TOTAL AQUATIC
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ELECTION REPORT · NOVEMBER 3, 2026

Aquatic Center Ballot Results 2026

How swimming pools, aquatic centers and natatoriums fared on ballots across the United States, with a national scorecard and the patterns behind the wins and losses.

45
measures with a pool, aquatic center or natatorium component

5 – 10
standalone pool questions passed – failed

11 – 3
pools bundled in larger packages passed – failed

0 for 4
Texas ISD natatorium propositions

Bundled pools won, standalone pool asks sank

Across roughly 45 measures with an identifiable pool, aquatic center, or natatorium component, the result split by how the pool was presented to voters. Measures that asked voters to fund a pool on its own lost **10 of 15** decided contests. Pools folded into larger parks, recreation, or infrastructure packages won **11 of 14**.

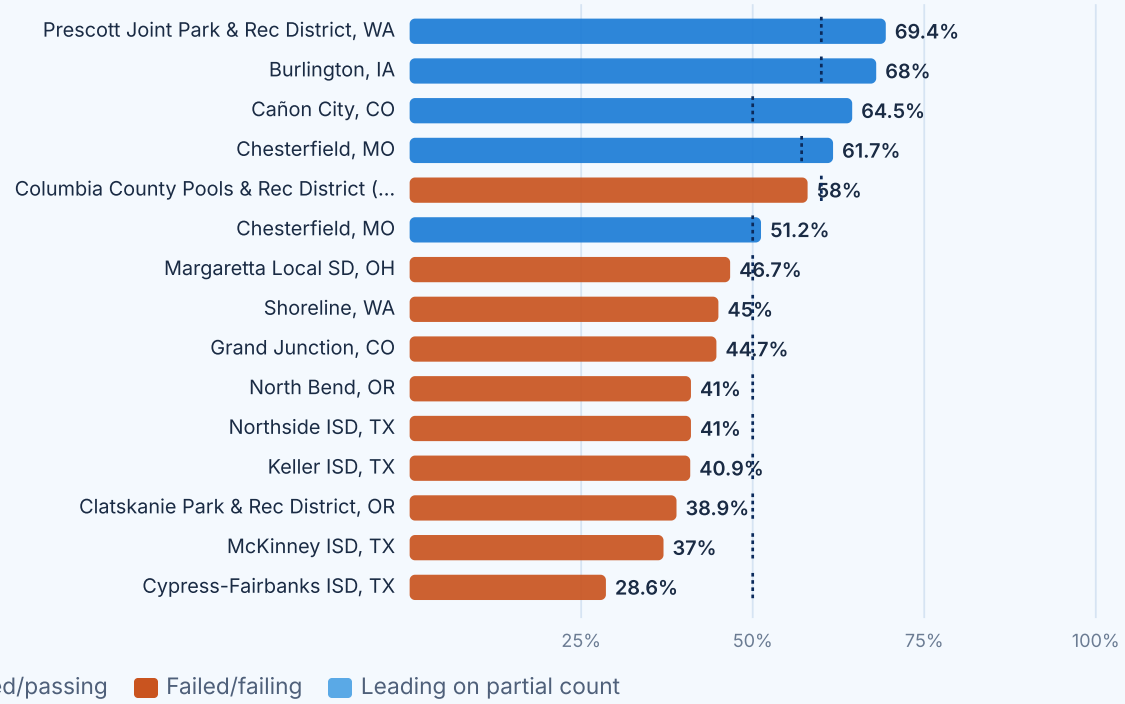
WHAT WON

- **Chesterfield, MO** cleared a four-sevenths bar for a $34.5M aquatic center (61.7%) with a companion use tax instead of a property tax (51.2%).
- **Cañon City, CO** passed its third pool-operations question at 64.5% by letting an already-collected sales tax fund a smaller seasonal pool.
- **Burlington, IA** passed a $7M pool bond at ~68% against a 60% bar.
- **Austin** (~61%), **Salt Lake County** (61.8%), **Palm Beach County** (66.2%), **Fairfax County** (67.7%), **Cobb County** (62%), **Bernalillo County** (77.9%) and **Baltimore City** (84.7%) all passed packages with pools inside.

