

## *Long Waits Frustrate Los Angeles Voters*

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As Election Day wore on, reports of hourslong lines and frustrated voters started to trickle out across Los Angeles, where poll workers were navigating a new system.

At a vote center tucked into the Carthay School of Environmental Studies Magnet in the Carthay Circle neighborhood of Los Angeles, a long line snaked into a tiny, gated parking area, as elementary school-aged children played on a black top nearby.

Voters shook their heads as they spoke tensely into their phones. Some worried aloud about whether their cars would be towed. A couple of people left the line in frustration.

Justin Green, 30, who leaned against a wall as the line crept forward in the hallway, said he'd been waiting for two hours. "This is the longest it's taken me to vote," he said. Mr. Green said he had a vote-by-mail ballot at home but decided he wanted to try doing things "the old-fashioned way."

"I regret that," he said. Still, he had a box of S'mores Girl Scout cookies, so he was in it for the long haul.

Behind him in line, Blake Meier, 30, was less sanguine: "I normally don't vote in the primary for this exact reason," he said.

At the root of the delays seemed to be slow technology. For the first time, voter rolls were electronic so people could cast their ballots at any vote center. But that meant when the tablets poll workers used to check in voters were overwhelmed, it caused major backups in the lines.

There was also confusion about whether those who had filled out interactive online ballots ahead of time could join a separate, shorter line. There were also reports of voting machines malfunctioning.

Late Tuesday, Senator Bernie Sanders's campaign filed an emergency motion asking a Los Angeles county judge to keep polling places open for an additional two hours on Tuesday night because of widespread reports of long lines and problems with voting machines, a spokeswoman for the campaign said.

The filing came after a steady stream of complaints throughout the county of faulty machines and two-hour waits in neighborhoods including Westwood, the San Fernando Valley, Los Feliz and the east side of Los Angeles. The sign-in process to check voters against the voting rolls was taking hours at several sites.

Earlier in the day, a power failure in West Los Angeles had raised worries that the voting process could be delayed.

For weeks, state and county officials have been warning of long lines on Election Day, in part because of the new system and also because voters could register in person on Tuesday.

There were reports of two-hour waits at several polling places throughout Los Angeles County, with poll workers directing voters to other sites that had equally long waits. Several machines reportedly failed, leaving many voting booths sitting empty and leading to even longer waits. At one polling place, a poll worker handed out candy to weary voters, and campaigns sent pizza to several voting sites at the University of California campuses.

*[Sanders files emergency motion to keep polling places open in L.A., after delays.]*

The line outside the Claude Pepper Senior Citizen Center in West Los Angeles curled around a courtyard that was mostly in the shade by late afternoon. An election worker at the facility said its five voting machines were working fine, but having just one check-in tablet computer created a bottleneck, leaving two or three of the voting machines empty.

Vickie Trosclair, 85, was inside the building near the front of the line, and said she had been waiting to vote for over two and a half hours. She is a day care provider, and was worried she would not be back by the time parents came to fetch their kids.

“I thought I could just do this and be back,” she said. “This operation is much too slow. The line is too long, it’s too crowded.”

Jason Sinclair, who works in film production, said he normally voted by mail, but he wanted to test out the new voting machines.

“I definitely think more of us should have taken advantage of the previous 10 days,” Mr. Sinclair said.

Outside in the courtyard, Cathy Montrose, 87, had finished a book while waiting to vote. “I should have brought another one.”

She chose a sunnier view of the lines she had already waited in for two hours.

“I am ecstatic that there are so many people standing in line to vote,” said Ms. Montrose, who works in real estate. “That tells me something.”

Julie Murphy, 44, was just arriving. Told that she might be waiting in line for the next two hours, she was unfazed.

“I feel strongly about the candidate that I want to win,” she said. She planned on voting for Elizabeth Warren, whom she thought had policy similarities to Mr. Sanders but a better understanding of the American economy.

Rachel Gannon, 29, who waited outside the Carthay School with her rescue dog, Harlowe, said she was told that she couldn’t bring in the service animal. So she executed a complicated trade with Cassia Rodrigues, 56, who was having trouble waiting in the sun, because she had a migraine. They both ended up voting, but both said they faced hourslong ordeals when they had expected voting to take minutes.

“It’s super annoying,” Ms. Gannon said. “I just really want to vote.”

Although she’s always voted in person before, she said, she’ll probably mail in her ballots in the future.