



## **NJDOE News**

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### **Annual School Elections**

#### **Voters Approve 74 Percent of Local School Budgets**

New Jersey voters yesterday approved 73.5 percent of local budgets in the annual school elections. The approval rate is down slightly from last year, when 78.1 percent of the budgets were approved.

"Many of our school districts saw a significant increase in state aid this year, which resulted in a decrease in the rate of growth in the local levy in many communities," Education Commissioner Lucille E. Davy said. "We are grateful that New Jersey citizens continue to support education in these difficult economic times."

Under Governor Corzine's new school funding formula, state aid to schools will increase by \$614 million in the 2008-09 school year.

The election results reported today are preliminary; slight changes may be noted when the final tallies are calculated.

Voter turnout slightly increased this year, with 14.3 percent of New Jersey's estimated 4.8 million registered voters participating. Last year 13.9 percent of the registered voters participated in the school elections.

"This is a slight improvement, but it's clear that more voters need to exercise their responsibility and participate in the school budget process," Commissioner Davy said.

In addition to the base budgets, voters approved approximately 12 percent of the separate ballot questions. The questions ask voters to consider appropriations for specific items whose costs exceed the 4 percent spending cap on local revenue for the budget.

Use the link below for details about the 2008 school elections.

<http://www.nj.gov/education/data/vote/08/>