

## Ohio School Boards Association

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### General election voters approve 71% of school tax issues

COLUMBUS — Voters across Ohio approved 87 of 122 public school tax issues during the Nov. 7 general election.

Seventy-one percent of school tax issues were approved by voters Tuesday, a decrease from the 2016 general election. Ohio voters approved 115 of 150 school tax issues in November 2016 for a passage rate of 77%. Twenty-three of 53 new school tax issues were approved Tuesday, a passage rate of 43%. This is a double-digit decrease from the 2016 general election, when 56% of new tax issues passed. Voters approved 64 of 69 renewal school tax issues on Tuesday's ballot, a 93% passage rate. Last year's renewal approval rate was 96%.

Faced with continuing fiscal challenges, including rising costs and an uncertain funding formula, 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 likely will be forced to make tough budget decisions, including new rounds of cuts.

"Congratulations are extended to those communities that experienced success at the ballot box on Tuesday; their students will benefit directly," said Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) Interim Deputy Executive Director Damon Asbury. "Districts that were not successful will have to continue to reach out to voters and explain their financial situation."

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 62<sup>nd</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.