

Ohio School Boards Association

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General election voters approve 67% of school tax issues

COLUMBUS — Voters across Ohio approved 83 of 123 public school district tax issues during the Tuesday, Nov. 3 general election, according to unofficial results.

Sixty-seven percent of the school tax issues on the ballot passed Tuesday, a slight decline from the 2019 November general election. Ohio voters approved 113 of 154 school tax issues in November 2019, a passage rate of 73%. Fourteen of 39 new school tax issues were approved Tuesday, a passage rate of 36%. That is a decrease from the 2019 general election when 48% of new tax issues passed. Voters approved 69 of 84 renewal school tax issues on Tuesday's ballot, an 82% passage rate. That also is a decrease from the 2019 general election in which voters approved 95% of the renewal issues.

Faced with the COVID-19 pandemic's fiscal challenges, including rising costs, as well as revenue lost to charter schools and vouchers, many school districts rely on their local communities for support. Districts whose issues failed Tuesday will face even more difficult budget decisions, including spending cuts and staff layoffs.

"OSBA congratulates those districts and communities that were successful Tuesday, especially with the added challenges of the pandemic," Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) Director of Legislative Services Jennifer Hogue said. "Districts that were unsuccessful will need to continue to share their message with voters and explain how vital local funding is to their students and schools."

Election results 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>.

In its 65th 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.