

## Office of the Governor

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### NEWS RELEASE

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#### **Governor Whitman on School Elections**

"Yesterday, New Jersey voters showed overwhelming support for school budgets throughout the state, with 82% of the budgets approved. This is good news for our public schools and ensures that schools will be able to provide quality educational programs for our students.

"The unfortunate news, however, is that only a fraction of the state's registered voters--13.3%--went to the polls. This is one of the lowest turnouts in the last 16 years.

"Local school budgets make up the largest portion of our property tax bills. Voting on these budgets is one way for taxpayers to have a say in the amount of their bills.

"I continue to believe that we must make it easier for voters to get to the polls to cast these very important school budget votes. I have proposed legislation to move the school elections to November, so that New Jerseyans can vote on school budgets when they are already at the polling booths. I urge the Legislature to pass this legislation."