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# POLITICS

## Central voters approve tax shift

School tax moves from EBR district

By [EMILY KERN](#)  
 Advocate staff writer  
 Published: Apr 1, 2007

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Voters in Central on Saturday overwhelmingly approved a transfer of taxes to the new Central Community School District from East Baton Rouge Parish schools.

Complete but unofficial returns from the secretary of state's office showed 4,616 voters, or 92 percent, in favor of Proposition No. 1 transferring a 2 percent sales and use tax and 423, or 8 percent, against it.

Results from Proposition No. 2 showed 4,371 voters, or 87 percent, in favor of transferring 38.45 mills of ad valorem, or property, taxes and 662, or 13 percent, against it.

The results come from all 25 voting precincts within the school district.

School Board President Russell Starns said he appreciated voter support.

"We'd like to thank them for their support and let them know we're not going to let them down," Starns said.

He said the landslide voter approval was reassuring.

"That's kind of the way it's supposed to be when you're doing something for children," Starns said.

New Superintendent Michael Faulk said the results show the commitment people have for the school system.

"The people in Central have been amazing, the commitment, the dedication, the drive that they have," Faulk said.

Central residents will not be paying additional taxes.

The election transfers property taxes and a 2 percent sales and use tax to the Central school system from the current taxing authorities, the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board and the East Baton Rouge Educational Facilities Improvement District.

All tax proceeds are for general purposes of running the school system, including employees' salaries and the building and operating of schools.

The 38.45 mills of property tax is expected to generate \$2.9 million a year for 10 years.

The tax millage will remain the same, a total of 43.45 mills, which includes 5 mills of property tax that didn't require voter approval. The 2 percent sales tax is expected to generate \$4.6 million a year.

The Central Community School District was created when voters throughout the state and in East Baton Rouge Parish approved amending the Louisiana Constitution to let Central break from the parish school system and form its own system.

The Central school system is expected to begin operations July 1.

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## **Loss saddens LSU boosters**

CLEVELAND — The jubilation of making it to the Final Four was replaced by the stunned faces of LSU fans as the game against Rutgers University went from bad to worse Sunday night. "I'm very disappointed," Evelyn Hayes, of Baton Rouge, said after the game. This is the fourth time LSU has made it to the Final Four in the last four years.

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