WHAT LOST

- **Shoreline, WA**'s ~$100M aquatic center (45%) and **Grand Junction, CO**'s $12M Orchard Mesa Pool (44.7%), the two biggest standalone asks of the night.
- All four **Texas ISD natatorium** propositions, by 18 to 43 points, running 5–10 points behind their districts' classroom propositions.
- Every pool **operating levy** in Oregon and Washington except tiny Prescott; Dayton won 58% and still lost to the 60% bar.
- Big new taxes in expensive metros even with pools inside: **Boulder** (43.8%), **Kansas City, KS** (45.6%), **Pueblo West** (35%).

Standalone pool measures: yes share vs. the bar to pass (dashed line)



Scorecard

Every November 3 measure with a pool component and a retrievable count. SM = simple majority. Counting continues in Washington (certified Nov 24), Oregon (Nov 30) and Colorado (about Nov 25).

STANDALONE POOL, AQUATIC CENTER, OR NATATORIUM QUESTIONS

Jurisdiction	St.	Measure	Amount	Bar	Yes	Result · as of
Cañon City	CO	Issue 2A: redirect existing 0.3% pool sales tax to also fund operations, no rate increase	$16–18M seasonal pool	SM	64.5% (4,466–2,457)	Passed 11:32 PM Nov 3
Grand Junction	CO	Issue 2B: sales tax 3.39%→3.46% plus $12M debt for Orchard Mesa Pool	$12M	SM	44.7% (11,311–13,992)	Failing 9 PM Nov 3
Chesterfield	MO	Prop A: GO bond for new aquatic center	$34.5M	4/7	61.7% (14,542 yes)	Passed Nov 4
Chesterfield	MO	Prop Q: 1% use tax to retire Prop A bonds in lieu of property tax	—	SM	51.2% (12,139 yes)	Passed narrowly Nov 4
Shoreline	WA	Prop 1: form Metropolitan Park District, levy up to $0.75/$1,000 for new aquatic center	~$100M	SM	45.0% (6,981–8,547)	Failing 9:53 PM Nov 3
Prescott Joint Park & Rec District	WA	Prop 1: one-year pool M&O levy	$175,000	60%	69.4% (50–22)	Passing Nov 3
Columbia County Pools & Rec District (Dayton)	WA	Prop 1: one-year pool O&M levy	$200,000	60%	58.0% (1,000–725)	Failing on threshold Nov 3
North Bend	OR	Measure 6-232: five-year pool operations levy, $0.56/$1,000	$2.4M / 5 yrs	SM	41.0% (1,568–2,260)	Failing 8 PM Nov 3
Clatskanie Park & Rec District	OR	Measure 05-315: five-year levy incl. pool lifeguards	~$111–130K/yr	SM	38.9%	Failing 8 PM Nov 3
Burlington	IA	Public Measure GM: GO bond for municipal pool	$7M	60%	~68%	Passed 12:25 AM Nov 4
Margaretta Local SD	OH	2.15-mill bond for natatorium and fitness center	$11M	SM	46.7% (1,289–1,474)	Failed Nov 4
Northside ISD	TX	Prop D: natatoriums; replace George Block Aquatics Center	$65.5M	SM	41% (92,160–130,317)	Failed 7:08 AM Nov 4
Keller ISD	TX	Prop C: repairs to reopen closed natatorium	~$8.9M	SM	40.9% (23,632–33,372 early)	Failed Nov 4
Cypress-Fairbanks ISD	TX	Prop E: pool filtration and re-plastering	$20.1M	SM	28.6% (43,423–108,406 early)	Failed Nov 3
McKinney ISD	TX	Prop D: training pool repairs	$4.5M	SM	37.0% (18,096–30,785 early)	Failing Nov 3

