

# OVUUSD budget re-vote

## When is the budget re-vote and how do I vote?

The OVUUSD Budget is April 26, 2022. Voting is in person at regular polling locations on that day or you can go in to town offices for early voting or to request an absentee ballot before then to vote. The informational meeting is virtual on April 25 at 6:30 pm a link can be found on the RNESU Calendar.

## What are the main points in this budget?

This budget proposal is a 5.5 cent decrease (4%) in the unified tax rate, bringing the tax rate back to pre-merger rates. Ed Spending is up 9.7% due to the way the formula works. However, OVUUSD Ed Spending is nearly \$1000 below the statewide average

Primary drivers in this budget are the inflation impact on utilities and fuel and contracted salary and benefit increases as this category is 80% of the budget.

No new programs are added to this budget proposal from the current year. Lines are adjusted to meet student needs.

## Why are we voting again?

The budget was defeated in a vote on March 2. Fewer than a third of the usual voters turned up to vote. We are required to pass a budget each year to fund the schools

## Why didn't you mail the ballot to me like my town did in early March?

The VT Legislature allowed town select boards to choose to mail Municipal ballots in March. Pittsford and Brandon chose to do this. Goshen, Whiting, Sudbury and Leicester did not choose to mail ballots. School districts can only mail school ballots IF ALL towns agree to mail. Thus, as 4 out of 6 towns did not mail ballots, the schools could not do so. The April 26 election will also be in person

## What are the drivers for the budget?

ReVote - reduced \$5000 in health insurance costs for new staff and policy tiers  
Included 11 PreK tuitions: 5 new lottery students & 6 currently enrolled students  
Neshobe & OCA increased part time para educators to full time  
OCA reallocated clearing contract to custodial position  
OVUHS reallocated SRO contract to middle school health teacher  
OVUHS added 1.0 FTE Vocational Educator teacher to support student job placements  
OVUHS added 1.0 FTE paraeducator to meet students' need  
OVUHS eliminated 1 out of district tuition placement based on student's needs  
No other programmatic changes as we have already "right sized" the district  
Also Included: salary and benefits as board approved; line by line adjustments to utilities, supplies and other non-program costs based on projected spending and estimated increases

## What is in the budget and what is the tax impact?

The new budget proposal is \$22,705,955, which is an increase of 7.85%. The bulk of this increase is in the contracted salary and benefit line. Of note, the budget is primarily made up of staff, as we serve students; thus changes in the salary and benefits line would be most impacted. No new programs are added in this budget.

Of note, the unified tax rate decreases by 5.5 cents. This rate is affected in each town by the Common Level of Appraisal, which is based on how recently homes were appraised. Thus some towns go up while most towns go down in taxes.



## OTTER VALLEY UNIFIED UNION

April 25, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.  
The legal voters of the Otter Valley Unified Union School District voters of the Towns of Brandon, Goshen, Leicester, Pittsford and Whiting are hereby notified that the annual meeting of the school board will be held on April 25, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. Meeting link and dial in information can be found on the w.rnesu.org.

Article 1: To hear the Board of School Directors of the expenses for the ensuing year.

The meeting shall then be recessed to Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at the usual polling places in the member districts brought to the Brandon American Legion Post #55 following the districts where they will be commingled and counted by districts.

The Town polls will be opened as follows:

Town of Brandon	10:00
Town of Goshen	9:00
Town of Leicester	10:00
Town of Pittsford	7:00
Town of Sudbury	10:00
Town of Whiting	7:00

Article 2: Shall the voters of the school district approve Seven Hundred Five Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty-five Dollars (\$759,550) which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the proposed budget, if approved, will result in education projected spending per equalized pupil is 9.7% higher than the current year.

Dated at Brandon, Vermont  
Recorded  
April 13, 2022

*Laurie Bertrand*  
Laurie Bertrand, Chair  
Otter Valley Unified Union School District No. U053

## OFFICIAL BALLOT OTTER VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT BRANDON, GOSHEN, LEICESTER, PITTSFORD, SUDBURY, AND WHITING, VERMONT SPECIAL BUDGET RE-VOTE APRIL 26, 2022

**Sample Ballot**

### INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

A. TO VOTE, completely fill in the OVAL ☐ to the RIGHT of your choice(s) like this: ☐

### ARTICLE

**Article 2:** Shall the voters of the school district approve Twenty-two Million Seven Hundred Five Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty-five Dollars (\$22,705,955) which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$17,444 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 9.7% higher than the current year.

of the school district approve the school board to expend Seven Hundred Five Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty-five Dollars (\$759,550) which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the proposed budget, if approved, will result in education projected spending per equalized pupil is 9.7% higher than the current year.

YES ☐  
NO ☐

