



news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Voters in 25 Districts Approve \$514 million in School Construction

TRENTON, December 15, 2004—Voters on Tuesday approved 25 of 33 school-construction proposals, the New Jersey School Boards Association reported today.

The approvals total \$514 million in construction funds. More than \$160 million of the approved construction on the December 14th ballots will be funded through the Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act.

“Tuesday’s positive voter response demonstrates that communities want to take advantage of state funds for school construction,” said Edwina M. Lee, NJSBA executive director. Before the facilities act became available four years ago, 240 districts received no state aid for school construction and another 108 districts received 25% or less.

The 33 proposals on the December 14 ballot represented the largest number presented to voters on a single day.

“The state’s school-construction grants lessen the amount of local property taxes needed to support school construction projects,” Lee noted. “In addition, they ensure that future generations of children will learn in adequate school facilities.”

The Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act of 2000 provided \$8.6 billion of state funds for school construction—\$6 billion for the 30 “Abbott” districts, with the remaining \$2.6 billion funding at least 40% of state-determined eligible costs in all other districts. However, the amount of state construction funds remaining for non-Abbott districts has dwindled to approximately \$600 million, according to recent reports from the New Jersey Schools Construction Corporation, a subsidiary of the state Economic Development Authority, which administers the funding program.

Overall, Tuesday’s school construction proposals would be funded through state and local sources as follows:

Total project costs — **\$514,173,621** (\$686,068,641 proposed)
 State grants — **\$160,452,286** (\$207,831,990 proposed)
 Locally financed bonds — **\$352,152,305** (\$476,667,621 proposed)
 Other local funds — **\$1,569,030** (\$1,569,030 proposed)

The New Jersey School Boards Association is the only statewide organization that tracks the success of bond referendums.

The second Tuesday in December is one of five days throughout the year when local school boards can schedule construction referendums. The next election will take place on January 25, 2005. Other elections will be March, April and September.

In 2004, voters in 71 school districts decided bond questions, approving 48 of them for a total of \$1.039 billion in new schools, additions and renovations.

An eight-year overview of school bond referendums and the results from the Tuesday, December 14, 2004, bond elections are listed below.

**New Jersey School Boards Association
 Annual Bond Referenda Survey
 Overview: 1997-2004**

	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997
# of Elections	71	93	102	67	89	89	75	74
# of Proposals Approved	48	73	72	50.17*	68.66	63.5*	45	39
% of Proposals Approved	67.6%	78.5%	70.5%	74.9%	77.2%	71.3%	60%	52.7%
Total Spending Proposed	\$1.58 billion	\$1.69 billion	\$2.012 billion	\$1.274 billion	\$1.298 billion	\$1.199 billion	\$893.919 million	\$867.91 million
Total Spending Approved	\$1.039 billion	\$1.42 billion	\$1.329 billion	\$970.1 million	\$1.043 billion	\$779.867 million	\$487.215 million	\$473.91 million
% Spending Approved	65.7%	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 ELECTION RESULTS
 December 14, 2004**

BERGEN COUNTY

South Hackensack Township—Passed

Expend additional amount on renovations and addition to Memorial School for a project previously approved by voters in September 2002.

\$6,336,239 – total

\$4,767,209 – locally financed bonds

\$1,569,030 – Other: Port Authority of New York and New Jersey grant

Wallington—Both Defeated

Proposal 1: Renovations to Wallington High School and Frank W. Gavlak Elementary School

\$6,122,286 – total

\$2,448,915 – state grant

\$3,673,371 – locally financed bonds

Proposal 2: Addition and renovations to Jefferson Elementary School

\$13,357,807 – total

\$2,459,867 – state grant

\$10,897,940 – locally financed bonds

Westwood Regional—Defeated

Renovations at all schools and additions at all schools except the Berkeley Avenue School.

