

Averill Park

#AP_EveryStudent
EveryDay

BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday
May 21, 2019
7 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Averill Park High School

AUXILIARY GYM

*Voting will take place
by scanning-type voting
machines, as required by law.*



Members of the girls varsity basketball team spoke to students during one of Poestenkill Elementary School's Pride Assemblies. The student-athletes talked about team work.

2019-2020 BUDGET SUMMARY

- ▶ **Proposed Budget**
\$59,665,424
- ▶ **Budget-to-Budget**
Increase \$837,309
- ▶ **Estimated Tax Levy**
Increase 2.59%
(Meets the tax levy limit)

The Proposed Budget maintains programs and services offered in 2018-19 and meets the changing needs of the district.

Also on the Ballot...

- ▶ **Board of Education Election** (See page 2)
- ▶ **Bus Purchase Proposition**
(See page 5)

2019-20 Proposed Budget Focuses on Maintaining Programs & Rigorous Curriculum

On Tuesday, May 21, Averill Park Central School District residents will go to the polls to vote on a spending plan for the 2019-2020 school year that maintains a rigorous academic curriculum and supports diverse extracurricular, arts and athletic programs.

“Due to long-term financial planning, we are able to make targeted additions that are aligned to our District goals and that are supported by data. These additions will help us fulfill our mission of meeting the needs of and creating opportunities for every student every day,” Superintendent Dr. Franchini said.

The \$59,665,424 budget is supported by a 2.59% tax levy increase which continues the District's practice over the past eight years of adopting tax levies which are within the State's statutory Property Tax Cap limit. The final State budget allocates \$22,281,073 in aid to Averill Park for 2019-2020 – an increase of \$366,539 over the current year.

Highlights of the proposed budget include:

Faculty: The budget increases the faculty by 1.15 FTE. Specifically, there will be an increase in nursing to meet expanding student needs, an addition to allow for the staffing of an in-school suspension room in order to keep students connected to school when they are suspended, and an increase to allow

for the reintroduction of theater in the high school. To help offset the cost of these faculty additions, 1.5 FTE will be eliminated due to enrollment.

Staff: The budget calls for increases in staff. Notably, the Technology Department will add 1.0 FTE in order to meet the increasing demand for the use of technology, which is in-part due to the 1:1 student device initiative that was implemented at the middle school this year and will roll up to the 9th grade next year. There is also an increase of a full-time aide, which will allow for teachers at the high school to teach more courses, as opposed to supervising study halls.

Administration: The budget adds two administrative positions. The Director of Personnel Development will oversee human resource functions and the Assistant Director of Special Education and Support Services will focus on areas such as the pre-school to school transition and response-to-intervention. To help offset these additions, the District will eliminate two administrator contract positions.

Miscellaneous: The proposed budget calls for budget line increases in safety, extracurricular clubs, hockey and a replacement plan for instruments and athletic uniforms.

For full information about the proposed budget, please visit averillpark.k12.ny.us and click on the “Budget Corner.”

Board of Education Candidates

There are four candidates seeking three (3) seats on the Board of Education. Each carries a new three-year term beginning July 1, 2019. The following biographies are written by the candidates and are listed in the order they will appear on the May 21 ballot:

Meghan K. McGarry

I have been a proud resident of the Averill Park Central School District for over seven years. My husband, Peter, and I have three children. Ashlyn is currently an eighth grader at Algonquin Middle School while Liam and Owen attend West Sand Lake Elementary. For the past 17 years I have worked as a Property & Casualty Insurance Broker, specializing in the area of Commercial Insurance. I volunteer to help the PTA and PTO organizations, and frequently work the bake sale table. I have served as a volunteer judge and Team Coach for Odyssey of the Mind. I have also served as a volunteer coach for the Averill Park Youth Soccer League, the Assistant Den Leader for Cub Scouts and Chairperson for the Cub Scout Pack 528 Annual Haunted House. I am a believer in the benefit of the Arts, Music, Science and Technology programs, as well as alternative ways of learning and special needs services. I am a strong advocate for the fair and equal treatment of all students in Averill Park. If given the opportunity to work with the Board of Education, I hope to bring a fresh perspective and an open mind.

