

An analysis of the Mayfield Central School District Anonymous Voter Exit Survey – May 17, 2016

Of the 301 voters who cast paper ballots during the annual budget vote on May 17, 2016, 59 of them or 19.6 percent completed the anonymous voter exit survey. This year, students were at the voting table for only *part* of the day, not the entire voting time period. That could have accounted for the lower percentage. Last year, 47 percent of 455 voters completed the exit survey.

The actual voter total was 247 YES voters and 54 NO voters for the 2016-17 budget. The bus purchase proposal was also approved by a vote of 253 YES voters to 49 NO voters, an 84% to 16% margin.

Only one NO voter completed the survey, so those results were blended with YES voters for the purpose of this analysis.

✓ **WHY did you vote as you did on the 2016-17 budget proposal?** *(check all that apply)*

Among YES voters, the largest number – **28.1 percent** – indicated that they supported the budget because they “*believe in supporting the schools.*” For the May 20, 2015 budget vote, **60 percent** of respondents cited this reason for supporting the budget.

The other responses were:

- ▶ *I believe the budget proposal was sound* – **21.3 percent** of YES voters.
(53% at May 20, 2015 budget vote)
- ▶ *The tax increase was reasonable* – **17.7 percent** of YES voters
(48% at May 20, 2015 budget vote)
- ▶ *I am happy with the quality of the schools* – **17.2 percent** of YES voters.
(51% at May 20, 2015 budget vote)
- ▶ *I support the school board/administration* – **15.6 percent** of YES voters
(17.7% at May 20, 2015 budget vote)

The single NO voter who completed the survey opposed the budget equally between “the tax increase was unreasonable” and “I lack confidence in the school board/administration.”

✓ **WHERE did you get information about the proposed 2016-17 budget?** *(check all that apply)*

Among YES voters, the largest source of information about the budget was the Mayfield Budget Newsletter – **35.6 percent** – mailed to all homes in the school district.

The same trend was seen for the May 20, 2015 budget vote (**53 percent** indicated this choice) and the January 12 Capital Project vote (**35 percent** indicated this choice) – a majority of voters completing the surveys received their information from the newsletter mailed by the school district to community members.

The other responses were:

- ▶ *Gloversville Leader-Herald* – **18.3 percent** of YES voters.
(38% at May 20, 2015 budget vote)

- ▶ District website – **15.4 percent** of YES voters.
(17% at May 20, 2015 budget vote)
- ▶ Word of mouth – **15.4 percent** of YES voters.
(26% at May 20, 2015 budget vote)
This was the only source of information cited by the single NO voter this year.
- ▶ Public meetings – **7.7 percent** of YES voters.
(6.2% at May 20, 2015 budget vote)
- ▶ *Sacandga Express* – **7.7 percent** of YES voters.
(5.8% at May 20, 2015 budget vote)
- ▶ *Amsterdam Recorder* – **0.0 percent** of YES voters.
(No information from May 20, 2015 vote)

✓ **DO you feel that you had adequate information about the proposal?**

100 percent of YES voters and the single NO voter said they had adequate information to make a decision about the budget proposal. (Not asked at May 20, 2015 vote)

✓ **DO you currently have children attending district schools?** (*check all that apply*)

The clear majority of YES voters were FORMER parents, whose children had graduated. The budget also received a strong endorsement from parents and people who have no children. The same trend was seen on the exit survey results from the Capital Project vote on January 12.

- ▶ My children have graduated – **43.5 percent** of YES voters.
- ▶ Yes, at the Elementary School – **22.6 percent** of voters. *This includes the YES voters and the single NO voter.*
- ▶ Yes, at the Jr.-Sr. High School – **16.1 percent** of YES voters.
- ▶ I do not have children – **12.9 percent** of YES voters.
- ▶ No, but they will attend when they are older – **3.2 percent** of YES voters.
- ▶ Yes, at the pre-school level – **1.6 percent** of YES voters.
- ▶ My children attend private/parochial schools or are schooled at home – **0.0 percent** of YES voters.

