

SOUTH SENECA 2022-23 BUDGET NEWSLETTER



LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear South Seneca Community,

Our Board of Education is pleased this year to bring you a 2022-23 budget proposal that is under the calculated 2.88% cap for the tax levy. The board set the increase at 2.5%, which is reflected in the revenue budget described in the pages that follow.

This is a year that sees us emerging from the long pandemic and looking forward to school years ahead that are more what we are used to. We continue to be proud to offer a wide range of athletics, music, and drama opportunities for students, and a well-rounded selection of elective classes in the high school for a school our size. Our strong partnership with TST BOCES and Tompkins-Cortland Community College gives upperclassmen an exciting set of options to pursue programs in several fields of study.

We are in the second round of a grant cycle that allows us to bring a full Extended Day program to students from elementary to high school. We are an active member of the Rural Schools network in New York State, and we've built a good foundation of staff now to offer both academic and mental health supports to students as they learn and grow.

In addition to this document, you can find all of this year's budget presentations on our website at the Board of Education page. We take great pride in being an active and positive part of the South Seneca community, and are gratified to see so many community members make use of our buildings and grounds. Please do not hesitate to ask any questions you have about the budget presented here in this brochure; I can be reached by phone at 607-869-9636 or by email at szielinski@southseneca.org.

Stephen Parker Zielinski
Superintendent

VOTE!

**2022-23
BUDGET VOTE & HEARING**

BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, May 17

1:00-8:00 p.m.

ES Auditorium, Interlaken

BUDGET HEARING

Tuesday, May 10

7:00 p.m.

Flex Lab, Ovid

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Peter Jennings, President

Ralph Malvik, Vice President

Ave Bauder

Mary Ose

Brenda Eastman

Mike Paparone

Adam Prentice

BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES

W. AVERELL H. (AVE) BAUDER

I was elected to the Board of Education in 2019. Little did I know that my inaugural term would feature the district needing to navigate the turbulent waters of a world-wide pandemic. While operating under strict guidelines from State and Federal mandates, I think that we have done well making the best decisions we could with the information we had, in every instance keeping the health and safety of all the children in the district in mind while trying to provide the best education possible. We have also kept the taxpayers in mind and recognizing the difficult economic times we have been in, I have supported votes to submit budgets under the tax cap. Using my experience from jobs at area colleges, the Red Cross, and Cornell

Cooperative Extension, I serve on the Policy, Hiring, and Curriculum committees. I have helped to refine our Board goals and review our Policy Manual. I am the proud father of two South Seneca graduates; Nathaniel who is a graduate of SUNY ESF and finishing a Master's degree in Public History at WVU and Chamberlain, a sophomore Sports Management and Broadcasting student at SUNY Brockport. My wife Tina has taught Social Studies here for 31 years. We are a family that believes in the value of a South Seneca education. I ask for your vote so that I can continue to serve to provide the best possible educational environment for all of our kids.



BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES

WHAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION DOES:

- Convenes for bi-monthly meetings
- Addresses District academic and fiscal concerns
- Advocates for education, locally and statewide
- Serves the District voluntarily

DAN BORST

My name is Dan Borst. I am a lifelong resident of the Town of Covert and a proud member of the South Seneca class of 1993. My brother, Joe, and I are second generation owners of Borst and Sons Auto Repair, where I have the great privilege of engaging with local residents each and every day.

I've been a longtime supporter of local youth programs, and am a member of the Farmerville Lodge.

Our community, and most especially, our youth, are important to me, and I will bring an unbiased voice to the board, while fighting for transparency and equity.

There are many important decisions facing the board in the months ahead, and I will make sure that each and every one of them is made with input from taxpayers, parents, and with the best interest of our students at their core.

Thank you for your vote.



2022-2023 BUDGET REVENUE

WHAT IS THE TAX CAP?

In 2010, NYS created the tax cap law.

The intent was to keep local property tax increases from schools and other municipalities below an allowable threshold, controlled by the same well defined factors in a budget. One of these factors is the Consumer Price index (CPI), which is a rough measurement of inflation to consumers. The state recognizes that schools and municipalities have many expenses that increase at a rate higher than CPI, so there are other factors included as well.