Laura Broderick

I am a proud wife, mother and citizen of the Averill park community. My husband and I have lived on Glass Lake in Averill Park for eight years and we have two small, beautiful, children, ages 5 and 4. I currently work as a chemical analyst at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals; working tirelessly to ensure life-saving medicine is safe and effective for all our patients around the globe. I am an animal lover, avid baker and family woman; baking treats for my family and friends is one of my most favorite hobbies. Being a woman of science, I understand the importance of making decisions with facts and data. I will work hard on behalf of all members of our community to ensure our schools continue to be a source of pride here in Rensselaer County. I do not shy away from hard work or tough decisions and hope to bring my strong work ethic to the Averill Park Board of Education.

Peter Schaefer

My family and I moved to Averill Park because of the excellent reputation of the school district. Our daughters have attended West Sand Lake Elementary School, Algonquin Middle School, and Averill Park High School and participated in academics, sports, theater, and the arts. As an educator and scientist for over thirty years, I know the importance of a well-rounded academic curriculum for workplace preparation and career and college readiness. I support a balance between academics and extracurricular activities to keep our students engaged. I've worked as the Science Chair at Hudson Valley Community College and helped to make connections between higher education, local industry, and public schools. Should I be re-elected, I will continue to work for quality education, to fight for elimination of unfunded mandates and restoration of equitable state aid, and to promote a respectful, open dialogue among the school board, administration, teachers, and community.

Samantha Hicks

I am the mother of one Second Grade student and one soon-to-be Kindergartener at Poestenkill Elementary School. As a resident of four years in the district, I fight the Averill Park clay to grow vegetables and make as much maple syrup as possible. Currently enrolled in the University at Albany MPA program, I also hold a 500-ton U.S. Coast Guard Captain's license and enjoyed a 17-year career on the water. I worked on large sailing vessels engaging in hands-on STEM education for young people and adults on the Hudson River, Atlantic Seaboard and around the world (literally).

Proposed 2019-20 Budget Questions & Answers

Q: Is the proposed budget within the tax levy cap?

A: Yes. Under the state's calculation for 2019-20, Averill Park CSD has a tax levy limit of \$31,664,969, an increase of 2.59 percent, which meets Averill Park's "tax levy limit" under the state's tax cap law.

Q: Is Averill Park Central School District getting an increase in state aid in the coming year? If so, how much?

A: Yes. Averill Park is expecting a state aid increase of \$366,538 over the current year for a total of \$22,281,073 in state aid for the 2019-20 school year. The additional state aid allows the District to maintain all the programs and services currently delivered in 2018-19.

Q: What is a fund balance? How is it used?

A: A fund balance is a reserve much like a homeowner's savings account. Just as homeowners are careful not to use up their savings accounts, school districts also must plan carefully how they use their fund balance to ensure it does not run out. When a district's expenses are less than what was expected or revenues are higher than expected, the money is held in the fund balance. The money can be used for unforeseen expenses throughout the school year. AP does not have a substantial fund balance to help compensate tax increases. However, the District will use \$780,000 of its fund balance to help meet its tax levy limit. Currently, the District expects

to end the fiscal year with an unassigned fund balance of about \$2,386,817, which is within the 4% limit allowed by state law in unassigned fund balance.

Q: If the budget is defeated on May 21, what options does the Board of Education have?

