



NJDOE News

For More Information Contact the Public Information Office:

Richard Vespucci
Kathryn Forsyth, Director
609-292-1126

For Release: April 19, 2006

Voters Approve More Than 53 Percent of School Budgets in 2006 Annual School Elections

New Jersey voters yesterday approved 53.4 percent of local school budgets in the annual school elections. Voter participation, at 15.7 percent, was up from last year, when 13.2 percent of the registered voters cast ballots.

The results reported today reflect preliminary figures. Slight changes may be noted when the final tallies are calculated.

"New Jersey has entered a period of reform for education funding. We are all working hard to come up with creative solutions to do more with less so that we can provide our children with a first-rate education in a more efficient manner," said Acting Commissioner of Education Lucille E. Davy. "I urge school and municipal leaders to work collaboratively in the next month to resolve their budget issues in a way that preserves quality in the instructional program."

Davy said that she was gratified to see an improvement in the voter turnout, but she noted that many more citizens need to participate in the annual school elections and in the public process of developing school budgets.

In addition to the base budgets, voters approved 28 of 78 separate ballot questions. The questions ask voters to approve appropriations for specific items whose costs exceed the current spending growth limitation caps of the school districts.

For details about the 2006 annual school elections, click on the following link:

<http://www.state.nj.us/njded/data/vote/06/>