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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VOTERS APPROVE \$441 MILLION IN SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

- *Tuesday's vote brings 2003 approval rate for school projects to record high of 78.5%*
- *Spending approved for school construction in 2003 totals \$1.42 billion*

[Descriptions and results of each of the December 9 bond elections and a seven-year overview of school construction election results are at the end of this release.]

TRENTON, December 10, 2003—Voters on Tuesday approved school construction projects in 17 of 25 New Jersey school districts, the New Jersey School Boards Association reported today. The amount of new construction authorized on Tuesday totaled \$441.8 million.

"The bigger story is what has occurred throughout 2003," said Edwina M. Lee, NJSBA executive director. "Voters have shown strong support for their locals schools, despite a slow economy. Tuesday's special school election brings 2003's voter approval rate for school construction projects to 78.5%—the highest since NJSBA began tracking bond elections in 1997."

In 2003, voters approved 73 of 93 proposals for a total of \$1.42 billion in construction spending.

Of the total amount approved Tuesday, \$130 million will be funded by state grants through the Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act. Signed into law in July 2000, the act provides \$8.6 billion in state funding for school construction—\$6 billion of which fully funds construction projects in the state's 30 special-needs, or *Abbott* districts. The remainder covers a minimum of 40% of state-determined eligible costs for construction projects in all other districts. Before the act was signed, 240 school districts received no state funding for school construction and another 108 districts received a fourth or less of construction costs from the state.

Statewide, construction financing on Tuesday's ballot is divided between state and local sources as follows:

- Total project costs — **\$441,816,664.69** (\$610,224,933.69 proposed)
- State grants — **\$130,000,356** (\$169,879,430 eligible)
- Locally financed bonds — **\$306,019,601.69** (\$433,414,595.69 proposed)
- Other local funds — **\$5,796,707** (\$6,930,908 proposed)

School construction referenda are limited to five dates a year. They include the fourth Tuesday in January, the second Tuesday in March, the Annual School Election on the third Tuesday in April, the final Tuesday in September, and the second Tuesday in December.

**New Jersey School Boards Association
Annual Bond Referenda Survey
Overview: 1997-2003**

	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997
# of Elections	93	102	67	89	89	75	74
# of Proposals Approved	73	72	50.17*	68.66	63.5*	45	39
% of Proposals Approved	78.5%	70.5%	74.9%	77.2%	71.3%	60%	52.7%
Total Spending Proposed	\$1.69 billion	\$2.012 billion	\$1.274 billion	\$1.298 billion	\$1.199 billion	\$893.919 million	\$867.91 million
Total Spending Approved	\$1.42 billion	\$1.329 billion	\$970.1 million	\$1.043 billion	\$779.867 million	\$487.215 million	\$473.91 million
% Spending Approved	84%	66.1%	76.1 %	80.4%	65%	54.5%	54.6%

* Fractions indicate split results in districts where referenda included more than one question.

NEW JERSEY SPECIAL SCHOOL ELECTIONS

December 9, 2003

ATLANTIC COUNTY

Somers Point — PASSED

Addition and renovations to the New York Avenue School; renovations to the Dawes Avenue School and the Jordan Road School
 \$2,535,672 – total
 \$1,011,762 – state grant
 \$1,523,910 – locally financed bonds

BERGEN COUNTY

Bergenfield — FAILED (both questions)

Proposal 1:
 Addition and renovations to the Roy W. Brown Middle School
 \$8,212,780 – total
 \$1,996,183 – state grant

\$6,216,597 – locally financed bonds

Proposal 2:

Addition and renovations to the Hoover Elementary School

\$4,756,500 – total

\$1,187,800 – state grant

\$3,568,700 – locally financed bonds

Elmwood Park — **PASSED**

Additions and renovations to the Memorial High/Middle School, 16th Avenue School, Gilbert Avenue School and the Gantner Avenue School

\$44,250,774 – total

\$12,768,613 – state grant

\$31,482,161 – locally financed bonds

Pascack Valley Regional — **PASSED**

Additions and renovations to the Pascack Hills and Pascack Valley High Schools

\$42,266,795 – total

\$11,543,555 – state grant

\$30,723,240 – locally financed bonds

Wyckoff Township — **FAILED (both questions)**

Proposal 1:

Addition and renovations to the Eisenhower Middle School

\$20,319,074 – total

\$4,417,832 – state grant

\$15,901,242 – locally financed bonds

Proposal 2 (Contingent upon passage of Proposal 1):

Addition and renovations to the Coolidge Elementary School

\$21,009,632 – total

\$5,007,522 – state grant

\$16,002,110 – locally financed bonds

BURLINGTON COUNTY

Burlington Township — **PASSED**

Construction of a new middle school; addition and renovations to the B. Bernice Young School and renovations to the Thomas O. Hopkins School

\$37,611,841 – total

\$15,637,991 – state grant

\$21,973,850 – locally financed bonds

Chesterfield Township — **FAILED**

Construction of a new school and renovations to the Chesterfield Elementary School

