OEPI Initial November 2026 School Levy Summary

November 6, 2026

Below is a brief summary of the 134 school levies that were on the ballot in the November 3rd general election. Note that the Secretary of State (SOS) Local Issues Preview spreadsheet only showed 131 school levies on the ballot. However, the Delaware Area Career Center PI Renewal levy was miscoded as a county levy, only one of two nearly identical 1 mill Jefferson County Joint Vocational School District levies was included, and the SOS file completely omitted the South-Western City School District Bond levy. Thus, there were a total of 134 school levies on the ballot in the November 2026 election. The results summarized below are based on data provided by the Ohio School Boards Association.

Overview

The November 2026 general election was characterized by a very high proportion of school district income tax (SDIT) operating levies, as well as an unusually large proportion of new operating levies. 54 of 99 (54.5%) school operating levies in November 2026 were new levies. In November 2025 only 27 of 72 (37.5%) school operating levies were new levies.

While 60.0% (9 of 15) of new property tax operating levies passed, only 15.4% (6 of 39) new SDIT levies passed.

In addition, the passage rate of both property tax and income tax school operating renewal levies was below both historical averages and the passage rate a year ago in November 2025.

These trends all contribute to the November 2026 overall school levy passage rate of 53.7% being significantly lower than the 67.3% passage rate one year ago in the November 2025 general election.

School capital levies (bond issues, bond combination issues and permanent improvement levies) passed at roughly the same rate as last year.

1. Overall November 3, 2026 School Levy Results

Overall, 72 of the 134 (53.7%) school levies on the November 2026 general election ballot passed. This overall passage rate is lower than the school levy passage rate from November 2025 when 76 of 113 (67.3%) of levies passed but it significantly higher than the overall passage rate in the May 2026 primary election when only 24 of 66 (36.4%) school levies passed.

2. November 2026 Capital vs Operating School Levy Results

Capital Levies: 22 of 35 Capital levies passed (62.9%)

4/6 bond levies passed (66.7%)

1/6 bond combination levies passed (16.7%)

1 of 4 new permanent improvement (PI) levies passed (25.0%)

1 of the new PI levies was a school district income tax issues and it failed

16 of 19 renewal PI levies passed (84.2%)
The 62.9% passage rate of school capital levies (bond, bond combination, and permanent improvement levies) was almost identical to that in the November 2025 election when 21 of 34 (61.8%) of school capital levies passed.

The data above show that in the 2025 November general election only 6 of 16 new capital levies passed (37.5%). This passage rate is very similar to a year ago when 5 of 17 (29.4%) new capital levies passed. (In November 2025, 4 of 12 bond and bond combination levies passed and 1 of 5 new PI levies passed.)

In November 2025, 16 of 17 (94.1%) PI renewal levies passed with the only failure being a school district income tax PI renewal. This passage rate is very similar to that of PI renewal levies in November 2026.

Operating Levies: 50 of 99 Operating levies passed (50.5%)

37 of 51 property tax operating current expense levies passed (72.5%)

2 of 2 property tax education technology levies passed (100%)

11 of 46 school district income tax (SDIT) operating levies passed (23.9%)

The November 2026 overall operating levy passage rate of 50.5% is significantly lower than that of a year ago when 69.6% of operating levies passed. *However, November 2025 and November 2026 results are not directly comparable because new emergency and substitute levies have been eliminated effective in 2026.*

In November 2025, 23 of 31 (74.2%) emergency and substitute levies passed. When these levies are excluded, 32 of 48 (66.7%) of property tax current expense and school district income tax operating levies passed one year ago. This rate is higher than the 50.5% passage rate this year, however as the discussion below will illustrate the overall operating levy passage rate is heavily influenced by the mix of new vs renewal levies on the ballot.

Similarly, in November 2025, 15 of 26 (57.7%) of SDIT operating levies passed, more than twice the rate of this year, and 17 of 22 (77.3%) of property tax operating levies passed, a rate very similar to this November's rate.

3. November 2026 New School Operating Levy Results

In November 2025, only 27 of 52 (34.2%) of school operating levies on the ballot were new levies. In November 2026, 54 of 99 (54.5%) of operating levies on the ballot were new levies. Because new school levies historically pass at less than half the rate of renewal levies, the high proportion of new operating levies on the ballot is one of the main reasons that the 2026 November election school operating levy passage rate is much lower than the rate in 2025.

A. **15 of the 54 new operating levies this year were property tax current expense levies**. **9 of these 15 property tax current expense levies passed (60.0%).** In November 2025, 5 of 11 new emergency and current expense property tax levies passed (45.5%).

   In the May 2026 primary election only 33.3% (4 of 12) new property tax operating levies passed.

B. **39 of the 54 new operating levies on the ballot in November 2026 were school district income taxes. Only 6 of these 39 new SDIT levies passed (15.4%). This is less than half the passage rate of new SDIT operating levies in November 2025 when 6 of 16 new School District Income Tax Operating levies passed (37.5%). The historical average passage rate of new SDIT levies is 30%.**

   The 15.4% November passage rate of new SDIT levies is also lower than the 21.4% (6 of 28) passage rate of new SDIT levies in the May 2026 primary election.

C. Overall, 27.8% (15 of 54) of new operating levies (both property and income tax) passed in November 2026. **This rate is one third lower than the passage rate in Nov. 2025 when 40.7% (11 of 27) new operating levies passed and it is almost identical to the 25.0% (10 of 40) new operating levy passage rate in the May 2026 primary election.**

4. November 2026 Renewal School Operating Levy Results

A. **28 of 36 (77.8%) property tax current expense renewal operating levies passed (one of these was for a -3.0 mill decrease).** This is slightly below the historical average of nearly 90% and also below the November 2025 current expense renewal passage rate of 88.0%. In November 2025, 90% of emergency levy renewals passed and 4 of 7 substitute levies passed.

   When 2 successful educational technology property tax renewals are included the November 2026 property tax renewal passage rate rises only slightly to 78.9%.

B. **5 of 7 SDIT renewal operating levies passed (71.4%).** One of these was an earned income tax replacement of a traditional SDIT levy. This historical average passage rate of renewal SDIT operating levies is roughly 80%.

Overall, 33 of 43 renewal school operating levies (76.7%) passed in the November 2026 primary election. This is below the historical average passage rate of 85% and also below the 84.6% renewal school levy passage rate in November 2025.

In May 2026, 69.2% (9 of 13) school operating renewals passed.