Please notice the calculation below. As you can see, there are multiple pieces that control the final tax cap number, which results in a final allowable increase, which turns out to be different for each school district in the state, each year. This year, South Seneca's tax increase is 2.5%.

HOW IS THE TAX CAP CALCULATED?

2021-22 Tax Levy	\$8,442,307
Levy Adjusted w/ Tax Base Growth Factor	\$8,503,936
Add: Pilots Receivable in 2021-22	\$4,992
Subtract: 2021-22 Capital Exclusions	\$538,709
Adjusted Prior Year Tax Levy	\$7,970,219
Multiply by CPI (2.00%)	\$8,129,623
Less: Pilots Receivable in 2022-23	\$5,000
Tax Levy Limit	\$8,124,623
Add: 2021-22 Capital Exclusions	\$560,796
Tax Levy Threshold	\$8,685,419
Allowable Increase in Dollars	\$243,112
Allowable Increase in %	2.88%

WHAT ARE THE SOURCES?

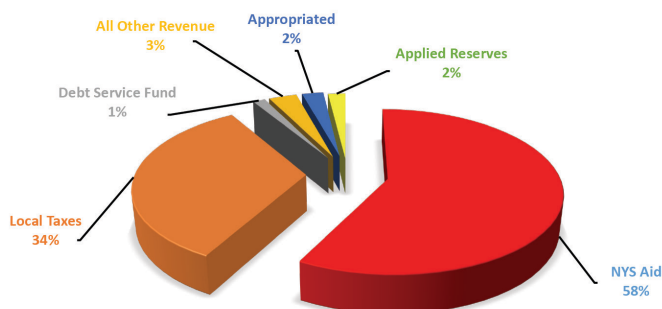
Revenues come from a variety of sources, district generated, state government, federal government and from local property taxes. New York State law requires that a school district's planned budget expenditures must equal their estimated revenues. The total local property tax, or tax levy, is calculated by subtracting district-generated revenues and state aid from the district's proposed budget. The tax levy proposed is an increase of 2.50% from last year. This is below the allowable increase of 2.88%.

ITEM	2021-22	2022-23	DIFFERENCE
NYS Aid	\$14,646,039	\$14,959,469	\$313,430
Local Taxes	\$8,442,307	\$8,653,365	\$211,058
Debt Service Fund	\$300,000	\$350,000	\$50,000
All Other Revenue	\$550,000	\$800,000	\$250,000
Appropriated	\$541,994	\$607,833	\$65,839
Applied Reserves	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$0
Total Revenue	\$24,980,340	\$25,870,667	\$890,327

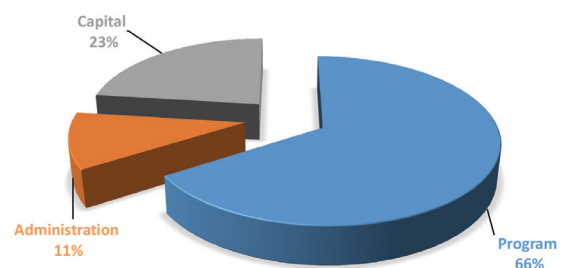
MAXIMUM 2022-2023 STAR SAVINGS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT: SOUTH SENECA

MUNICIPAL NAME	BASIC	ENHANCED
Town of Covert	\$367	\$855
Town of Hector	\$364	\$855
Town of Lodi	\$390	\$908
Town of Ovid	\$390	\$908
Town of Romulus	\$390	\$908

2022-2023 REVENUE BREAKDOWN



2022-2023 EXPENSE BREAKDOWN



2022-2023 BUDGET EXPENDITURES

WHERE THE FUNDS GO

Expenditures are incurred by the District to provide general support to instructional programs, transportation services, cleaning and maintenance, community services, employee benefits, athletics and debt service operations of the District. There is a 3.56% increase in the 2022-2023 budget compared to the 2021-2022 budget. Below are the details by department.

