

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:

Jennifer Hogue

OSBA director of legislative services

(614) 804-2181

jhogue@ohioschoolboards.org

General election voters approve 69% of school tax issues

COLUMBUS — Voters across Ohio approved 121 of 175 public school district tax issues during the Nov. 7 general election.

Sixty-nine percent of the school tax issues on the ballot passed Tuesday, a decrease from the 2017 general election. Ohio voters approved 89 of 122 school tax issues in November 2017 for a passage rate of 73%. Forty-three of 94 new school tax issues were approved Tuesday, a passage rate of 46%. This is a decrease from the 2017 general election when 51% of new tax issues passed. Voters approved 78 of 81 renewal school tax issues on Tuesday's ballot, a 96% passage rate. This is a slight increase from the 2017 general election when voters approved 90% of the renewal issues.

Faced with ongoing fiscal challenges, including increasing expenses, an uncertain state funding formula and funds being diverted to charter schools and vouchers, many school districts are being forced to rely more and more on their local communities for support. Districts that were unsuccessful on the ballot Tuesday likely will have to make difficult budget decisions, including new rounds of cuts.

"OSBA congratulates those districts and communities that were successful in Tuesday's election," said Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) Director of Legislative Services Jennifer Hogue. "Districts whose issues didn't pass will have to increase their outreach efforts and continue to share their financial situation with voters."

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 63rd 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.