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.
  
  \(10,000 \times 40\% = 4,000\)

  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. 
  \(10,000 \times 40\% = 4,000\)
  \(4,000 \times 60\% = 2,400\)
  
  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.