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# DuPage sets record with nearly 50% voter turnout



Voters turned out in huge numbers in DuPage County Tuesday, setting a new record of nearly 50 percent ballots cast. (Scott Olson / Getty)

By **Alex Keown**  
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**N**early 50 percent of DuPage's registered voters cast ballots in Tuesday's election, setting a new county record.

Contentious primaries on both sides of the ticket no doubt lured voters to the polls, and it's a good indicator that interest will remain high in November's general election, said Suzanne Schod, a political science professor at North Central College in Naperville.

Early voting also helped drive the number up, making it easier for people to vote at a time of their choosing rather than waiting until election day, said Bob Saar, executive director of the DuPage County Election Commission.

The last year for a huge voter turnout was the 2008 primary, when 44.4 percent of voters came to the polls

and helped secure the Democratic nomination for [Barack Obama](#), Saar said. Just four years later, the primary number was dramatically lower. Only 26.27 percent of voters chose to vote since Obama was assured of a second run and Republican Mitt Romney had already secured enough delegates to win the nomination, Saar said.

While Tuesday's election generally went smoothly, he said, it was not without issues, including the need to print additional paper ballots for one precinct that ran out. It appears that precinct did not receive the proper number of ballots, forcing Saar's office to print additional copies using the commission's high-speed ballot printers, he said.

Another issue was a shortage of election judges at some precincts. Saar said several volunteers opted out just before election day, forcing them to scramble to find replacements.

"The judges ... they're really the unsung heroes of election day," Saar said.

One reason for the shortage may be tied to the new law allowing voters to register on the day of the election, which some judges may not have wanted to do. Although Saar did not have final numbers, he estimated they signed up between 3,500 and 4,000 new voters Tuesday.

Saar said he will be prepared for November, when high voter turnout is likely for the general election.

An open presidential seat will be one of the main driving factors, such as was seen in 2008, professor Schod said.

Another may be voters turning out to vote against a candidate as opposed to casting their ballot in favor of someone they support, she said. For example, if controversial candidate [Donald Trump](#) wins the Republican nomination, it's possible some traditionally Republican voters will vote for the Democrat or switch to a third-party candidate, Schod said.

According to unofficial election results in DuPage County, Donald Trump carried the county with 34.52 percent, or 49,113 votes, followed by Ohio Gov. [John Kasich](#), with 41,024 votes and U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, with 35,229 votes. On the Democratic side, Bernie Sanders won DuPage County, receiving 65,129 votes to Hilary Clinton's 59,103.

There was little excitement at the county level. Republican candidates for countywide offices ran unopposed and have no set Democratic opposition in the fall. Some races for county board of commissioners were contested. For the two-year term of District 2, Republican Richard F. Blass garnered 7,829 votes, about 36.34 percent. Elaine Zannis came in second with 6,847 votes, about 31.78 percent.

In the Republican nominee contest for the four-year term in District 4 Tim Elliott won 54.01 percent/ 12,213 votes over rival Michelle L. Moore, who garnered 10,399 votes/45.99 percent.

*Alex Keown is a freelance reporter for the Naperville Sun.*

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