



CLEARINGHOUSE

Sam Reed, Secretary of State

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Calculating Validation Figures - Revised

Several counties have made inquiries regarding the process for calculating validation figures for bonds and levies.

Before determining a jurisdiction's validation figures, the number of votes cast in the jurisdiction in the last general election must be ascertained.

For levies, the State Constitution states, "...the number of persons voting 'yes' on the proposition shall constitute three-fifths of a number equal to forty per centum of the total votes cast in such taxing district at the last preceding general election..."

For example: 10,000 votes cast in the jurisdiction in the last general election

$$\begin{array}{r} \times 40\% \\ 4,000 \end{array}$$

These numbers should be calculated based on the number of voters credited for voting in each jurisdiction, before you add, delete, or transfer voters following the General Election.

Once the report has been completed listing each district's validation figures, you can alter your voter registration data base.

When determining whether a specific bond or levy has passed, you should not include overvotes or undervotes in your calculation. Also, rounding should not be used to reach 60 percent yes for a bond or levy. Attached is a sheet that discusses the application of validation figures to bonds and excess levies.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Amber Cervantes at 360.902.4165.

BOND AND LEVY VALIDATION FIGURES

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. How are excess levy and bond proposition elections different from regular elections?

By State Constitutional mandate, such propositions must be approved by not less than a sixty percent majority of the voters voting on the proposition rather than a simple majority. In addition, they have validation requirements.

Q. What are validation requirements?

These are provisions that require a minimum participation by eligible voters in order for the proposition to be valid regardless of the outcome of the vote.

Q. How do validation requirements work?

On any **excess levy issue**, the number of persons voting "yes" on the proposition shall constitute at least three-fifths of a number equal to forty percent of the total votes cast in that taxing district at the last preceding general election.

Example: 10,000 votes cast in the last general election
 x 40%
 4,000
 x 60%
 2,400 = Minimum "yes" vote required to pass

In other words, if only 3,000 voters vote on the proposition and 60% vote "yes," that would constitute only 1,800 "yes" votes. The proposition fails to validate and does not pass. However, if 3,000 voters vote on the proposition and at least 80% of the voters vote "yes" equal to 2,400 voters, the proposition would pass. If fewer than 2,400 votes are cast, the proposition automatically fails. In any case, the proposition must have at least 60% yes to pass.

Bond propositions have an additional validation factor. They must have a minimum number of votes cast equal to not less than 40% of the total votes cast in the taxing district in the last general election.

Example: 10,000 votes cast in the last general election
 x 40%
 4,000 minimum to validate
 x 60%
 2,400 = Minimum "yes" vote required to pass

As in the example above, if only 3,000 voters cast votes on the proposition, even if 80% vote yes achieving the minimum "yes" vote, the proposition does not validate and fails. At least 4,000 votes must be cast to validate and, of those, at least 60% must be "yes."