DESCRIPTION	2022-23 BUDGET	2021-22 BUDGET	CHANGE
Board Of Education	69,363	66,679	
Central Administration	234,932	209,539	
Business Administration	453,623	426,269	
Legal and Public Information	81,480	72,188	
Central Printing & Mailing	355,689	353,147	
Insurance and Administrative Costs	355,448	343,797	
Supervision and Benefits	1,354,726	1,257,694	
Total Administration	2,905,261	2,729,313	175,948
Operation of Plant	1,097,468	1,053,624	
Maintenance of Plant	483,100	482,180	
Refund on Real Property Taxes	2,731	2,229	
District Transportation Services	400,000	325,000	
Employee Benefits	503,104	440,397	
Debt Service	3,382,838	3,386,088	
Transfer to Capital Fund- Capital Outlay Project*	100,000	100,000	
Total Capital	5,969,241	5,789,518	179,723
Teaching-Regular School	4,999,449	4,907,266	
Program For Students with Disabilities	3,833,064	3,834,631	
Occupational Education (Grades 9-12)	897,907	878,873	
Teaching-Special Schools	52,197	52,347	
School Library & AV	239,125	249,916	
Computer Assisted Instruction	1,222,616	1,217,633	
Guidance/ Health Services	460,758	376,589	
Psychological & Social Work Services	252,791	247,007	
Co-Curricular Activities	55,000	7,000	
Interscholastic Athletics	328,387	328,350	
District Transport Services / Garage	1,127,292	1,124,819	
Employee Benefits and Transfers	3,527,579	3,237,078	
Total Program	16,996,165	16,461,509	534,656
Total Budgets	25,870,667	24,980,340	890,327
			3.56%

*This year's Capital Outlay Project will focus on flood prevention in the Elementary Building

2022-23 BUDGET PROPOSITIONS

Proposition #1: RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the South Seneca Central School District shall be authorized to expend the sum set forth in the budget for the 2022-23 school year in the total amount of \$25,870,667 and to assess and levy upon the taxable property of the District the necessary tax therefore.

Proposition #2: RESOLVED, that pursuant to Education Law, Section 259, the Board of Education of the South Seneca Central School District is authorized to levy and collect an annual tax, year after year, separate and apart from the annual school district budget, in the amount of \$213,000, which shall be paid for the support and maintenance of the Interlaken Public Library (\$71,000); for the support and maintenance of the Lodi Whittier Library (\$71,000); and for the support and maintenance of the Edith B. Ford Memorial Library (\$71,000).

Proposition #3: Shall the Board of Education of the South Seneca Central School District be authorized to purchase motor vehicles for use in the transportation program of the District, including up to three (3) school buses and one (1) van, and expend therefore an aggregate sum not to exceed \$400,000 and be it further authorized that the sum of \$400,000 being the aggregate of the aforesaid maximum estimated amounts, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the appropriation of the amount not to exceed \$400,000 from the School Bus Reserve Fund or available budget fund balance.

Proposition #4: Shall the Board of Education of the South Seneca Central School District, Seneca and Seneca Counties, New York, be authorized to establish and continue a Capital Reserve Fund to be known as Capital Improvement Reserve under the provisions of Education Law section 3651 and to transfer remaining funds from the prior Capital Reserve Fund known as Capital Reserve that has reached its maximum term. The purpose of the fund is for the purchase of land and real property, repair, construction and reconstruction of capital improvements, grounds and equipment for the Elementary School and the Middle School - High School and Bus Garage located in Interlaken and Ovid, New York. The ultimate amount of the fund shall not exceed Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000.00). The probable and maximum term of the reserve fund shall be ten (10) years commencing on June 1, 2022. The source from which the funds will be obtained may include any or all of the following: unreserved, unappropriated fund balances from the general fund as determined by the Board of Education not to exceed \$500,000.00 per year, State aid relating to expenditures from the capital reserve fund; interest income related to investments of money in the fund, transfer of unexpended amounts from the District's prior Capital Reserve, known as the Capital Reserve and transfers from any other existing reserve fund that permits direct transfer to the Capital Reserve Fund and any other additional monies hereafter authorized by the voters of the District.

Proposition #5: Shall the Board of Education of the South Seneca Central School District be authorized to purchase additional real property consisting of 9.8 acres of land located in Ovid, NY that would be for future development of facilities and would provide safe accessibility to existing and future facilities of the Middle/High School.

