

The official election canvass will be conducted at 9 a.m.

Friday in the Seward County Commission Chambers of the Seward County Administration Building, 515 N Washington. The canvass will certify Tuesday's election. For more information, please contact County Clerk Stacia Long at 626-3353.

By ROBERT PIERCE

- Daily Leader

USD No. 480 voters narrowly voted down a proposed increase in the district's mill levy for capital outlay Tuesday.

By a margin of 85 votes, according to unofficial results from the Seward County Clerk's office, a resolution failed that would have increased the levy from 3 mills to 4 mills.

The vote was in response to a petition certified by the Seward County Clerk's office in August to let district residents decide the fate of the mill. levy Liberal resident Steve Helm, who began the petition, was pleasantly surprised by Tuesday's results.

"We circulated the petition to put it to a vote and let the people have their say one way or another," he said. "Apparently, they had their say by the way the vote turned out."

Board of education president Dan Diepenbrock said he expected the election to swing either way, but not quite as close as it turned out. He added not having a capital outlay levy for this year will not be an issue for the district.

"If expenditures for repairs, maintenance, equipment upgrades are in line with previous years, we will start next year with less than \$150,000 in our capital outlay budget," he said. "We'll just have to see what the circumstances are when it is time to work on next year's budget and make the decisions that are in the best interest of the district."

Diepenbrock said he will recommend that the board set certain priorities, make sure to fund those priorities and deal with the district's budget the best it can.

"For me, the priorities are sustaining and expanding the AVID program, effectively executing Literacy First and Success for All and keeping teacher salaries and benefits in the top 10 percent in the state."