\$35,130,388 – total

\$9,999,710 – state grant

\$25,130,678 – locally financed bonds

BURLINGTON COUNTY

Eastampton Township—Passed

Addition to the Eastampton Township Middle School

\$22,010,542 – total

\$10,879,627 – state grant

\$11,130,915 – locally financed bonds

Maple Shade Township—Passed

Additions and renovations to Maude E. Wilkins School, Howard R. Yocum School, Ralph J. Steinhauer School and Maple Shade High School

\$28,081,268 – total

\$8,874,129 – state grant

\$19,207,139 – locally financed bonds

CAMDEN COUNTY

Clementon Borough—Passed

Addition and renovations at The Clementon Elementary/Middle School

\$5,246,061 – total

\$2,952,892 – state grant

\$2,293,169 – locally financed bonds

Haddonfield—Both Passed

Proposal 1: Renovations the to four schools

\$9,273,927 – total

\$3,532,924 – state grant

\$5,741,003 – locally financed bonds

Proposal 2 (contingent upon passage of Proposal 1): Additional improvements and renovations to four schools.

\$4,414,322 – total

\$1,174,770 – state grant

\$3,239,552 – locally financed bonds

ESSEX COUNTY

Roseland—Passed

Addition and renovations to the Noecker Elementary School

\$13,917,254 – total
\$2,909,748 – state grant
\$11,007,506 – locally financed bonds

GLOUCESTER COUNTY

Washington Township—Both Passed

Proposal 1: Installation of new heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems at Orchard Valley Middle School and Chestnut Ridge Middle School

\$13,029,588 – total
\$6,774,742 – state grant
\$6,254,846 – locally financed bonds

Proposal 2 (contingent upon passage of Proposal 1): Installation of new heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems and security cameras to five schools; renovations at Washington Township High School.

\$17,137,265 – total
\$7,101,020 – state grant
\$10,036,245 – locally financed bonds

Woodbury—Both Passed

Proposal 1: Renovations to four schools.

\$20,276,078 – total
\$8,797,586 – state grant
\$11,478,492 – locally financed bonds

Proposal 2 (contingent upon passage of Proposal 1): Improvement and replacement of telephone and intercom/data systems at four schools; renovations to auditorium at Woodbury Junior-Senior High School

\$2,795,200 – total
\$1,292,102 – state grant
\$1,503,098 – locally financed bonds

HUDSON COUNTY

Guttenberg—Defeated

Renovations and addition to the Anna L. Klein School

\$12,708,664 – total
\$3,700,572 – state grant
\$9,008,092 – locally financed bonds

Kearny—Passed

Renovations to the Kearny High School

\$6,084,269 – total
\$2,433,708 – state grant
\$3,650,561 – locally financed bonds

HUNTERDON COUNTY

Franklin Township—Both Passed

Proposal 1: Expansion and renovations to the elementary school

\$10,811,748 – total
\$2,836,092 – state grant
\$7,975,656 – locally financed bonds

Proposal 2 (contingent upon passage of Proposal 1): Installation of two water tanks for emergency water supply on school site

\$268,457 – total
\$268,457 – locally financed bonds

MIDDLESEX COUNTY

East Brunswick Township—Passed

Additions and renovations to three schools.

\$106,106,658 – total
\$24,720,221 – state grant
\$81,386,437 – locally financed bonds

Highland Park—Question 1 Passed; Questions 2 & 3 Defeated

Proposal 1: Expansion and renovations to three schools.

\$21,690,971 – total
\$7,915,597 – state grant
\$13,775,374 – locally financed bonds

Proposal 2 (contingent upon passage of Proposal 1): Installation of solar panels at each of district school.

\$1,624,000 – total
\$649,600 – state grant
\$974,400 – locally financed bonds

Proposal 3 (contingent upon passage of Proposal 1): Construction of three additional classrooms at Irving School

\$1,386,000 – total
\$214,500 – state grant
\$1,171,500 – locally financed bonds

Metuchen—Passed

Renovations at Metuchen High School and window replacement at the Edgar School

\$28,745,350 – total
\$11,498,140 – state grant
\$17,247,210 – locally financed bonds

MONMOUTH COUNTY

- **Manasquan Borough—Passed**

Addition and renovations to the Manasquan Elementary School

\$12,750,000 – total
\$3,097,009 – state grant
\$9,652,991 – locally financed bonds

Neptune City—Defeated

Addition and renovations to the Woodrow Wilson Elementary School

\$14,097,644 – total
\$4,507,674 – state grant
\$9,589,970 – locally financed bonds

Upper Freehold Regional—Passed

Construction of a new middle school and renovations to the existing elementary school

\$38,998,901 – total
\$6,412,705 – state grant
\$32,586,196 – locally financed bonds

MORRIS COUNTY

- **Chester Township—Passed**

Additions and renovations to three schools.

