

# PRESS RELEASE



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Historic Voter Turnout in Florida Demonstrates Strong Support for Public Schools

**Tallahassee, FL** – Florida experienced historic voter turnout with over 7 million Floridians casting their vote in the 2018 General Election on November 6. The 2018 election cycle has illustrated the public's tremendous support for Florida's public schools by the election or re-election of 212 school board members and the passage of all 24 major school related referenda on the ballot.

Of the 24 school-related local referenda approved by voters across Florida, 20 authorized additional revenue from sales or property taxes to support school district safety, operating and construction needs. Three other voter-approved items will shift the selection of district school superintendents in the school district from partisan election to appointment by the school board, as is the current practice in 26 Florida school districts.

"The voter approval of these referenda illustrates the fact that citizens understand the increasing demands on school districts operating with limited state funds," commented Florida School Boards Association (FSBA) President and Suwanee County School Board Member Jerry Taylor. "More important, it highlights the level of trust communities have in their locally elected school board members to manage these funds wisely and appropriately, and to choose qualified and vetted district leadership to support student learning."

Of the 212 open school board seats this cycle, 135 incumbents were reelected and 77 new school board members were elected. Unofficial election results are available [HERE](#).

"We congratulate our new and veteran school board members on their election or re-election and thank them for their commitment to providing for the education, safety, and welfare of Florida's students," said Andrea Messina, FSBA Executive Director. "This is a particularly demanding task in Florida that is carried out by a relatively small number of dedicated elected school board members."

Although Florida ranks third in the nation in student enrollment, there are only a total of 358 school board members serving on the school boards in Florida's 67 school districts while most other states have thousands of school board members and hundreds of school districts.

Known as "The Voice of Education in Florida," The Florida School Boards Association (FSBA) provides leadership development opportunities and a vast network for school board members to preserve their mission: *to increase student achievement through the development of effective board leadership and advocacy in public schools.*

For more information on FSBA, please visit [www.fsba.org](http://www.fsba.org) and follow [@FLSchoolBoards](https://twitter.com/FLSchoolBoards).

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