

Bond and Levy Validation

Bond and Levy Validation State Constitution, Article VII, Section 2

Passing a levy or bond issue isn't always a simple matter of "majority rules." State law requires a "60% super majority" for bond issues and some types of levies to pass. Other levies such as levy lid lifts and school levies only require a simple majority.

Bond Validation

Bond issues must meet two separate criteria to pass.

First, they must validate. The voter turnout must equal 40% of the voters who cast a ballot in the last general election.

Second, the issue must receive a 60% favorable majority, or 60% of the ballots cast are "Yes" votes. So, a bond measure could get the required percentage of "Yes" votes, but could still fail if not enough people vote in the election.

Example – Bond Validation

If there were 10,000 votes cast in the last general election for the district.

To pass the bond issue:

*-The district must have a minimum turnout of at least 4,000 **TOTAL voters.**
(10,000 x 40% = 4,000)*

Plus

*-At least **60%** of the voters must vote **YES.***

Levy Validation for Schools

The passage of Engrossed House Joint Resolution 4204 in November of 2007 changed the constitutional requirement as it relates to school district levy elections. A school district levy requires a simple majority to pass. School bond issues still must validate and require a 60% majority to pass.

Levy Validation (excluding school levies)

Levy issues must meet two separate criteria to pass.

First, they must validate. The number of “Yes” votes must equal 24% (60% of the 40%) of the voters who cast a ballot in the last general election.

Second, the issue must receive a 60% favorable majority, or 60% of the ballots cast are “Yes” votes.

So, a levy measure could get the required percentage of “Yes” votes, but could still fail if not enough people vote in the election.

Example – Levy Validation

If there were 10,000 votes cast in the last general election for the district.

To pass the levy issue:

*-The district must have a minimum turnout of at least 2,400 **YES** votes.*

(10,000 x 40% = 4,000)

(4,000 x 60% = 2,400)

Plus

*-At least **60%** of the voters must vote **YES**.*

Validation Summary

Following certification of the general election each year, the validation summary will be posted on the Election Division website.