

Ohio School Boards Association

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General election voters approve 73% of school tax issues

COLUMBUS — Voters across Ohio approved 113 of 154 public school district tax issues during the Tuesday, Nov. 5 general election.

Seventy-three percent of the school tax issues on the ballot passed Tuesday, a slight increase from the 2018 general election. Ohio voters approved 121 of 175 school tax issues in November 2018, a passage rate of 69%. Thirty-five of 72 new school tax issues were approved Tuesday, a passage rate of 49%. That also is a slight increase from the 2018 general election when 46% of new tax issues passed. Voters approved 78 of 82 renewal school tax issues on Tuesday's ballot, a 95% passage rate. That is a slight decrease from the 2018 general election in which voters approved 96% of the renewal issues.

Faced with mounting fiscal challenges, including rising costs, an uncertain state school-funding formula and revenue lost to charter schools and vouchers, many school districts are increasingly having to rely on their local communities for support. Districts whose issues failed at the ballot Tuesday will face even more difficult budget decisions, including additional rounds of spending cuts and staff layoffs.

"OSBA offers congratulations to those districts and communities whose tax issues passed in Tuesday's election," said Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) Director of Legislative Services Jennifer Hogue. "Districts that were unsuccessful will need to continue to reach out to voters and explain how vital local funding is to their students and schools."

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 64th 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.