

# Lansing budget passes, library resolution fails

By Tim Ashmore

tashmore@ithacajournal.com

Journal Staff

**ITHACA** — Voters in the Dryden, Groton, Newfield and Trumansburg school districts all approved their proposed 2007-08 spending plans.

Lansing's \$22.1 million budget proposal passed with 776 approving and 752 opposing, said Superintendent Mark Lewis. Lansing's resolution for the purchase of three buses, a van and a snow plow passed 870-636, but the proposition for Lansing Community Library Center to be permanently established as a school district library failed 774-742. Lansing proposed the highest tax levy increase in Tompkins County, at 7.34 percent over last year.

## Dryden

Dryden voters approved the proposed \$30.1 million budget 649 votes to 297 votes. The \$30.1 million budget was the second-largest school budget in Tompkins County behind the Ithaca City School District.

Under the 2007-08 budget, Dryden Superintendent Mark Crawford said he will be able to restore programs for the first time in three years.

Dryden's bus proposition passed, 649-297. In all, 1,042 residents voted in Dryden.

Incumbent board members Andy Young, Russell Kowalski and Perry Dewey each won Dryden school board seats again along with new-comer Kathy Zahler in the uncontested race. Kowalski got the most votes with 794 followed by Young's 783 votes.

## BEYOND TOMPKINS

### CANDOR

Proposed budget of \$15.1M

Yes 236

No 138

Proposition to purchase three buses, not to exceed \$250,000:

Yes 238

No 133

School Board Candidates

(Top 2 win three-year terms; third-place wins one-year term)

Gwen Isham 310

David King 270

Noelle Bartolis 256

### SPENCER-VAN ETEN

Proposed budget of \$16.7M

Yes 578

No 495

Groton's budget grew by 4.15 percent over 2006-07 and reallocated money to make room for a new high school math teacher.

Groton Central School District superintendent Brenda Myers said the 2007-08 budget "holds the line."

Her budget did not have room for curriculum development or a tutoring program.

Voters also passed a proposition that called for two new school buses and one school van 245-92.

Incumbent Linda Competillo won back her seat on the school board in Groton. Robert Miller was also elected to the board in the uncontested, two-seat race.

## Newfield

Newfield voters may have left the polls smiling in the sun Tuesday as they passed Newfield Central School District

### School Board Candidates

(Three candidates for two seats)

Robert Eastwood 641

James Loomis 537

Cameron Krause 533

### SOUTHERN CAYUGA

Proposed budget of \$15.9M

Yes 356

No 262

Bus proposition

Yes 353

No 234

School Board Candidates

(Four candidates for three seats)

Jim Wilcox 533

Theresa Reeves 473

Ted Rejman 429

Joe Lanski 343

and will allow Hurley to maintain small class sizes and a strong pre-Kindergarten program.

Hurley said the decrease in the tax levy would save taxpayers roughly 30 cents per \$1,000 of assessed land value.

Hurley was able to add staff that he said he hopes will help deal with the surge of students in grades 8-10.

Newfield incumbent board members Michelle Yapple, Linda Korbel and Randolph Brown won back their school board seats. James Henery also won a seat on the school board. The race filled the four seats.

Newfield residents also passed their school bus proposition 205-21.

## Trumansburg

Trumansburg voters passed a \$22.4 million budget. The 6.69 percent increase in the tax levy

the budget will be used for a final asphalt layer on the high school parking lot and to repair the crumbling chimney in the middle school. The paving and chimney repairs will cost \$148,000 and \$40,000, respectively.

Trumansburg voters also passed a bus proposition and vehicle and equipment reserve, 495-217 for both of them.

Of the five candidates running, Peter Cooke and former school board member Cynthia Farina won two positions. Incumbent Maureen Shallish reclaimed her school board seat as well.

## Lansing

Lansing residents passed Lansing Central School District Superintendent Mark Lewis' \$22.1 million budget. Voters looked past a 7.34 percent increase in the tax levy and toward the Lansing Central School District's children with their "yes" votes.

While voters such as Dave Stoyell and Debbie Hartz voted "yes" for the 2007-08 budget citing "the children" as their primary reason for a pro-budget vote, Doug McEver was thinking about more than just kids when he pulled the lever.

"You need to look at the adults and older crowd and think about whether they can afford these (tax) increases," McEver said.

McEver said the extra \$200 a year he'll pay due to the budget increase wouldn't drastically change the way his family lives, but said this increase could hurt retired people on fixed incomes.

"It's not a lot of money to me, but older people on fixed in-