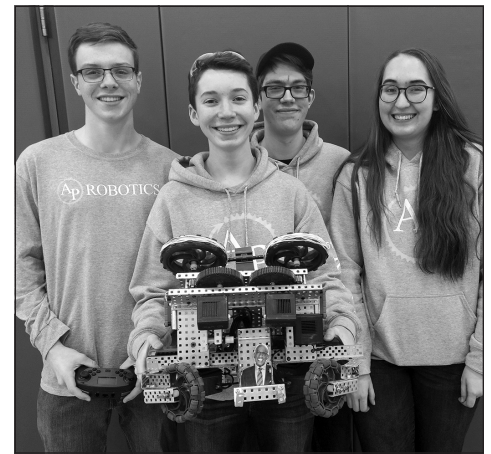
A: If the proposed budget is defeated by voters on May 21, the Board of Education will have three options: present the same budget to voters a second time, present a revised budget to voters, or adopt a contingent budget. If the budget is defeated a second time, the board must adopt a contingent budget. In addition, with property tax levy limit or "cap" law in effect, under a contingent budget the district can levy a tax no greater than that of the prior year's budget – essentially a zero percent tax levy increase. For Averill Park, a contingent budget would be \$58,866,127, which would mean the district would have to cut \$799,297 from the proposed budget.

Q: Is there a property tax rebate?

A: Yes. New York State's Property Tax Rebate applies to the years 2016 through 2019 and is for homeowners who receive the STAR exemption, make less than \$250,000 a year and live in school districts that pass budgets at or below the tax levy cap. Averill Park CSD's budgets have always been within the tax cap and will do so again for 2019-20 allowing eligible taxpayers to receive a check from the state in the fall.

Spotlight on Student Success

- Averill Park ranked No. 1 in Rensselaer County for students graduating with an Advanced Regents diploma and second in overall graduation rate for the 2017-18 school year.
- The girls' varsity basketball team won its sixth consecutive Section II, Class A championship and advanced to the New York state tournament.
- AMS successfully implemented a 1:1 initiative, bringing a Chromebook to each student.
- Michael Beskid was named a National Merit Scholarship Finalist.
- Averill Park High School students participated in 34 clubs/activities and 25 sports teams.
- Emily Prest won a Silver Key Award in the Scholastic Art and Writing Competition.
- The Jazz Ensemble and Chamber Orchestra performed for the New York State Board of Regents, the Commissioner of Education and the Chancellor.
- Jessica Beskid won the Brain Bee competition and advanced to nationals.
- Eight Averill Park students had their artwork displayed in the 20th Annual High School Regional Juried Art Exhibition.
- 66 students were inducted into the National Honor Society.
- West Sand Lake students created care packages for area soldiers.
- Elementary students Blake Benyo, Brooke Davies and Morgan Hindes were selected to become published authors after submitting entries into the writing contest "Spooky Sagas: Stories from New York."
- Haley Surprenant was selected to perform in the 2019 National Association for Music Education All-Eastern Honors Ensembles.
- At the Regional Odyssey of the Mind competition, Averill Park team claimed a first-place victory, a second-place finish and two third-place spots. One team advanced to Worlds.
- Alex Bayer, Alex Heap and Isabella With had their artwork selected to be shown in an exhibition at Proctors Theater.
- K-Kids held a blood drive at Miller Hill-Sand Lake with 45 donors participating.
- Nik Koch and Sean Malenfant won Section II wrestling titles and competed in the New York state tournament at the Times Union Center.
- 26 students were selected as Citizenship Pass honorees.
- Six members of Student Government participated in a focus group at a Capital Region law firm and received a behind-the-scenes look at jury selection, attorney perspective and pretrial work.
- 95 students at Poestenkill participated in the Jump Rope for Heart event which benefitted the American Heart Association.
- Jamie Cocca was chosen as the Section 2 Sportsmanship Award Winner at the NYSPHSAA Indoor Track & Field Championships.
- West Sand Lake held its first season of Girls on the Run, which works to encourage pre-teen females to develop self-respect and a healthy lifestyle.



The High School Robotics team competed in a number of regional tournaments throughout the year.

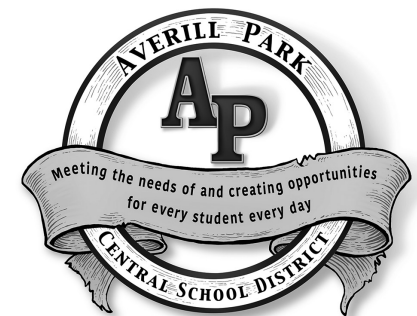
New Mission Statement, Logo Drive District to New Heights

Earlier this school year, the Board of Education adopted a new mission statement of "Meeting the needs of and creating opportunities for every student every day." A new logo designed by art teacher Logan Kline incorporates that mission statement.