POOLS INSIDE MULTI-PURPOSE SCHOOL BONDS

Jurisdiction	St.	Measure	Amount	Bar	Yes	Result · as of
Santa Paula USD	CA	Measure C: new community pool facilities at high schools, rebuild burned gym	$48.6M	55%	58.3% (2,912–2,085)	Leading, early count Nov 4
Pulaski Community SD	WI	Capital referendum incl. a community pool	$59.8M	SM	52.1% (790–727 partial)	Leading, tiny partial Nov 3

POOLS BUNDLED INTO PARKS, RECREATION, OR GENERAL PACKAGES

Jurisdiction	St.	Measure	Amount	Bar	Yes	Result · as of
Austin	TX	Prop A parks bond; $65M for Garrison, Big Stacy, Walnut Creek, Civitan pools	$260M	SM	~61%	Passed Nov 4
Salt Lake County	UT	Recreation GO bond; pool/splash pad updates, Fairmont Aquatic Center, Union Park rec center with pool	$128M	SM	61.8%	Passing 11:01 PM Nov 3
Bernalillo County	NM	Parks & Rec bond; ballot names aquatic centers and pools	$20.4M	SM	77.9% (173,433–49,119)	Passed 100% precincts
Santa Fe	NM	SWAN Park bond; splash pad	$4.25M	SM	68.6% (23,708–10,863)	Passed 119/119 precincts
Cobb County	GA	2028 SPLOST renewal; $30M replacement central aquatic center in Marietta	~$1.15B	SM	62%	Passed 11:30 PM Nov 3
Palm Beach County	FL	Parks GO bond; North County and Santaluces aquatic centers, Lake Lytal pool, Aqua Crest Pool	$280M	SM	66.2% (344,983–176,267)	Passed 765/813 precincts
Fairfax County	VA	Parks bond; $89M RECenters incl. new Audrey Moore RECenter aquatics	$180M	SM	67.7% (145,255–69,160)	Passed 8:53 PM Nov 3
Baltimore City	MD	Question D infrastructure loan; McAbee Pool replacement planned	$148M	SM	84.7% (102,155–18,417)	Passed 294/295 precincts
Boulder	CO	Issue 2K bond; two rec centers with lap pool and aquatics plus public safety building	$400M	SM	43.8% (12,025–15,450)	Failing 7:28 PM Nov 3
Lafayette	CO	Issue 2A: extend expiring tax for LaMont Does Park (water park site)	~$713K/yr	SM	66.7% (6,910–3,445)	Passing 7:28 PM Nov 3
Pueblo West Metro District	CO	Issue 6C: make pool-only TABOR retention permanent and parks-wide	retention	SM	35% (5,591–10,263)	Failing 7:11 AM Nov 4
Kansas City, KS / Wyandotte Co.	KS	3/8-cent parks sales tax; up to $17M aquatics incl. Parkwood Pool	~$160M / 10 yrs	SM	45.6% (16,972–20,223)	Rejected Nov 3
Park County	WY	1% specific purpose tax; Meeteetse swimming pool renovations	$19.3M	SM	54.8% (5,137–4,235 early)	Passing, partial 0/22 precincts
Morton Park District	IL	Bond replacing retiring 2008 pool debt; splash pad at Idlewood Park pool	$4.8M	SM	63% (5,866–3,380)	Passed 10:05 PM Nov 3

Tally of decided contests: standalone 5 passed, 10 failed; bundled 11 passed, 3 failed.

What passed, and why

The standalone wins were small, tax-neutral, or both. **Cañon City, CO** got to 64.5% on its third operations vote only after a 2024 district mill levy (48.2%) and a 2025 amusement excise tax (45.3%) failed; the city scaled the project from a $24.8M indoor/outdoor center to a $16–18M seasonal pool and asked voters to let an already-collected 0.3% sales tax cover operations "without raising taxes." **Chesterfield, MO** paired its $34.5M bond (61.7%, over a four-sevenths bar) with a use tax on out-of-state and online purchases marketed as "in lieu of a property tax"; the bond passed comfortably but the use tax squeaked by at 51.2%, after failing twice in 2022 and 2023. **Burlington, IA** cleared Iowa's 60% bar at about 68% for a $7M pool at Dankwork Park, backed by an 84% favorable public survey. **Prescott, WA** passed a $175,000 pool levy 50–22.

