

Students Rush to Polls on Election Day

Many Penn State students fled to the polls on Tuesday, casting their vote in a presidential election for the first time in their lives.

Students that live on-campus traveled to Penn State's HUB-Robeson Center on Tuesday to vote. Other students that live off-campus went to one of many locations in downtown State College to cast their vote.

In the HUB-Robeson Center, lines were formed, and many students waited in anticipation of voting in a national election. Several students entered and exited Alumni Hall with smiles on their faces, excited to be voting for the first time.

"It feels really good to finally be able to vote," Jade Ludlow, 20, said. "I was nervous, but it was really organized and didn't take long. The lines were grouped by what dorms we lived in, so it was pretty organized and went fast."

At 11 a.m. Tuesday morning, the wait on the line at the HUB-Robeson Center to vote did not exceed 20 minutes.

However, at several locations in downtown State College, including Friends Meetinghouse, on 611 E. College Ave., the lines were a lot longer.

Maddy Pryor, 21, waited in a line for over an hour to cast her vote on Tuesday afternoon. "I really want to cast my vote," Pryor said. "But I don't know whether I should get out of line or be late to my next class."

Pryor lives off-campus in Park Hill Apartments, located on 478 E. Beaver Ave. She walked less than 10 minutes to her polling location, and stayed in line and missed class because she felt it was important to vote.

“I’ve been waiting a long time, but I want to vote. I’ve been waiting a long time for this day,” Pryor said.

Many political groups, including the Penn State College Democrats, gathered in front of the entrance of Alumni Hall in an attempt to sway undecided voters. Organizations passed out free items, such as stickers and towels, to convince students to vote for President Barack Obama or Republican candidate Mitt Romney.

Ludlow noted that although the rally towel she received was a kind gesture, it did not change her vote. “I’ve known for a while who I was going to vote for on Election Day. The free stuff was cool, but it didn’t change my vote,” Ludlow said.

As Penn State classes were in session on Tuesday, many students rushed to their respective voting locations before the polls closed at 8 p.m. Kristin Miller, 19, was in line to vote around 6:45 p.m., after she had a full day of classes and meetings. “I thought I wasn’t going to make it, but I made it a priority to make it here before the polls closed,” Miller said. “I wanted my vote to count.”

Miller expressed how important her vote was because Pennsylvania is considered a swing state in the 2012 Presidential Election. Pennsylvania has 20 electoral votes, and it expected to be a very close race come Tuesday evening.

Although most students were private about who they voted for, many Penn State students were very excited to be first-time voters. “If you don’t want to vote, you won’t. This is our future, I’m glad I have the ability to make a difference by voting because I want to see change,” Miller said.