The new mission statement clearly defines the purpose of the school district and helps to ensure that all the decisions that are made are based on maximizing student success. This mission statement is utilized throughout the District when decisions are made, including the use of financial resources and the curriculum and courses that are offered. It emphasizes the District's big-picture, real world impact.

The Board also put in place a new District Vision Statement of, "Creating compassionate learners who contribute positively to their community and the world."

On social media platforms you will notice a new hashtag campaign. #AP_EveryStudentEveryDay celebrates the great work that our students, faculty and staff are doing each and every day.



District Sets Sights on Capital Project

Like any other property, schools need updates and renovations in order to function at their best. Averill Park CSD is progressing on a Capital Improvement Project aimed at modernizing classroom space, strengthening educational and athletic programs, addressing safety concerns and shoring up aging infrastructure.

The District's Long-Range Planning Committee concluded its work by presenting its recommendations for the scope of the project to the Board of Education in October 2018. The process that the Committee went through included tours of the district's facilities, and meetings with principals and department heads in order to help identify areas that need to be addressed.

The capital project referendum vote is tentatively scheduled to be held in the fall of 2019.

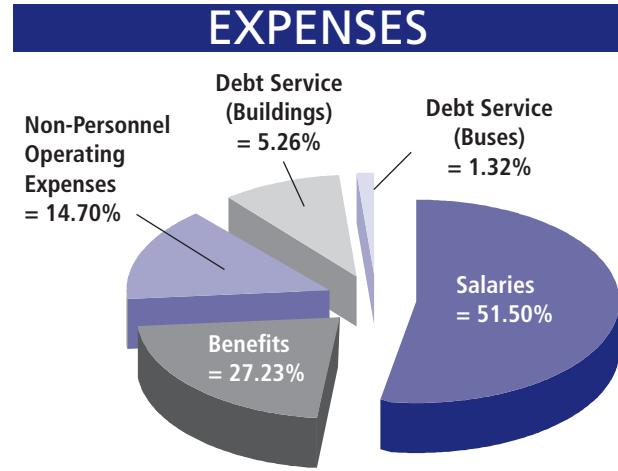
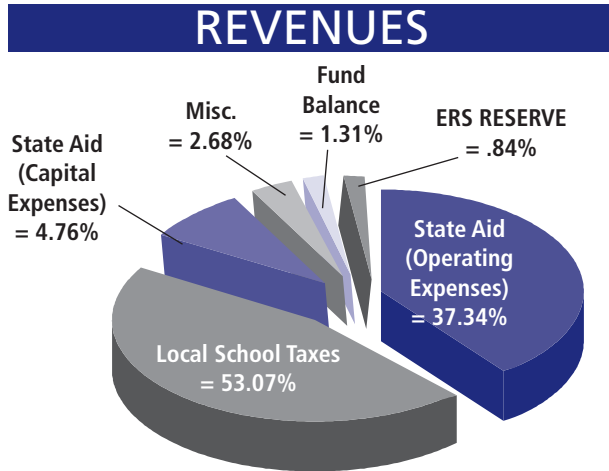
Averill Park CSD is currently working with CS Arch, an architectural firm based in Albany, on plans for the proposed capital project.

Superintendent Dr. James Franchini said, "We are undergoing a very thoughtful, deliberate, and thorough process in order to present the community with a plan that positions Averill Park to continue to be a high performing school district that provides students with a world class experience, while simultaneously taking our role as stewards of the taxpayers financial resources seriously."

Stay tuned for more information, which will be made available on Facebook, Twitter and our district website.