The bundled wins were not close. **Palm Beach County, FL** passed its $280M parks bond at 66.2% with a project list naming four aquatic facilities and a splash pad. **Fairfax County, VA** passed $180M at 67.7%, with $89M for RECenters including a new Audrey Moore RECenter with a redesigned aquatics area. **Austin, TX** passed its $260M parks bond at about 61% despite city finance staff recommending the council wait until 2028; the $65M pool line sat inside a package backed by a "Parks, Pools, Trails & Books" PAC with no organized opposition. **Salt Lake County, UT** replaced retiring 2016 bonds with a $128M package (61.8%) that funds countywide pool and splash pad updates, Fairmont Aquatic Center, and a Union Park rec center with a pool and lazy river. **Cobb County, GA** renewed its SPLOST at 62% with a $30M replacement central aquatic center in Marietta. **Bernalillo County, NM** passed its $20.4M parks bond, which names aquatic centers and pools, at 77.9% with no tax-rate change. **Baltimore City** passed its $148M infrastructure loan at 84.7%; planned projects include replacing the William McAbee Pool. **Morton Park District, IL** passed a $4.8M bond at 63% by replacing retiring 2008 pool debt so taxes would not rise.

Two other wins are still partial: **Santa Paula USD, CA** Measure C ($48.6M, new community pool facilities at the high schools) was at 58.3% in an early count against a 55% bar; **Park County, WY**'s specific purpose tax including Meeteetse pool renovations was at 54.8% on absentee and early ballots only.

What failed, and what happens next

The two biggest standalone asks lost. **Shoreline, WA** tried a new structure after its 2019 bond won 54% but needed 60%: a Metropolitan Park District (simple majority) with taxing authority for a ~$100M, 48,000 sq ft aquatic center costing a median household about $421 a year. Support fell to 45%. The city has no pool; the old one closed in 2020 and was demolished in 2022. **Grand Junction, CO**'s 2B for the 1983 Orchard Mesa Pool was failing 44.7% to 55.3%; the city's own survey had found 38% support, many regular users live outside city limits and could not vote, and the Daily Sentinel reported the loss all but ensures the pool closes when the School District 51 agreement expires in December 2026.

All four **Texas ISD natatorium** propositions failed, by 18 to 43 points. Texas Education Code §45.003(g) requires natatoriums and stadiums to stand as separate propositions, which exposed pools to an up-or-down vote in an election where voters rejected school taxes wholesale: Northside, Keller, Cy-Fair, McKinney, and Comal ISDs lost every bond proposition and tax-rate election on their ballots. Within that rout the pool propositions ran 5 to 10 points behind the main facilities propositions. Keller's ask was only ~$8.9M to reopen an already-closed natatorium and still lost by 18 points. Northside's $65.5M replacement of the George Block Aquatics Center lost 41–59.

Operating levies failed almost everywhere. North Bend, OR asked for a five-year, $0.56/$1,000 levy to cover pool operating losses that had grown from $106,000 in 2023 to $442,000 in 2025; it lost 41–59 with 12 to 18 months of reserves left. Clatskanie's parks levy (pool lifeguards included) lost 39–61. Dayton, WA's pool district won a majority for the third straight year but slid from 61.7% (2024) to 60.6% (2025) to 58.0% (2026), finally dropping under Washington's 60% bar.

Big new taxes in expensive metros lost even with pools inside. Boulder's $400M bond (two rec centers with aquatics plus a $170M public safety building, a 6.35-mill increase) was at 43.8%. Kansas City, KS's 3/8-cent sales tax with up to $17M for Parkwood Pool lost 45.6–54.4. Pueblo West asked to convert a 2016 pool-only TABOR retention, which funds its under-construction indoor pool and expires December 31, 2026, into a permanent parks-wide one; 65% said no. Margaretta Local SD, OH's $11M natatorium bond lost 46.7–53.3.

