

98.4% Passage Rate for School Budgets



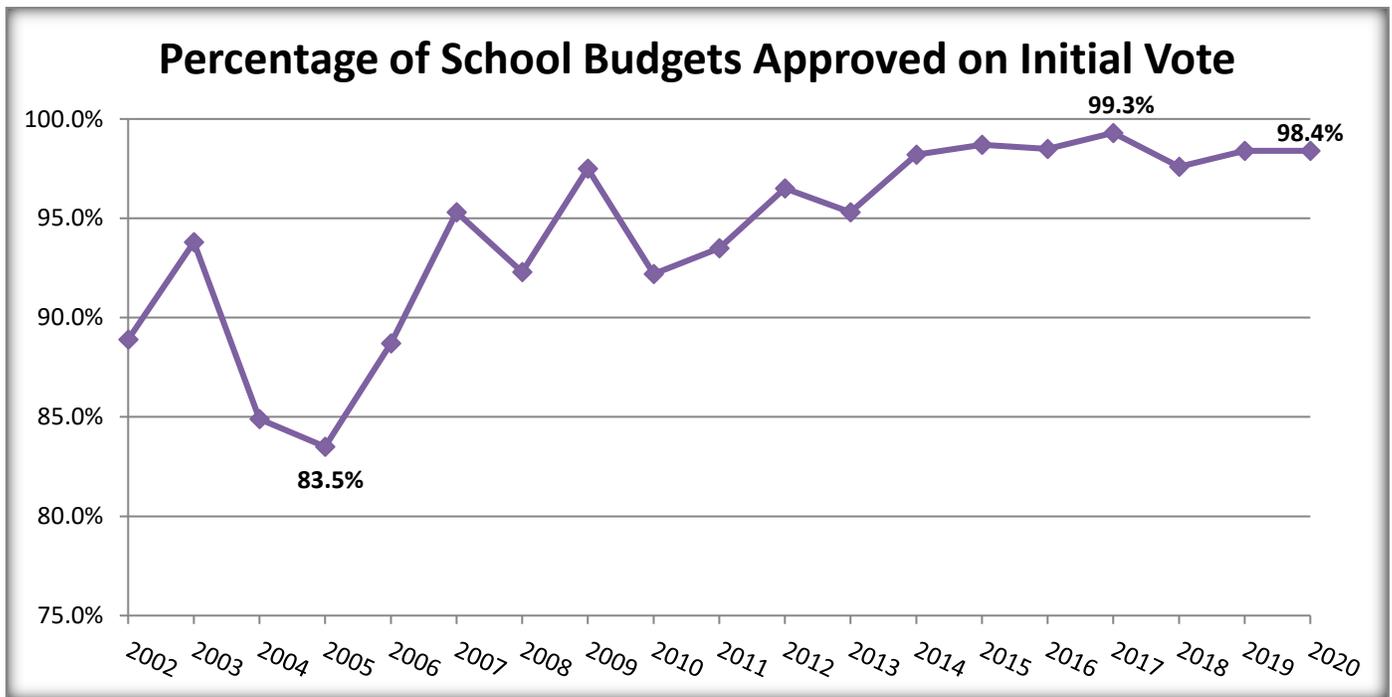
Fact Sheet No. 20-16

June 2020

Voters across the state participated in school budget voting like never before and when the counting was finally completed, 663 school budgets were approved and eleven were defeated – a 98.4 percent passage rate, which is exactly the same as last year’s passage rate. Of the eleven districts that experienced a budget defeat, four were attempting to pierce their Tax Levy Limit and therefore needed a super-majority (60 percent) for approval. Nine districts were successful in their Tax Levy Limit override attempt.

Although the passage rate of 98.4% was the same as in 2019, over one million more votes were recorded in 2020. In 2019 the total number of votes cast on school budgets was 524,815 compared to 1,578,845 in 2020 – an increase of 201%. (See chart on next page)

Based on an Executive Order from Governor Cuomo, it is expected that districts with a defeated budget will be given an opportunity to have a revote. The current Executive Order indicates that revotes will occur on a date to be determined (but not prior to July 9th) and will be conducted in a manner to be determined in a future Executive Order. If a district has their budget revote defeated, they must adopt a contingency budget and they may not increase their tax levy above the previous year’s levy—a 0 percent cap.



The following page provides a listing of those districts that had their budget defeated.

2020 Budget Defeats (by County)

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>
CHEEKTOWAGA	Erie
DOLGEVILLE* (56.6%)	Herkimer
EAST RAMAPO	Rockland
EDEN	Erie
FORT EDWARD* (52.8%)	Washington
JOHNSTOWN* (57.3%)	Fulton
MONTICELLO	Sullivan
RENSSELAER* (33.1%)	Rensselaer
RIVERHEAD	Suffolk
UNIONDALE	Nassau
VALLEY STREAM 13	Nassau

**District needed a super-majority 60% for approval. The number in parenthesis is the percentage of YES votes.*

