

Debt exclusions fail in Carver

By Bobbi Sistrunk

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CARVER - It was said that Saturday's town-wide election was the most important in 50 years. A turnout of 20 percent of voters proved that statement was correct.

"This was a very good turnout," Town Clerk Jean McGillicuddy said. I was hoping for 12 percent. We had 20; this is huge for this type of election."

Residents flocked to the polls to vote on whether to fund the next phase of the elementary school building project; the schematic design phase.

Administrators, the majority of the Board of Selectmen and many parents were in favor of the project that was guaranteed to be reimbursed 56 percent by the state. But for all the preparation, designing, public meetings and information the building committee worked on and put out for public perusal, there was one aspect of this project they underestimated – folks just cant afford it right now.

The two articles, one asking to fund a debt exclusion of \$600,000 for the schematic design and the other seeking to fund a debt exclusion of \$300,000 for a new septic system for the school complex, failed overwhelmingly. Although the debt exclusion for this phase of the project would have had a



minimal hit to taxpayers – about \$6 per \$100,000 of property valuation – the overall project would have raised taxes a few hundred dollars per home when the actual building phase began.

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