Proposition #6: To elect two members of the Board for a three-year term to succeed Ave Bauder and Mary Elizabeth Ose commencing on July 1, 2022 and expiring on June 30, 2025.

SEE ALL BUDGET PRESENTATIONS ON OUR WEBSITE

WWW.SOUTHSENECA.ORG

SCHOOL PRIDE AND ACADEMIC SUCCESS

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support, Instructional Support Team and Response to Intervention meeting all student needs

Full-day UPK supported through grant funding

BOCES used for curricular and professional development needs

Social, Emotional and Behavioral Student and Family Support

- Guidance Counselor, Psychologist, Social Worker, Dean of Students (Guidance Counselor), MTSS Coordinator and Seneca County Mental Health Counselor
- Teachers trained in Responsive Classroom and Zones of Regulation

Maintaining strength in Special Areas

- All students, PK-5 receive Art, Library, Music and Physical Education classes
- Grades 4 and 5 participate in Band and Chorus

Extended Day Program for all K-5 students supported through grant funding

- After school and summer program offering a variety of opportunities including, but not limited to:
 - Art Club, Book Club, Children in the Stream, Comic Book Club, Cornell 4-H, Dance, Drama Club, Fitness, Fine Motor Skills, Intramurals, Library of Things, Mad Science, Mural Paintings, Music Enrichment, Outdoor Exploration, Performing Arts, School Community, Sewing Club, Spanish Club, Tutoring, Writing Club

Additional Opportunities for our students

- Free breakfast and lunch for all students
- 1:1 chromebooks for all students K-5
- Composting Club, Swing Chorus, Marching Band, Jazz Band, Post Office Club, Safety Patrol, Student Council, Peer Mediation, Book Store

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Our mission is to work together as a community to support, encourage, and provide opportunities for middle school children as they grow and change. We believe that middle school is student focused and middle level education is unique. The needs of the middle school student are different from those of elementary or high school students and that middle school is a team effort involving all students, their homes, their community, and the school. Communication between home and school is a priority in the middle grades and every individual involved in our community has a valuable contribution to offer.

We recognize that middle school students are in a process of constant change, and are dedicated to supporting them in this growth. It is each person's responsibility to work hard to create and foster a positive climate in our middle school. We strive to meet every student's individual needs through flexibility and creativity.

HIGH SCHOOL

South Seneca High School focuses on tailoring programs based on student interest. We work to inspire our young people to hone the skills that will help them succeed in college and careers, and we strive to offer students courses that will inspire as well as fulfill requirements.

Our high school focuses on a strength-based learning environment that fosters exploration, passion for learning, perseverance, collaboration, resourceful problem-solving, self-esteem, and civility that ensures students are ready for the future of their choices.

SPECIAL EDUCATION:

Our Special Education Department continues to provide a continuum of services for students with special needs ages 3 – 21. We strive to provide programs and services to meet the needs of all students while providing equal access to classes, curriculum and activities. We are excited to continue offering an Integrated Special Education Program for our Pre K students with disabilities as well as related services and Special Education Itinerant Services at our Elementary School. Each year, the Special Education department customizes programs and services to meet the needs of all students. We will continue to offer a continuum of services ensuring the instructional and social / emotional needs of students are being met. We are able to provide Consultant Teacher services as well as Self Contained classes in both buildings. These programs will allow our students the opportunity to stay at South Seneca and allow them opportunities to build relationships with staff and students while providing supports and services to meet their needs.

ATHLETICS

Here at South Seneca we provide a wonderful opportunity for our athletes, community, and families to enjoy sports at every level. We are a small, rural school with amazing facilities. Athletics is a great way to bring our kids and community together. The positive effect this has on our young athletes is unmeasurable and the memories will last a lifetime. During the 2021-22 school year, we have had several athletes achieve All League status as well as competing at the state finals level. Our Varsity Wrestling team was chosen as the recipient of the Section V's Sportsmanship of the Year award. We are proud of all of our coaches and athletes and feel that the South Seneca Falcons make a powerful impact in the community.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Extracurricular activities play a key role in a school's community and culture. South Seneca is a small school in the heart of the Finger Lakes where activities such as music, drama and other clubs create positive opportunities for students. The programs that South Seneca offers reach people near and far, as our groups continue to make their mark representing our school and community with pride. Our facilities are an amazing draw to what our small school has to offer. As we continue to offer extracurricular activities of the highest quality at South Seneca, our students will benefit from a spirit of cooperation and perseverance they learn now and need to succeed in the future.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. WHY DOES THE DISTRICT NEED A NEW CAPITAL RESERVE?