\$22,750,000 – total
\$5,519,012 – state grant
\$17,230,988 – locally financed bonds

Mount Arlington—Defeated

Renovation and expansion to the Mount Arlington Elementary/Middle School and Edith Decker Elementary School

\$9,676,610 – total
\$2,263,089 – state grant
\$7,413,521 – locally financed bonds

Randolph Township—Both Passed

Proposal 1: Additions and renovations to the Randolph High School

\$19,796,508 – total

\$4,934,397 – state grant
\$14,862,111 – locally financed bonds

Proposal 2: Renovations to five schools.

\$4,917,542 – total
\$1,967,016 – state grant
\$2,950,526 – locally financed bonds

OCEAN COUNTY

Lavallette Borough—Passed

Renovations for security and for library and adjacent classrooms at the Lavallette Elementary School
\$1,978,873 – total
\$791,549 – state grant
\$1,187,324 – locally financed bonds

PASSAIC COUNTY

Bloomington—Defeated

Additions and renovations to two schools
\$22,387,614 – total
\$5,390,381 – state grant
\$16,997,233 – locally financed bonds

Clifton—Passed

Purchase land and renovate facilities to provide an annex building to the Clifton High School
\$15,153,548 – total
\$4,004,000 – state grant
\$11,149,548 – locally financed bonds

Pompton Lakes—Defeated

Additions and renovations to Pompton Lakes High School
\$15,500,839 – total
\$4,528,069 – state grant
\$10,972,770 – locally financed bonds

SALEM COUNTY

Alloway Township—Both Passed

Proposal 1: Addition and renovations to Alloway Elementary School
\$5,295,509 – total
\$2,265,939 – state grant
\$3,029,570 – locally financed bonds

Proposal 2 (contingent upon passage of Proposal 1): Install air conditioning at Alloway Elementary School

\$788,538 – total
\$401,781 – state grant
\$386,757 – locally financed bonds

Pittsgrove Township—Passed

Renovations to four schools.
\$4,168,750 – total
\$2,104,657 – state grant
\$2,064,093 – locally financed bonds

SOMERSET COUNTY

Somerville—Passed

Renovations to the middle and high schools, and renovation and expansions to the Van Derveer Elementary School
\$24,950,000 – total
\$9,537,833 – state grant

\$15,412,167 – locally financed bonds

SUSSEX COUNTY

- Andover Regional—Both Passed

Proposal 1: Renovations to both school district school facilities

\$5,571,015 – total

\$2,228,406 – state grant

\$3,342,609 – locally financed bonds

Proposal 2 (contingent upon passage of Proposal 1): Additions and renovations to the Burd Elementary School

\$2,649,988 – total

\$472,815 – state grant

\$2,177,173 – locally financed bonds

UNION COUNTY

Hillside Township—Defeated

Renovations to three schools; expansion and renovations to three other schools

\$33,816,413 – total

\$11,217,327 – state grant

\$22,599,086 – locally financed bonds

Westfield—Passed

Construction of improvements to the track and field at Gary Kehler Stadium

\$1,381,839 – total

\$1,381,839 – locally financed bonds

WARREN COUNTY

Warren Hills Regional—Question 1 Passed; Question 2 Defeated

Proposal 1: Expansion and renovations to the middle and high schools.

\$36,797,413 – total

\$13,021,869 – state grant

\$23,775,544 – locally financed bonds

Proposal 2 (contingent upon passage of Proposal 1): Relocation and construction of new athletic facilities at the High School

\$6,086,755 – total

\$6,086,755 – locally financed bonds

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