

The Providence

• Monday, February 26, 2018

Vol. CLXXXIX, No. 187

providencejournal.com

Journal

Bryant survey shows support for bond issue

Journal Staff

PROVIDENCE — Rhode Island voters give the public schools a passing grade and two-thirds of them support the proposed \$250-million state bond issue for public school repair and construction, according to a new public opinion poll

released Monday.

The telephone poll by the Hassenfeld Institute for Public Leadership at Bryant University was conducted by Fleming & Associates Feb. 12-15 and addressed a variety of education issues relating to Rhode Island's K-12 school system.

SEE POLL, A5

POLL

From Page A1

It surveyed 422 registered voters, including 122 respondents with children in local schools and has a margin of error of almost 5 percent.

The findings of the survey include:

- The majority of people surveyed gave Rhode Island's public schools a passing grade, with 33 percent giving the school system an "A" or a "B," and 35 percent rating the schools a "C."

- The schools fared significantly better among respondents with children

currently enrolled in school — 60 percent of this group rated the schools an "A" or a "B."

- A slight majority (53 percent) of voters believe that public schools in their community prepare students for success in college.

- Nearly two-thirds of people surveyed (65 percent) said they favored Gov. Gina Raimondo's \$250-million bond proposal for public school repair and construction throughout the state over the next five years.

- More than 40 percent of survey participants called the condition of school facilities a "great" problem. Almost 30 percent rated parent-school communications as a

"great" problem, and 24 percent described the adequacy of state financial support for schools in their community as a "great" problem.

- More than 93 percent of voters polled said the need for STEM classes (science, technology, engineering and math) was "extremely" or "very" important. Likewise, 87 percent said it was extremely or very important to have computer technology that would prepare students for careers.

- More than 79 percent felt art and music classes were extremely or very important, while more than two-thirds said the need for advanced academic classes was equally important.