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## **Voters Approve 77% of Transportation Ballot Measures in 2010 Over \$1 Billion in Transportation Investment Approved at the Ballot Box**

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In 2010, voters continued to show their support for transportation investment by approving 77% of ballot measures. On Election Day, 22 out of 30 measures were approved in 13 states. For the entire year, the Center for Transportation Excellence found that voters approved 43 out of 56 measures. Nearly \$500 million in funding over five years was approved by voters on November 2. When added to funding approved earlier in the year, voters have supported over \$1 billion in transportation investment. Information on all the 2010 measures is available at [www.cfte.org](http://www.cfte.org).

Voters across the country—from Hawaii to Rhode Island—approved measures on November 2 that demonstrate their commitment to improving transportation choices and increasing investment in their local infrastructure and services.

“Yesterday’s results at the ballot box reaffirm a decade worth of data demonstrating voters’ overwhelming support for investment in public transportation,” said CFTE Executive Director Jason Jordan. “Despite the economy and conventional political wisdom about opposition to taxes, voters acknowledged that thoughtful, targeted investments in their communities are vital to restoring and sustaining prosperity.”

Two counties in Virginia approved bonds totaling over \$150 million to support the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority’s Capital Improvement Program. In Rhode Island, more than 70% of voters approved a statewide measure for \$4.7 million to purchase and rehabilitate buses for the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority. Overall, 75% of bond measures were approved yesterday.

Property tax increases or renewals were successful in four Michigan jurisdictions, two West Virginia cities and two counties in Ohio. Overall, this was both the most popular type of finance measure on the November ballot and the most successful, with an approval rate of 78%.

Five out of seven counties in the San Francisco Bay Area voted to increase vehicle registration fees by \$10 to support transportation investments, making vehicle fees a new and noteworthy financing tool, with a 71% success rate.

Only 10% of measures yesterday were non-finance. California voters, statewide, showed support for transportation investment by approving Proposition 22, a constitutional amendment to close loopholes that allowed the state to fill budget gaps with money designated for transportation. In Oahu, HI, the electorate decided to create a public transit authority to oversee the construction and operation of the city’s \$5.5 billion rail transit project. When faced with a question of leaving the Fort Worth Transportation Authority and using their half-cent sales tax on other services, voters in Richland Hills, TX chose to stay with the T.

CFTE also monitored several measures that are not counted in the year's total, but which demonstrate voter's support for transit-friendly investment and decision-making. In Austin, TX, 55% of voters approved a \$90 million bond for mobility projects and complete streets investments. These projects will help make the region more transit-friendly. Also worth noting, Californians overwhelmingly defeated Proposition 23, with 61% of the voters rejecting the measure. Prop 23 would have suspended California's landmark clean air legislation, AB 32—The Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. AB 32 requires that the state cut greenhouse gas emission levels to 1990 levels by 2020, and is slated to begin in 2012.

This Friday, November 5, CFTE will host a webinar to analyze the results and trends from this year's elections. *"Trends and Results from 2010 Transportation Ballot Measures"* will be cosponsored by the National Alliance of Public Transportation Advocates (NAPTA) and the APTA State Transit Association Leaders. Free registration for this webinar is available online at [www.cfte.org](http://www.cfte.org).

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The Center for Transportation Excellence is a non-partisan research group based in Washington, D.C.