This question was asked differently at the May 20, 2015 budget vote. The results from that survey indicated that **39.1 percent** of those taking the survey were parents; **36.3 percent** were neither an employee or retired employee; **11.2 percent** were retired employees; **9.7 percent** were employees; and **3.7 percent** were students.

✓ **ARE you a graduate of Mayfield Schools?**

The clear majority of YES voters DID NOT graduate from Mayfield. The same trend was seen on the exit survey results from the Capital Project vote on January 12.

- ▶ Yes – **33.9 percent** of YES voters.
 - ▶ No – **66.1 percent** of YES voters.
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✓ **Comments**

Here are the comments on the YES surveys submitted during the May 17, 2016 budget exit poll. The single NO voter who completed the survey included no comments.

One person supported the budget “because I’m a retired teacher in another district.”

I would have liked more information on the candidates running for school board.

One person voted YES because “it’s for the kids.”

One person indicated that they had grandchildren in the school district.

One person supported the budget for the “full-day pre-K proposal.”

One person indicated he or she had gotten information about the budget from a “faculty presentation.”

“Great idea of more efficiently managing transportation with the new software.”

One person said they had received budget information from “Panther Pause.”

“Keep the Playground. No need for more parking!”

One person voted YES because “my husband influenced me.”

One person voted YES “because we got a state refund.”

SUMMARY of the Mayfield CSD Anonymous Voter Exit Survey – January 12, 2016 – NO VOTERS

1. **HOW** did you vote on the proposed *Building the Future, Restoring the Past* Capital Project?

Yes, in Favor **14 Voters who cast NO votes completed the survey**

The percentages below show an unduplicated figure; in many cases, the same individual indicated more than one answer. The percentages show how many times that individual choice was indicated.

2. **WHY** did you vote how you did on the Capital Project? (*check all that apply*)

I voted NO because:

I think the school district should tighten its belt **27% of respondents indicated this choice.**

I believe the schools are in good shape now **6% of respondents indicated this choice.**

I felt too much was spent on academic upgrades **6% of respondents indicated this choice.**

I felt too much was spent on athletic upgrades **24% of respondents indicated this choice.**

I lack confidence in the school board/admin. **9% of respondents indicated this choice.**

I felt the cost of this proposal was too high **27% of respondents indicated this choice.**

3. **WHERE** did you get information about the proposed Capital Project? (*check all that apply*)

Capital Project newsletter **42% of respondents indicated this choice.**

Gloversville Leader-Herald **26% of respondents indicated this choice.**

Sacandga Express **10.5% of respondents indicated this choice.**

Amsterdam Recorder **0% of respondents indicated this choice.**

District website **10.5% of respondents indicated this choice.**

Public meetings **5% of respondents indicated this choice.**

Word of mouth **0% of respondents indicated this choice.**

Other __radio__ **5% of respondents indicated this choice.**

4. **DO** you feel that you had adequate information about the proposal?

Yes **80% of respondents indicated this choice.**

No **20% of respondents indicated this choice.**

5. **DO** you currently have children attending district schools? (*check all that apply*)
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|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, at the Elementary School | 0% of respondents indicated this choice. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, at the Jr.-Sr. High School | 14% of respondents indicated this choice. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No, but they will attend when they are older | 14% of respondents indicated this choice. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> My children have graduated | 57% of respondents indicated this choice. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> My children attend private/parochial schools or are schooled at home | 0% of respondents indicated this choice. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, at the pre-school level | 0% of respondents indicated this choice. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I do not have children | 14% of respondents indicated this choice. |
6. **ARE** you a graduate of Mayfield Schools?
- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | 71% of respondents indicated this choice. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No | 28% of respondents indicated this choice. |

Please feel free to use the back of this survey for any additional comments. Again, thank you for voting.

COMMENTS:

This person said they didn't enough information "because I missed the public meeting, which is my own fault!"

"You should not need extra parking at the Elementary school. There is already plenty for a PK-6 school." This person also wrote that he or she voted against the project because of plans to move the playground.