

Ohio School Boards Association

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

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for more information, contact:

Damon Asbury

OSBA director of legislative services

(614) 832-6663

dasbury@ohioschoolboards.org

Sixty-five percent of school tax issues approved Tuesday

COLUMBUS — Voters across Ohio approved 105 of 162 school tax issues during the Nov. 4 general election.

“Voters gave strong support to school district requests to renew or replace existing levies,” said Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) Director of Legislative Services Damon Asbury. “But, as in past years, requests for new or additional funds were less successful on the ballot.”

The passage rate for school issues on the ballot Tuesday is largely consistent with previous years. Ohio voters approved 117 of 192 school tax issues in November 2013, a passage rate of 61%.

Twenty-one of 70 new school tax issues were approved on Tuesday, a passage rate of 30%. Eighty-four of 92 school tax renewal issues were approved, a passage rate of 91%.

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

There were fewer school tax issues on the ballot Tuesday than in any November election in more than a decade. There were 236 school issues on the ballot in November 2010, the highest amount in the past 10 years.

“School districts across Ohio are doing more with less to maximize existing resources and stay off the ballot as long as possible,” said OSBA Executive Director Richard Lewis. “At some point, however, they have to turn to their communities to help maintain facilities, instruction and services.”

Tuesday’s election results are complete, but have not been officially certified by the Ohio secretary of state; recounts may be necessary in some cases. OSBA maintains a comprehensive online database on the outcome of school tax issues across the state. To access it, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/83743>.

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For more information, contact OSBA.

In its 59th 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.