

Ohio School Boards Association

8050 North High Street, Suite 100
Columbus, OH 43235-6481
(614) 540-4000 • fax (614) 540-4100
www.ohioschoolboards.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 3, 2021

for more information, contact:

Rick Lewis

OSBA chief executive officer

(614) 540-4000

rlewis@ohioschoolboards.org

General election voters approve more than 80% of school tax issues

COLUMBUS — Voters across Ohio approved 80 of 99 public school district tax issues in the Tuesday, Nov. 2, general election.

Eighty-one percent of the school tax issues on the ballot passed Tuesday, a double-digit increase from the 2020 general election. Ohio voters approved 83 of 123 school tax issues in November 2020, a passage rate of 67%. Sixteen of 31 new school tax issues were approved Tuesday, a passage rate of 52%. That also represented a double-digit increase from the 2020 general election when 36% of new tax issues passed. Voters approved 64 of 68 renewal school tax issues on Tuesday's ballot, a 94% passage rate. That also is an increase from the 2020 general election in which voters approved 86% of the renewal issues.

With the fiscal and logistical challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, districts must rely more than ever on their local communities for support. Schools also continue to face rising costs, staffing shortages and competition for state funds with charter schools and vouchers. Districts whose issues failed Tuesday will face even more difficult decisions, including additional rounds of reduced spending, program cuts and layoffs.

“OSBA congratulates the school districts and communities whose tax issues passed,” said Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) Chief Executive Officer Rick Lewis. “Those successes are especially important as schools work to recover from the profound financial and academic impact of the pandemic. Districts whose issues failed must continue to reach out to voters and explain how crucial local funding is to their students, schools and communities.”

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>.

In its 66th 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.