

Voters weigh in on school budgets

ELECTION RESULTS

Spending plans nixed for Brighton, Brockport

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Voters in Brighton on Tuesday failed to provide the necessary support for a school budget that would have exceeded the state property tax cap, sending district leaders back to develop another

The proposed \$82 million spending plan in Brighton would have raised the tax levy by 4.89%, more than double Brighton's limit of 2.34%. Approving such a budget requires 60% approval; the final unofficial tally was 1,617 (55%) in favor and 1,335 (45%) opposed.

The district tried to make the case that the increase was inevitable due to what it described as unfair state funding and also bills coming due on the extensive capital project voters approved earlier.

Residents voted to approve two other propositions on the ballot, but by law when the budget fails in an override, additional propositions cannot be approved, either. In Brockport, the budget failed for the second time in four years, in large part due to a labor dispute with its teacher's aides and paraprofessionals. The UPSEU union for support staff mounted a social media campaign criticizing the district's administrative spending, just as it did in 2016.

Union leader Al Hansel could not be reached for comment Tuesday night; in a statement, the district said it would return to its budget committee to determine its next steps.

"Obviously we're a little disappointed, but we'll get together and talk about it," Board President Terry Ann Carbone, who won her uncontested re-election bid, said.

Both districts will have an opportunity to present another budget to voters on June 18. They can either put the same budget out again and hope for a different

spending plan.

Brockport also saw its budget fail, apparently the result of protests from one of its labor unions. It was the first time two Monroe County school budgets failed in one year since 1993.

Greece

Budget passed, 1,645 to 608. One additional proposition passed. Terry Me-lore, Robert LaPlaca and Michael Valincenti elected to school board.

Hilton

Budget passed, 911 to 191. Two additional propositions passed. Mark Hilburger (800), Therese Flannery (791) and Nancy Pickering (689) elected to school board, defeating Stephanie Bedenbaugh (438).

Honeoye Falls-Lima Budget passed, 754 to 213. Stephanie Templeton (671), David Francis (646) and Gary Stottler (601) elected to school board, defeating Kelli Eberle (575).

Kendall

Budget passed. Chaley Swift elected to school board.

Penfield

Budget passed, 961 to 300. Two additional propositions passed. Barbara Babiarz, Emily Belcer and Calvin Frelier elected to school board, with Frelier serving a one-year term and Babiarz and Belcer serving three-year terms.

Pittsford

Budget passed, 2,758 to 712. Two additional propositions passed. Amy Thomas (2,605) and Peter Sullivan (2,187) elected to school board, defeating

result, or cut spending and present voters with a lower tax levy.

Brighton is asking residents to provide their input online; its next scheduled board meeting is June 11. Brockport's next scheduled board meeting is June 4.

Brighton warned before the vote that, if residents did not approve, it would consider delaying about \$1 million of debt payment on the capital project as well as around \$330,000 in safety, security and equity initiatives in order to become cap-compliant.

Those costs would be pushed to 2020-21, at which point other things such as sixth grade world languages, fourth grade instrumental music and other athletics and arts programs might be jeopardized.

Brighton was the only district in Monroe County, and one of only 17 in the state, seeking to exceed the tax cap. All other local school funding plans and additional propositions passed, except for Brockport.

Lines to vote were out the door in Brighton all the way until polls closed at 9 p.m.; results were not reported until 11:15 p.m.

In Webster, incumbents Tammy Gurowski, Linda Dioguardi and Maria Rigillo easily fended off a challenge from three other candidates. Amy Thomas and Peter Sullivan did the same in Pittsford. Here are the full results:

Brighton

Budget failed, 1,617 to 1,335 (needed 60% approval). Two additional propositions also did not pass, by rule. Karen Hatch (1,598) and Andrea Costanza (1,597) were elected to the board, defeating Audrey Sowell (956) and Heather Coyne (1,031)

Brockport

Budget failed, 524 to 611. One additional proposition passed. Terry Ann Carbone and Kathleen Robertson elected to school board.

Churchville-Chili

Budget passed, 643 to 187. Kathleen Dillon (559), Steve Hogan (551) and Mike Grabowski (533) elected to school board, defeating Gary Lawniczak (449).

East Irondequoit

Tharaha Thavakumar-Slavin (1,284). Write-in candidate Sareer Fazili received 511 votes.

Rush-Henrietta

Budget passed, 1,041 to 212. Two additional propositions passed. Annmarie Strzyzynski and Mai Abdullah elected to school board.

Spencerport

Budget passed, 695 to 179. One additional proposition passed. Greg Kincaid and Gary Bracken elected to school board.

Victor

Budget passed, 693 to 85. One additional proposition passed. Timothy De-Lucia, Christopher Eckhardt and Kristin Elliott elected to school board.

Webster

Budget passed, 2,504 to 1,152. One additional proposition passed. Tammy Gurowski (2,048), Linda Dioguardi (1,955) and Maria Rigillo (1,900) elected to school board, defeating Janice Garritano (1,580), Nicholas Ostrowski (1,245) and Ida Marra (1,089).

West Irondequoit

Budget passed, 1,693 to 427. Matt Sullivan (1,429) and Matt Fink (1,312) elected to school board, defeating Brian Charles (1,021).

Wheatland-Chili

Budget passed, 169 to 44. Three additional propositions passed. Gregory Berl and Cindy Dawson elected to school board.

The line to vote in Brighton. TINA MACINTYRE-YEE/ROCHESTER DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE

Budget passed, 887 to 285. Kimberly Lasher, Jessica Crupa and Jeffrey Petrie elected to school board.

East Rochester

Budget passed, 297 to 90. Vincent Antonicelli elected to school board.

Fairport

Budget passed, 1,432 to 486. One additional proposition passed. Damon Buffum and Timothy Slisz elected to school board.

Gates Chili

Budget passed, 511 to 197. Three additional propositions passed. Christine Brown Richards, Raymond Banks, Frank Muscato and Michael Bailey elected to school board.