\$17,517,577 – total

\$3,595,532 – state grant

\$13,922,045 – locally financed bonds

Delanco Township — **FAILED**

Additions and renovations to the Pearson School and the Walnut Street School

\$7,798,281 – total

\$2,469,321 – state grant

\$5,328,960 – locally financed bonds

Florence Township — **PASSED**

Construction of a new high school; renovations to the Florence Township Middle/High School and the Roebing Elementary School

\$45,266,590.69 – total

\$8,840,495 – state grant
\$36,426,095.69 – locally financed bonds

Willingboro Township — PASSED

Transfer of unspent bonds from a 1999 referendum into the Capital Reserve Account to renovate five schools
\$1,396,707 – total

CAMDEN COUNTY

Barrington — PASSED

Additions and renovations to the Woodland Elementary/Middle School and the Avon Elementary School
\$9,993,951 – total
\$3,311,848 – state grant
\$6,682,103 – locally financed bonds

CAPE MAY COUNTY

Wildwood City — FAILED

Acquisition of land and construction of a new school; renovation to the Wildwood City High School
\$29,922,329 – total
\$8,384,151 – state grant
\$21,538,178 – locally financed bonds

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Cumberland Regional — PASSED

Renovation of the Cumberland Regional High School
\$15,923,704 – total
\$9,046,300 – state grant
\$6,877,404 – locally financed bonds

GLOUCESTER COUNTY

Gateway Regional — PASSED

Addition and renovations to the Gateway Regional High School
\$15,153,985 – total
\$6,288,494 – state grant
\$8,865,491 – locally financed bonds

HUNTERDON COUNTY

Hunterdon Central Regional — PASSED

Addition and renovations to the Hunterdon Central Regional High School
\$28,833,611 – total
\$9,295,003 – state grant
\$15,538,608 – locally financed bonds
\$4,000,000 – Polytech Building sale proceeds

MIDDLESEX COUNTY

Dunellen — PASSED (both questions)

Proposal 1:

Additions and renovations to the Faber Elementary School, the Lincoln Middle School and the Dunellen High School
\$14,199,501 – total

\$4,276,972 – state grant
\$9,922,529 – locally financed bonds

Proposal 2 (Contingent upon approval of Proposal 1):

Additional renovations
\$837,649 – total
\$340,177 – state grant
\$497,472 – locally financed bonds

Monroe Township — **PASSED**

Construction of a new Monroe Township High School
\$82,943,950 – total
\$15,244,658 – state grant
\$67,699,292 – locally financed bonds

South Brunswick — **PASSED**

Additions and renovations to the Brunswick Acres Elementary School, Cambridge Elementary School, Constable Elementary School, Greenbrook Elementary School, Monmouth Junction Elementary School and the Crossroads Middle School South; renovate the Crossroads Middle School North
\$46,447,993 – total
\$13,330,134 – state grant
\$33,117,859 – locally financed bonds

MONMOUTH COUNTY

Long Branch — **FAILED**

Construction of an aquatic facility
\$13,500,000 – total
\$13,500,000 – locally financed bonds

Rumson-Fair Haven Regional — **PASSED**

Renovations to the Rumson-Fair Haven Regional High School
\$14,663,877 – total
\$5,865,551 – state grant
\$8,798,326 – locally financed bonds

MORRIS COUNTY

Butler — **PASSED**

Renovations to the Butler High School, the Richard Butler School, the Aaron Decker School and the high school field
\$8,040,335 – total
\$3,193,097 – state grant
\$4,447,238 – locally financed bonds
\$400,000 – transfer from capital reserve fund

Dover — **PASSED (both questions)**

Proposal 1:

Additions and renovations to the Dover Middle School and Dover High School
\$17,213,665 – total
\$5,780,663 – state grant
\$11,433,002 – locally financed bonds

Proposal 2 (Contingent upon passage of Proposal 1):

Construction of a weight room facility at the Dover High School
\$973,630 – total
\$181,704 – state grant
\$791,926 – locally financed bonds

Randolph Township — **FAILED** (both questions)

Proposal 1:

Construction of a new elementary school; addition and renovations to the Randolph High School; renovations to the Randolph Middle School and four elementary schools

\$39,073,376 – total

\$11,173,337 – state grant

\$27,900,039 – locally financed bonds

Proposal 2 (Contingent upon passage of Proposal 1):

Construction of central administrative offices to be attached to the new elementary school

\$2,700,000 – total

\$764,364 – state grant

\$801,435 - locally financed bonds

\$1,134,201 – transfer of unspent bonds from previous referenda

OCEAN COUNTY

Lavallette — **FAILED**

Addition and renovations to the Lavallette Elementary School

\$3,598,720 – total

\$883,032 – state grant

\$2,715,688 – locally financed bonds

UNION COUNTY

Roselle Park — **PASSED**

Additions and renovations to the elementary schools, the middle and high school

\$13,262,434 – total

\$4,043,339 – state grant

\$9,219,095 – locally financed bonds