



For Immediate Release
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2015 School District Budget Vote Results

On May 19, 2015, communities at most school districts voted on budgets proposed by their boards of education. On June 16, 2015 nine school districts whose budgets failed in the first vote, again presented their budgets to voters for approval.

This year, voters made a statement in support of education by approving budgets at record levels. It is likely that the average state aid increase of six percent also contributed to school districts' ability to contain local taxes.

For the 19 school districts that initially sought to override the Tax Cap, requiring supermajority approval of 60 percent or more of voters, 12 school budgets passed in May, and three more passed in June. Of the remaining four, two districts changed their proposed budget to not require an override, and the other two budgets were defeated.

“Flaws in the Tax Cap formula contributed to both Northeastern Clinton and Parishville-Hopkinton overriding. The formula produced a negative allowable levy limit, which limited the districts to levying less money than the previous year. With the contingency budget, both can now levy more than would have been possible if the districts stayed within this year’s Tax Cap,” stated Michael J. Borges, NYSASBO Executive Director.

This year there were 33 districts that had a negative Tax Cap levy limit according to property tax report card data (last year there were 24). Of these, 21 districts stayed within the Tax Cap for this year and the remaining 12 attempted an override.

“NYSASBO has recommended along with other education groups technical changes to the Tax Cap to prevent these anomalies in Tax Cap calculations. We urge the Legislature not to rubber stamp the renewal of the Tax Cap without revisiting some of the problems with how the law is implemented,” said Mr. Borges.