Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is BOCES and how does it work?

A. BOCES is a public organization that was created by the New York State Legislature in 1948 to provide shared educational programs and services to school districts.

BOCES services are created when two or more school districts decide they have similar needs that can be met by a shared program. BOCES helps school districts save money by providing opportunities to pool resources and share costs.

Sharing is an economical way for districts to provide programs and services that they might not otherwise be able to afford. It is often more efficient and less costly to operate one central service than it is to have separate programs in each school district. BOCES services are often customized, offering districts the flexibility to meet their individual needs.

Q. Why do we need the capital project?

A. Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES must continue to provide our students with the proper resources they will need to remain competitive in their post-high school world. The program needs and building usage have changed over the years, and our facilities should be updated to allow our programs to continue to meet high educational standards. In addition, BOCES 2 buildings would be renovated to allow for greater energy efficiencies that will result in annual cost savings in the future.

Q. Who benefits from the project?

A. Students and residents of all nine component school districts benefit from BOCES 2. Services that BOCES 2 provides include:

• Career and Technical Education

• Special Education

• Support Services

• Adult Education for re-training and employment support

Q. Who are the nine "Component Districts" that will be voting?

A. The Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES component districts are:

• Brockport CSD
• Churchville-Chili CSD
• Gates Chili CSD
• Greece CSD
• Hilton CSD
• Holley CSD
• Kendall CSD
• Spencerport CSD
• Wheatland-Chili CSD

Q. Why do a capital project now?

A. BOCES 2 has not had a project of this kind in its history. The majority of the campus we are addressing is over 40 years old and should be upgraded. Currently, bond rates (for borrowing) are very low and the construction marketplace is very competitive…both should result in favorable pricing.

Q. Why vote in December?

A. In order to complete the work involved, we will need three summers of construction (2016-18). If we vote any later, we will lose the summer 2016 construction period.

Q. When would the work take place?

A. The preliminary milestone dates are as follows:

• Final design submitted to the State Education Department (SED) .... Summer 2015
• SED approval of the project plan .... First quarter 2016
• Bidding .... Spring 2016
• Construction start .... Summer 2016
• Completion 2018

A more detailed schedule designed to minimize disruptions to educational activities would be developed next year as part of the continued design process.

Q. How will the project be financed?

A. The State of New York will be contributing approximately 63.2% of the project cost. The nine component districts will be responsible for the remaining 36.8%.

Q. How will my taxes be affected?

A. BOCES 2 serves nine component districts that have differing tax structures. Contingent on the component district's tax structure, the average tax range on a home with a $100,000 assessed value ranges are as follows:

• Senior STAR exemption ....$2-$3 per year
• Basic STAR exemption.............................$4-$6 per year
• No STAR ....$6-$8 per year

More exact tax computations are shown in the Capital Project's Public Presentation within each component district's website and the BOCES website.

Q. Isn't State Aid just my tax dollars too?

A. Yes, it is. The New York State Legislature has given all school districts in the state an opportunity to use tax dollars to enhance their communities through school building improvements and renovations. This is an opportunity to keep some of those tax dollars in our own community, working to improve the educational setting for our students and the public.

Q. Who is eligible to vote?

A. Anyone 18 or older who is a United States citizen living in the Brockport, Churchville-Chili, Gates Chili, Greece, Hilton, Holley, Kendall, Spencerport or Wheatland-Chili school districts for at least 30 days prior to the vote date is eligible to vote.

Q. What will it take to pass the vote?

A. A simple majority of the total votes cast by eligible voters in the nine component districts is needed.