

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. 9, 2016

for more information, contact:

Damon Asbury

OSBA director of legislative services

(614) 832-6663

dasbury@ohioschoolboards.org

General election voters approve 77% of school tax issues

COLUMBUS — Voters across Ohio approved 115 of 150 school tax issues during the Nov. 8 general election.

Seventy-seven percent of school tax issues were approved by voters Tuesday, a decrease from the 2015 general election. Ohio voters approved 93 of 110 school tax issues in November 2015. The passage rate was 85%, which was unusually high.

Forty-one of 73 new school tax issues were approved Tuesday, a passage rate of 56%. This is a slight increase from the 2015 general election, when 53% of new tax issues passed. Voters approved 74 of 77 renewal school tax issues on Tuesday's ballot, a 96% passage rate. Last year's renewal approval rate also was 96%.

Faced with funding challenges, reduced revenues and an uncertain economy, many school districts are having to rely more and more on their local communities for support. Ohio school districts that were unsuccessful on the ballot Tuesday will likely be forced to make tough budget decisions, including new rounds of cuts.

"Looking at results over time, this year is the second-highest rate of levy passages since before 2003," said Ohio School Boards Association Director of Legislative Services Damon Asbury. "It is encouraging that, despite continuing issues with the economy, communities continue to support their local 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>. For more information, contact OSBA.

In its 61st 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.