



Scarsdale League of Women Voters  
Comments on the 2013–14 School Budget  
June 11, 2013

The League of Women Voters of Scarsdale (“the League”) appreciates this opportunity to comment on the 2013-14 School Budget as adopted by the Board of Education (the “BOE”) on June 3, 2013 (the “Budget”). The first budget adopted by the BOE on April 22, 2013 was rejected by public vote on May 21, 2013.

We thank the President of the BOE, the Superintendent of Schools and the Assistant Superintendent for Business for their participation in an information meeting sponsored by the League on June 10, 2013. This statement reflects the consensus reached by the League at a general membership meeting that followed this information meeting.

The League supports the Budget. We believe the Budget reflects the values of the community to maintain the excellence of our schools and to preserve the financial strength of the School District while at the same time addresses the desire expressed by the community for fiscal restraint in recognition of economic pressures faced by residents.

The Budget totals \$143,899,713, reflecting a 1.49% increase from the 2012-13 adopted budget. The total tax levy will be \$130,650,863, a decrease of \$1,061,500 from the levy proposed in the budget dated April 22, 2013.

The League notes that should the Budget not be approved by a majority of votes cast on June 18, 2013, the District must adopt a contingency budget with a zero percent tax levy increase from the 2012-13 levy. A contingency budget would require approximately \$3.6 million in spending reductions.

The League looks forward in the future to open discussions by the BOE and District Administration (“Administration”) at public meetings that will include longer-term financial planning, a master plan for facilities and evaluation of programming. We anticipate the BOE will solicit community input with a continuation of candid dialogue with residents and we encourage the community to remain actively engaged in these discussions.

The League commends the BOE and the Administration for their efforts to engage the community in response to the May 21st budget defeat and to listen carefully to the

diverse views of residents. We appreciate the professionalism and responsiveness of the BOE and Administration in developing this Budget and acknowledge the time constraints mandated by law. We support the use by the BOE of its stated principles and criteria to assess options for reducing the Budget.

It is imperative that all qualified citizens vote on Tuesday, June 18th. The League strongly recommends that the community vote YES to approve the budget.

Sincerely,

Marylou Green  
LWVS School Budget Chair

Susie Rush  
LWVS President