Levy Increase	Tax Cap
DeRuyter	4.8%	2.76%	2.76%
East Ramapo	2.49%	1.48%	1.48%
Hinsdale	2.22%	0.55%	56.48%
Pittsford	4.73%	2.7%	2.72%
Putnam	0.96%	0.96%	1.43%

History of June Votes and Contingency Budgets

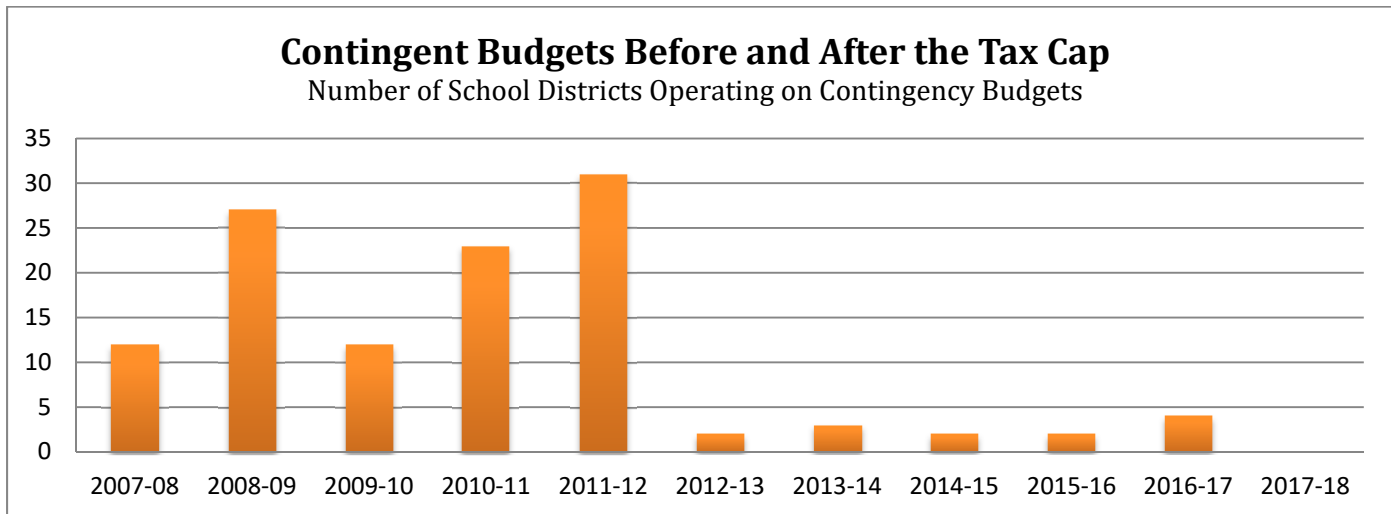
Figure 3 shows how rare contingent budgets have become since the Tax Cap began in 2012. Until this year, between two and three districts each year ended up having to use a school budget with no levy increase. The creation of the Tax Cap also made contingent budgets more punitive for school districts. In the earlier era, contingent budgets limited spending increases to 120 percent of the Consumer Price Index. Under the Tax Cap law, districts with defeated budgets are required to operate with a budget with no levy increase. As the following chart shows, in 2011, the last year before the Tax Cap, nearly half of districts with defeated budgets in the May vote adopted contingency budgets rather than have a June vote. Under the Tax Cap, only twice has a district turned to a contingency budget without having a second vote.

Figure 3. June Vote Results by Year

Year	Defeated Budgets in May Vote	Budgets Passed in June Re-Vote	Districts Adopting Contingency Budget Following May Defeat	Total Contingency Budgets
2011	45	14	22	31
2012	24	22	0	2
2013	32	29	1	3
2014	12	10	0	2
2015	9	7	0	2
2016	9	6	1	4
2017	5	5	0	0

The implementation of the tax cap has reduced the number of school districts operating with a contingency budget. Before the tax cap contingent budgets averaged 21 a year; after they have averaged two a year.

Figure 4. Contingent Budgets Before and After the Tax Cap



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