A. A referendum for the Capital Improvement Reserve Fund asks the voters to allow South Seneca to establish a reserve or "savings account" for long term maintenance. The purpose of the fund is for the purchase of land and real property, repair, construction and reconstruction of capital improvements, grounds and equipment for the Elementary School and the Middle School - High School and Bus Garage located in Interlaken and Ovid, New York. Current work in development includes building a new Transportation Building and long-term Flood Prevention work. This 10-year reserve, commencing June 1, 2022, allows up to a maximum of \$10M and funding up to \$500,000 from unreserved, unappropriated fund balance. The current Capital Reserve balance will be transferred to the new Capital Improvement Reserve.

Q. DOES THE PURCHASE OF LAND DIRECTLY AFFECT THE CAPITAL PROJECT VOTE IN DECEMBER 2022?

A. If voters approve the purchase of land in May, the Board of Education will have the option of securing the purchase ahead of the Capital Project vote in December. As the Board shapes the scope of the next project, which includes a new Transportation Facility, building on new land would allow the use of the existing facility to continue during construction. If the decision is to build on our existing campus, some arrangement or adjustment will need to happen for a bus garage while the new facility is built. Importantly, an approval for land purchase does not obligate the district to buy new land—it simply provides the option.

Q. HOW IS THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM BEING IMPACTED IN 2022-23?

A. South Seneca will continue to offer athletic programs to best support our students. We hope to maintain the same programs and continue to encourage participation throughout all our levels.

Q. WHAT ARE SOME OTHER AREAS OF THE BUDGET THAT ARE INCREASING/ DECREASING?

A. The budget contains increases in contractual costs, including utilities, pension costs and health insurance. Some of these increases were offset by reductions in contingencies and savings. Each department has reviewed their actual costs from the past and their needs for the future and have been able to maintain their budgets within 3.56%. Therefore, our budget to budget increase is \$890,327 more than the current budget.

Q. HOW WILL THE LIBRARY LEVY BE UTILIZED AT THE THREE LIBRARIES?

A. The Edith B. Ford Memorial Library will use the increase in funding to continue to provide a high level of community service, including technology and programming, for all residents of the South Seneca Central School District. The Interlaken Public Library will use the funding to continue educational and entertaining programs, materials and support to inspire a lifelong love of learning for all residents. The Lodi Whittier Library continues to increase community engagement through essential services and support. Increased funding will be used to support staff and operating hours of the Libraries that serve the South Seneca Community.

Q. WHAT AM I VOTING ON IN THE BUDGET PROPOSITION?

A. You are voting to authorize the South Seneca Central School District to budget \$25,870,667 for the 2022-23 school year. This represents a 3.56% increase in spending from the previous year.

Q. WHAT IS THE ESTIMATED INCREASE IN THE TAX RATE PER THOUSAND DOLLARS OF ASSESSMENT?

A. The tax rate per thousand is based on property assessments and equalization rates provided by NYS Real Property Office and may be different depending on the town

where your property is located. Actual tax rates will be determined after the real property tax rolls, as prepared by the (5) Towns' Assessor, have been finalized in August. The tax rate is calculated by dividing the total tax levy by the total assessments by town.

Q. WHAT IS THE PROPERTY TAX CAP?

A. NYS has enacted a Property Tax Cap using an 8-part formula. The tax cap may be different each year. For 2022-23, South Seneca's Property Tax Cap is 2.88%. The budget going to voters in May, approved by the Board, represents a 2.5% increase in the tax levy. Since the Proposed Budget is under the cap, a 50% simple majority of voters is required to approve the 2022-23 budget.