Not yet reported

On the ballot, but no result retrievable as of the morning of November 4; most official results portals were unreachable from the research environment. Each row names the official page to check.

Jurisdiction	St.	Measure	Amount	Where to check
Waukee	IA	Aquatic center GO bond (60% needed); TV report says rejected, no figures; 2024's $35M ask failed at 54.9%	not confirmed	electionresults.iowa.gov
Dike (Grundy County)	IA	Public Measure IO: demolish and build swimming pool (60% needed)	$1.5M	electionresults.iowa.gov
Valley (Douglas County)	NE	Citizen initiative to allocate up to 50% of the 1.5% city sales tax to a new pool	~$5.5M pool	votedouglascounty-ne.gov
Preston (Fillmore County)	MN	GO bond for new municipal pool	up to $6M	electionresults.sos.mn.gov
Austin Public Schools	MN	School bond incl. Ellis Middle School pool; scaled-down re-run after 2025 loss	$24.9M	electionresults.sos.mn.gov
Bucyrus (Crawford County)	OH	Pool and Park income-tax levy for Aumiller Park Pool	rate-based	crawfordcountyohioboe.gov
Palisade (Mesa County)	CO	Issue 2A: sales tax 2%→3% incl. pool improvements	~$600K/yr	Mesa County Clerk
Wheat Ridge (Jefferson County)	CO	Issue 2A: 1% sales tax incl. replacing the Anderson Park outdoor pool	up to $11.7M/yr	jeffco.us/2370/Election-Results
Berthoud (Larimer/Weld)	CO	Issue 3G: revenue bonds for Mountain Vista Park with aquatic features	$28M	larimer.gov/clerk/elections/results
Columbine Knolls-Grove Metro Rec District	CO	Issue 6E bonds incl. ~$3.3M pool work; Issue 6D O&M levy for two pools	$6.6M / $152K	jeffco.us/2370/Election-Results
Augusta	ME	Question 1: city facilities bond naming the Calumet Park swimming pool	up to $7.37M	augustamaine.gov
Cranston	RI	Local Question 7: public buildings incl. Budlong Aquatic Center roof	$2M	electionresults.ri.gov
Herrin Park District	IL	0.05% rate increase to operate parks incl. Harrison Bruce Aquatic Center	~$17/yr per $100K	Williamson County Clerk
Omaha	NE	$30M parks bond; pool content unconfirmed	$30M	votedouglascounty-ne.gov
Arlington County	VA	$34.9M parks bond; aquatics content unconfirmed	$34.9M	vote.arlingtonva.gov

Most likely to change status: Santa Paula (58.3% vs 55% bar), Pulaski WI (52.1% on ~1,500 votes), Park County WY (54.8% on absentees only), Dayton WA (2 points under 60%), and Shoreline (King County updates daily through Nov 24).

Coverage caveat: no national tracker publishes a pool-specific roundup, and Ballotpedia's local coverage is limited to the 100 largest cities, state capitals, California and Virginia. This list is reasonably complete for Colorado, Oregon, Washington, Texas ISDs, Arkansas and Kansas, and least complete for small-town Iowa, Wisconsin school referendums, Ohio, Georgia SPLOST lists, South Carolina county sales taxes and California school bonds.

Patterns and takeaways

Ballot structure mattered more than the pool. Four factors explain nearly every result, and they compound.

1 Operating money is the hardest ask

Both Oregon pool operations levies and Dayton's lost, each costing a typical homeowner under $200 a year. The 2026 wins on operations came only when the ask was reframed as tax-neutral: Cañon City redirected an already-collected sales tax; Chesterfield substituted a use tax for a property tax. Hood River, OR (May 2026) is the one clean case of capital and operations passing together, as two modest, simultaneous measures.

