

Brighton, Brockport schools budgets pass on second try

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The Brighton and Brockport school districts Tuesday both averted state-mandated austerity budgets for 2019-20 as their respective voters approved spending plans on the second attempt.

In Brighton, where the district chopped the first proposed budget to get beneath the state property tax cap, voters approved 2,294 to 531.

In Brockport, where dissatisfaction in the two labor unions contributed to defeat in May, voters approved the same budget 827 to 494 after the Brockport Teachers Association gave its endorsement.

Other propositions in both districts — for capital improvements and technology in Brighton, and for school buses in Brockport — also passed by comfortable margins.

The two districts were among 17 in New York whose budget proposals failed last month. Several Monroe County school districts have gone to a second vote in the nine years the property tax cap has been in place, but only one, West Irondequoit in 2014, failed that second vote as well.

Even with its passed spending plan, Brighton all but guaranteed another difficult budget season next year. In a message to residents it said it faces a “funding cliff” created by what it believes to be an unfair state aid formula as well as debt coming due from a capital project voters approved earlier.



Brighton’s school district passed its budget. TINA MACINTYRE-YEE/ROCHESTER DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE