

## **Ohio School Boards Association**

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### **Primary election voters approve 73% of school tax issues**

COLUMBUS — Voters across Ohio approved 73 percent of school tax issues during the May 2 primary election.

The passage of 71 of 97 ballot issues marked a slight increase from the 2016 March primary election when voters approved 48 of 68 school tax issues, a passage rate of 71 percent.

“It’s good to see such a high percentage of school districts passing their levies,” Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) Director of Legislative Services Damon Asbury said. “However, most of those passing were renewal issues. The passage rate for additional funding is significantly lower and those districts that were unsuccessful will continue to face challenges in meeting the educational needs of their students.”

A little more than half — 52 percent — of new school tax issues were approved Tuesday, with 25 of 48 issues passing. Voters approved just 39 percent, or nine of 23 issues, in last year’s March primary election.

Voters continue to strongly support renewal school tax issues with 46 of the 49 issues earning approval Tuesday, a 94 percent passage rate. Last year’s March primary election renewal rate was lower, 87 percent, when 39 of 45 issues passed.

While election results are complete, they have not been officially certified by the Ohio secretary of state. For more information, OSBA maintains a comprehensive online database of school tax issues on the association’s website at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/19699>.

In its 62<sup>st</sup> 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.