2 Supermajorities decided outcomes at the margin, not the main story

Dayton (58.0% vs 60%) is the only 2026 pool measure that won a majority and lost on threshold. Burlington cleared 60% at ~68%; Chesterfield cleared four-sevenths at 61.7%. Shoreline shows the limit of the lever: dropping from a 60% bond vote (54% yes in 2019) to a simple-majority district vote did not help once the ask grew to ~$100M; support fell to 45%.

3 Texas's separate-proposition rule isolates pools

With natatoriums required to stand alone, pools ran 5 to 10 points behind classroom propositions in every district tested, and all four failed in a year when voters rejected school taxes wholesale. Austin's city pools, bundled inside a parks bond in the same county, passed at ~61%.

4 "No new tax" nearly guaranteed passage

Every bundled winner renewed an expiring tax (Cobb, Lafayette), replaced retiring debt (Salt Lake County, Morton, Bernalillo), or was a modest add-on in a high-income county (Palm Beach, Fairfax). Every bundled loser (Boulder, Aurora, Kansas City KS, Erie) asked for new money.

REPEAT ATTEMPTS

Outcomes diverged by whether the second ask was smaller. Cañon City scaled down and passed on the third try. Austin, MN came back with a $24.9M single question after a $66.7M two-question package failed (result pending). Shoreline came back bigger and did worse. Keller ISD asked only to reopen a closed natatorium and still lost by 18 points, which suggests that in a hostile tax climate even a repair-scale ask cannot carry a facility voters do not see as essential.

For a community planning a pool measure

- Put the pool inside a parks or infrastructure package where the law allows.
- Renew or redirect an existing tax rather than create one.
- Size the facility to the electorate that will actually vote on it; Orchard Mesa's regular users largely lived outside city limits.
- Pair capital with a right-sized operating levy on the same ballot rather than returning for operations later.

Earlier 2026 votes and the 2025 backdrop

The spring and summer of 2026 showed the same split: narrow capital wins, lopsided rejection of big indoor projects.

Date	Jurisdiction	Measure	Result
Mar 3	**Fayetteville, AR**	$61.9M aquatic recreation center bond, funded by an existing 1-cent sales tax	Passed 50.7% (7,543–7,333), a 210-vote margin
Mar 17	**Oak Park, IL**	Park district $40M indoor aquatics bond at Ridgeland Common	Failed, more than 76% no
Mar 17	**Naperville Park District, IL**	$120M indoor activity center bond including indoor pools	Passed 55.9% (15,960–12,587)
May 19	**Hood River Valley Parks & Rec, OR**	$40.36M aquatic center rebuild bond plus five-year operating levy	Bond 54.6% (4,229–3,511); levy 57.6% (4,466–3,290)
Aug 4	**Covington, WA**	Park and recreation district formation	Failed 43–57
Aug 18	**Laramie County, WY**	1% sales tax to replace Cheyenne's Johnson Pool	Passed 58% (13,192–9,481)

November 2025 had already flagged the pattern. Standalone pool asks lost decisively: Payson, AZ's $16M pool bond (~76% no), Uinta County, WY's $40.6M tax including a $28.8M Evanston pool (~70% no), Cañon City's excise tax (54.7% no), Austin, MN's Ellis pool question (61% no), and Cheshire, CT's splash pad (66.5% no). Pools inside big-city recreation bonds passed easily: Denver's 2B ($174.75M, naming four pools) at 67.0% and Chandler, AZ's $158M parks bond at 67.7%.

The cost backdrop: municipal pool construction averaged about $488 per square foot in 2024, up roughly 90% in a decade, and NRPA counts one outdoor public pool per 38,000 residents, down from one per 34,000 in 2015. Several pools did not open at all in summer 2026 because of chemical, labor and mechanical costs, including Aumiller Park in Bucyrus, OH and Pueblo West's Lovell Park. No community has a confirmed 2027 pool ballot date yet.

Sources

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