Q. TAX COLLECTIONS

A. For the 2022-23 tax year, South Seneca will continue to engage the Central Business Office at TST BOCES for its tax collection services. Property owners will be directed to send payments to TST BOCES. Taxpayers can view updated payment status on www.taxlookup.net.

Q. WHAT HAPPENS IF THE DISTRICT VOTERS DO NOT APPROVE THIS BUDGET?

A. The Board of Education may either propose a new budget in June or would go to a contingent budget. Under a contingent budget, all equipment purchases including buses, computers, science and musical instruments would be eliminated. A fee may also apply to previously free facility use and classroom-provided supplies for students may need to be provided by parents instead. The tax levy would increase by 0%, and necessary cuts may be made to staff and programs to balance the budget.

Q. WHAT WORK IS PROPOSED IN THE 2022-23 CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECT?

A. One line item in the budget pertains to our \$100,000 annual Capital Outlay project. For 2022-23, we will focus on flood

prevention in the Elementary Building. This annual project allows the District to conduct needed repairs and receive 81.5% of its cost with state aid the very next year instead of the 15-year aided program of other capital projects.

DID YOU KNOW?

If the budget is defeated, the district will operate under a contingency budget. The following would be excluded by law from a contingency budget:

- New buses
- Computer equipment
- Musical instruments
- Maintenance equipment
- Science equipment
- Security cameras
- Free use of facilities
- School-provided supplies may be reduced
- Tax increase of 0%, up to \$601,481 in cuts may be made to staff and programming.

QUESTIONS?

For more information regarding the budget, please contact:

Miguel A. Andrade
Business Administrator
869-9636, ext. 3102

or see the complete budget on display at your local library or school building office.



SOUTH SENECA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



SOUTH SENECA
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

7263 MAIN STREET | OVID, NY 14521

#FOREVERFALCONS

f @SOUTHSENECACSD

**VOTE
VOTE
VOTE
VOTE
VOTE**

BUDGET VOTE
TUESDAY, MAY 17
1:00-8:00 P.M.
ES AUDITORIUM, INTERLAKEN

2022-2023 SCHOOL BUDGET NOTICE

	BUDGET ADOPTED FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR	BUDGET PROPOSED FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR	CONTINGENCY BUDGET FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR
Total budgeted amount	\$24,980,340	\$25,870,667	\$25,269,186
Increase for the 2022-23 school year		\$890,327	\$288,846
Percentage increase/ decrease in each proposed budget		3.56%	1.16%
Change in the consumer price index (CPI)		4.70%	
School Tax Levy Limit		\$8,124,623	
Proposed School Year Tax Levy (without permissible exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit)		\$8,092,569	\$8,442,307
Total Permissible Exclusions		\$560,796	
Proposed School Year Tax Levy (including permissible exclusions to the School Tax levy Limit)	\$8,442,307	\$8,653,365	\$8,442,307
Administrative component	\$2,729,313	\$2,905,261	\$2,806,893
Capital component	\$5,789,518	\$5,969,241	\$5,969,241
Program component	\$16,461,509	\$16,996,165	\$16,493,052
Statement of Assumptions for contingency budget for the 2022-23 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.	Should the district go to a contingency budget, the district must cut non-contingent items from the budget. In a contingent budget, there would be no purchase of new equipment unless purchase was deemed for health and safety reasons, no new capital expenditures, except in emergency situations, no non-essential maintenance and outside organizations would have to pay for facilities use. The Board of Education must exercise its best judgment in determining what the minimum expenditures shall be within the limitations imposed by the administrations and the contingent budget caps.		

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Applications for absentee ballots will be obtainable between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday from the District Clerk.

The District Clerk must receive absentee ballots no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday May 17, 2022.

VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

In order to vote, individuals must meet the following requirements:

- Resident of the District for 30 days preceding vote
- The residence in the School District must be the individual's primary place of residence
- United States citizen
- 18 years or older

NEED MORE INFO?

For more information or to request an application for an absentee ballot, contact the District Clerk:

Shelley Reynolds
(607) 869-9636, ext. 4147

Or visit us on the web at:
www.southseneca.org