



New Jersey School Boards Association

P.O. Box 909 • Trenton, NJ 08605-0909 • Phone: 609.695.7600 • Fax: 609.695.0413 • Web: www.njsba.org/PI

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Frank Belluscio (fbelluscio@njsba.org)
Mike Yaple (myaple@njsba.org)
(609) 278-5202

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Voters Approve \$106 Million in School Construction

TRENTON, December 10, 2008—Voters in 12 of 20 school districts approved school construction proposals Tuesday, the New Jersey School Boards Association reported today.

Of the \$106 million approved, state school-construction aid would cover \$37 million. In addition, eight of the ballot questions included proposals to install solar panels, and those projects may be eligible for separate funding through the New Jersey Clean Energy Program. Voters passed six of the eight solar projects.

In 2008, voters approved 62 percent of the number of school-construction questions on the ballot, a similar success rate as in recent years. However, they approved only 40.2 percent of the *dollar amount* requested – the lowest rate since NJSBA began tracking school bond referendums a dozen years ago. The information suggests voters are still approving school construction proposals, but they seem to be approving smaller projects. The approval rate for the amount requested hit an all-time high in 2003, when voters approved 84 percent of all proposed school-construction spending.

There are five dates a year on which a board of education may schedule a school election. The next date to hold a school bond referendum is Jan. 22, 2009.

Results of Tuesday’s school construction proposals, plus a 10-year overview of school referendums statewide, is below.

New Jersey School Boards Association Annual Bond Referenda Survey Ten-Year Overview: 1999 - 2008

	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
# of Elections	50	49	52	89	71	93	102	67	89	89
# of Proposals Approved	31	31	31.5*	52.5*	48	73	72	50.17*	68.66	63.5*
% of Proposals Approved	62%	63.3%	60.6%	58.9%	67.6%	78.5%	70.5%	74.9%	77.2%	71.3%
Total Spending Proposed	\$658.945 million	\$762.398 million	\$910 million	\$1.858 billion	\$1.58 billion	\$1.69 billion	\$2.012 billion	\$1.274 billion	\$1.298 billion	\$1.199 billion
Total Spending Approved	\$265.220 million	\$354.218 million	\$390.65 million	\$1.083 billion	\$1.039 billion	\$1.42 billion	\$1.329 billion	\$970.1 million	\$1.043 billion	\$779.867 million
% Spending Approved	40.2%	46.5%	42.9%	58.3%	65.7%	84%	66.1%	76.1 %	80.4%	65%

* Fractions are due to split results in districts where referenda included more than one question of similar size.

**New Jersey School Construction Referendum Results
Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2008**

STATEWIDE

Total amount approved – \$106,481,672 (total requested: \$241,213,761)

Amount eligible for state reimbursement – \$37,486,066

ATLANTIC COUNTY

Greater Egg Harbor Regional – Passed

Install solar panels at Absegami High School

Total amount – \$3,320,000

Amount eligible for state reimbursement – \$1,925,192

New Jersey Clean Energy Program grant – \$966,374

Hammonton – Passed

Renovations to the Warren E. Sooy Elementary School

Total amount – \$13,680,341

Amount eligible for state reimbursement – \$5,488,047

BERGEN COUNTY

Northern Highlands Regional – Passed

Replace emergency generators and boilers at high school

Total amount – \$1,397,080

Amount eligible for state reimbursement – \$558,832

Upper Saddle River – Passed

Roof repairs, solar panels and renovations to the Cavallini School; renovations to the Bogert and Reynolds schools

Total amount – \$3,563,430

Amount eligible for state reimbursement – \$1,092,904

New Jersey Clean Energy Program grant – \$87,000

BURLINGTON COUNTY

Delran Township – Passed

Additions and renovations to the Delran High and Middle schools; renovations to elementary and intermediate school

Total amount – \$25,858,780

Amount eligible for state reimbursement – \$5,727,695

Lumberton Township – Rejected

Renovations to the middle school and three elementary schools; install solar panels

Total amount – \$14,996,439

Amount eligible for state reimbursement – \$6,375,433

Palmyra – Passed

Additions and renovations to the Palmyra High School; renovations to two elementary schools; install solar panels

Total amount – \$9,883,019

Amount eligible for state reimbursement – \$3,843,208

MIDDLESEX COUNTY

Edison Township – Rejected

Additions and renovations to two elementary schools and an intermediate school; construct a new elementary school

Total amount – \$57,790,936

Amount eligible for state reimbursement – \$11,009,173

Sayreville – Passed

Completion of a high school expansion and renovation project previously approved by voters in April 2005

Total amount – \$2,200,000

MONMOUTH COUNTY

Brielle – Rejected

Renovations to the Brielle Elementary School

Total amount – \$975,890
Amount eligible for state reimbursement – \$390,356

OCEAN COUNTY

Brick Township – Passed

Install solar panels at the high school
Total amount – \$4,775,782
Amount eligible for state reimbursement – \$1,910,313
New Jersey Clean Energy Program grant – \$1,250,000

Lacey Township – Passed

Install solar panels at six schools; additional renovations to two schools
Total amount – \$19,806,000
Amount eligible for state reimbursement – \$7,922,400

Manchester Township – Rejected

Renovations to five schools including roof repairs, athletic fields and turf, solar, safety issues, etc., and an addition and renovations to the board of education building
Total amount – \$15,272,784
Amount eligible for state reimbursement – \$2,620,810

Southern Regional – Rejected

Renovations and additions to the high school and the transportation/maintenance building; renovations to the middle school, technology building and administration building
Total amount – \$6,699,770
Amount eligible for state reimbursement – \$2,238,217

Stafford Township – Rejected

Renovations to the elementary and middle schools, including HVAC, roof and parking lot improvements.
Total amount – \$5,717,131
Amount eligible for state reimbursement – \$2,286,852

PASSAIC COUNTY

West Paterson – Proposal 1 Passed; Proposal 2 Rejected

Proposal 1: Renovations to Passaic Valley Regional High School
Total amount – \$6,788,040
Amount eligible for state reimbursement – \$2,715,216

Proposal 2 (contingent upon passage of Proposal 1): Install artificial turf and lighting at Passaic Valley Regional High School
Total amount – \$1,725,295

SALEM COUNTY

Woodstown-Pilesgrove Regional – Rejected

Construct a new middle school
Total amount – \$27,986,344
Amount eligible for state reimbursement – \$2,747,449

SUSSEX COUNTY

Hardyston Township – Rejected

Replace roof at Hardyston Middle School
Total amount – \$1,732,500

UNION COUNTY

Kenilworth – Proposal 1 Passed; Proposal 2 Rejected

Proposal 1: Renovations to middle/high school and elementary school, including roof repair, HVAC, safety upgrades and windows
Total amount – \$13,900,000
Amount eligible for state reimbursement – \$5,560,000

Proposal 2 (contingent upon passage of Proposal 1): Install artificial turf and grass practice; renovate sidewalks
Total amount – \$1,835,000
Amount eligible for state reimbursement – \$137,300

WARREN COUNTY

Oxford Township – Passed

Renovations to elementary school, including solar panels, safety upgrades, roof replacement, etc.

Total amount – \$1,309,200

Amount eligible for state reimbursement – \$742,259

The New Jersey School Boards Association, a federation of district boards of education, advocates the interests of school districts, trains local school board members, and provides resources for the advancement of public education.

###