REVENUES: Where money comes from to pay for Averill Park's schools

Source of Revenue	Actual 2018-19	Proposed 2019-20	Dollar Change
State Aid – Operating	\$21,914,534	\$22,281,073	\$366,539
Local Tax	30,865,672	31,664,969	799,297
State Aid – Capital	3,221,953	2,839,161	(382,792)
Miscellaneous	1,545,956	1,600,221	54,265
Fund Balance	780,000	780,000	—
Debt Service Transfer	100,000	—	(100,000)
ERS Reserve	400,000	500,000	100,000
Total Revenues	\$58,828,115	\$59,665,424	\$837,309



EXPENSES: How money is spent for Averill Park's schools

Expenses	Actual 2018-19	Proposed 2019-20	Dollar Difference
Operating Expenses			
Personnel Salaries	\$29,589,362	\$30,725,923	\$1,136,561
Personnel Benefits	16,303,900	16,246,273	(57,627)
Non-Personnel Items	8,615,261	8,768,626	153,365
Total Operating Expenses	\$54,508,523	\$55,740,822	\$1,232,299
Capital Expenses			
Debt Service Buildings	\$3,683,875	\$3,135,925	(547,950)
Debt Service Buses	635,717	788,677	152,960
Total Capital Expenses	\$4,319,592	3,924,602	(394,990)
Total Expenses	\$58,828,115	\$59,665,424	\$837,309

School Bus Purchase Proposition

On May 21, when Averill Park residents vote on the 2019-20 school budget and school board, they will also consider a bus purchase proposition. The proposition seeks voter approval to purchase eight (8) school buses and one (1) Kubota compact utility tractor to replace a 1985 Ford tractor, at a total cost not to exceed \$809,834 (see the breakdown of bus cost and financing below). The bus purchase is part of the district’s long-term bus replacement plan designed to keep the district’s fleet in safe, working order.

The School Bus Purchase Proposition breaks down as follows:

- \$676,770 for the purchase of six (6) 65-passenger buses at \$112,795 each
- \$61,694 for the purchase of one (1) 21-passenger wheel chair bus
- \$53,334 for the purchase of one (1) 28-passenger bus

Because the District is eligible to receive approximately 70

percent State Aid on the purchase of three buses, the actual cost to the District will be significantly less than the amount requiring

voter approval. The District would also trade eight buses with a total value of \$17,600 that have become too costly for the district to maintain. These buses are two 2006 buses with average mileage of 144,029; two 2007 buses with average mileage of 146,030; and four 2009 buses with average mileage of 120,704.



Students ride a bus to a Youth in Government event held in Albany.

Breakdown of Bus Cost & Financing

Bus Total	\$ 791,798
Less Trade-ins	\$ 17,600
Net Borrowing Cost	
After Trades	\$ 774,198
Total Principal to be financed (5 years)	\$ 774,198
Add Finance Cost	\$ 71,050
Total Purchase Cost	\$ 845,248
Less State Aid	\$ 591,674
Total Taxpayer Cost	\$ 253,574
Annual Local Taxpayer Cost (over 5 years)	\$ 50,715

TRANSPORTATION FACTS

- ▶ Between daily transport, sports, field trips, summer school, and summer camps. Averill Park’s 75-unit bus fleet travels nearly one million miles a year.
- ▶ In 2018-19, there are 38 in-district runs covering 130 square miles and 18 out-of-district runs to 36 different private, parochial, charter and special needs schools. New York State requires the district to provide transportation to students living in district who attend private and parochial schools within 15 miles of their home.
- ▶ The average life of fleet buses, due to terrain traveled and Northeast weather conditions, is about 10 years with each bus logging approximately 90,000-130,000 miles over that time.

Bus Purchase Questions & Answers

Why does the district purchase buses on a regular basis?

The proposed bus purchase is part of an ongoing bus replacement plan designed to ensure students are transported on buses that meet the latest safety standards. The plan also allows the District to trade in or phase out older, high-mileage vehicles to avoid the cost inefficiencies related to keeping them in service.

How does the district determine when to replace a bus?

Mileage is not the only consideration when determining which buses to remove from service and to replace. The primary consideration is the age of the bus. The average life span of a school bus in Upstate New York is roughly 10 to 12 years mostly due to weather conditions. The salt mixture used on local roads is corrosive to a bus’ structure. After about 10 to 12 years, buses require costly and necessary repairs to pass New York State’s rigorous inspection process. It is not cost effective for the District to repair these vehicles.

