

Ohio School Boards Association

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Primary election voters approve 76% of school tax issues

COLUMBUS — Voters across Ohio approved 52 of 68 school tax issues during the March 15 primary election.

Seventy-six percent of school tax issues were approved by voters Tuesday, a decrease from the 2015 primary election. Ohio voters approved 85 of 101 school tax issues in May 2015, a passage rate of 84%.

Twelve of 23 new school tax issues were approved Tuesday, a passage rate of 52%. This also is a decrease from the 2015 primary election, when 63% of new tax issues passed. Voters approved 40 of 45 renewal school tax issues on Tuesday's ballot, an 89% passage rate. Last year's renewal rate was higher, at 95%.

Dealing with funding challenges, declining revenues and a difficult economy, many school districts are being forced to turn more and more to their local communities for support. Ohio school districts that were unsuccessful on the ballot Tuesday will likely be forced to make difficult budget decisions, including new rounds of cuts.

Election results are complete, but have not been officially certified by the Ohio secretary of state. OSBA maintains a comprehensive online database on the outcome of school tax issues across the state. The database is available on the association's website at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/19699>. For more information, contact OSBA.

In its 61st year, OSBA leads the way to educational excellence by serving Ohio's public school board members and the diverse districts they represent through superior service, unwavering advocacy and creative solutions.