

The Patriot Ledger

Hundreds of South Shore voters cast ballots on first day of early voting

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The Patriot Ledger

Posted Oct 22, 2018 at 6:20 PM

Updated Oct 23, 2018 at 7:08 AM

QUINCY — Early voting kicked off Monday, giving Massachusetts residents the chance to cast their ballots ahead of the Nov. 6 election. Registered voters can cast early ballots at town halls or a designated polling place through Nov. 2.

The Secretary of State's Office reports that 1.04 million early ballots were cast ahead of the 2016 election, nearly 23 percent of all ballots cast.

Quincy voter Judy Galvin, who will be out of town Nov. 6, said she is familiar with absentee ballots, but didn't know much about early voting until she drove by the Richard J. Koch Complex where polls were open on Monday.

"I saw the signs and thought it'd be a good thing to do since I won't be here on the day of," she said.

Other voters cited convenience and shorter wait times as reasons to vote early.

“I know I can get it done today when I have time. I don’t know what will be happening on election day,” said Barbara Simkowski of Quincy.

Carol Hearn, also of Quincy, said she voted early to beat the lines and Jan Gorman, another Quincy voter, said she cast her ballot early because the option was available.

“It was fast,” Gorman said.

Quincy City Clerk Nicole Crispo said 230 residents opted to vote early on Monday.

“That’s right around what we expected. We’re hoping for consistency and there’s usually a bigger turnout on Saturday,” she said. “We’ve eased up the process for checking in so we’re hoping for no lines.”

In Hingham, 213 people had taken advantage of early voting early by 3:30 p.m. on Monday, said Town Clerk Eileen McCracken.

She said she expects Hingham will see a similar number of voters each day that early voting is available. There may be more on Tuesday, when town hall is open later.

Weymouth Town Clerk Kathleen Deree said she expects to see the number of early voters increase daily.

“We’ve had 186 people vote since we opened at 8:30 this morning,” she said Monday. “For the presidential election we had almost 9,000 total.”

Braintree recorded less than half the number of early ballots Monday, compared to the first day of early voting in the 2016 Presidential Election.

“In 2016 we processed 470 ballots and for the current day, today, we processed 201,” said Braintree Town Clerk James Casey.

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