Why do I sometimes see buses with only a few students on them?

Usually, when you see a bus with only a few students on it, you are probably seeing a bus at the beginning or end of its route, depending on the time of day. Because we have combined high school and middle school bus runs, you may see a bus light in passengers as it travels between the schools for pickup or drop off. We also transport students to several private, parochial, charter and special needs schools, using smaller vehicles in our fleet better suited to transport smaller numbers of students.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Peter A. Schaefer, *President*
 Jessica Zweig, *Vice President*
 Chris Foster
 Jennie Glasser
 Steven Keller
 Ann Morone
 Caren Rosch

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. James R. Franchini
Superintendent of Schools

Matthew Hladun
Assistant Superintendent

Michael Ouimet, *CPA*
Assistant Superintendent for Business

For more information,
 please call the district at
(518) 674-7066

Averill Park

CENTRAL SCHOOLS

146 Gettle Road, St. 1
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Averill Park Central School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2018-19 school year	Budget Proposed for the 2019-20 school year	Contingent Budget for the 2019-20 school year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 58,828,115	\$ 59,665,424	\$ 58,866,127
Increase/Decrease for the 2019-20 school year		\$ 837,309	\$ 38,012
Percentage Increase/Decrease in proposed budget		1.42%	0.06%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.44%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 30,865,672	\$ 31,664,969	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$ -	\$ -	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$ -	\$ -	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$ -	\$ -	
E. Total Proposed School Tax Year Levy (A + B + C + D)	\$ 30,865,672	\$ 31,664,969	
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	\$ 668,490	\$ 549,016	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 30,197,182	\$ 31,115,953	
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy for School Purposes, <u>Excluding</u> Permissible Exclusions and Levy for Library Debt, Plus Prior Year Tax Cap Reserve (E - B - F + D)	\$ 30,197,182	\$ 31,115,953	
I. Difference: (G - H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$ -	\$ -	
Administrative Component	\$ 5,537,525	\$ 5,256,624	\$ 5,256,624
Program Component	\$ 45,208,315	\$ 46,805,012	\$ 46,005,715
Capital Component	\$ 8,082,275	\$ 7,603,788	\$ 7,603,788

School districts are required by law to mail this information to all voters of the District after the date of the Budget Hearing on May 13, 2019 but no later than six days prior to the budget vote and election.

The annual Budget Vote for the fiscal year 2019-20 by the qualified voters of the Averill Park Central School District, Rensselaer County, New York, will be held at the Averill Park High School Auxiliary Gym in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., prevailing time, at which time the polls will be open to vote by voting ballot or machine.

Under NYS law, a school may submit a budget to voters a maximum of two times. If the budget is defeated the Board may adopt a contingent budget or put a budget before the voters a second time. If the budget is defeated twice, the Board must adopt a contingent budget. Certain existing contingent budget requirements remain in effect that prohibit spending in specific areas including community use of buildings, certain salary increases and new equipment purchases. More significantly a district that adopts a contingent budget may not increase its current tax levy by any amount. Using the required formula the proposed budget is within the allowable tax levy limit, and requires a simple majority. The proposed tax levy increase under the proposed budget is \$799,297.

**List separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)	Description	Amount
	NONE	\$0

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	Budget Proposed for the 2019-20 School Year
	\$554

¹The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

WHO MAY VOTE?

In order to vote, you must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. Citizen, and a resident of the Averill Park CSD for at least 30 days prior to May 21, 2019. Advance registration is NOT required however, you will be asked to show proof of residency. Such forms may include a driver's license, a non-driver identification card, a utility bill, or a voter registration card.

HOW CAN I VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT?

Residents who will be out of town or unable to vote in person can vote by absentee ballot. You must complete an application to receive an absentee ballot. Applications may be requested by calling the District Clerk's office at 674-7085 or picked up at the District Office, located in the Averill Park High School at 146 Gettle Road. Completed applications for absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days prior to the vote if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. Absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on May 21, 2019.