

Voter turnout in Brevard sets record for midterm election

[Britt Kennerly](#), Florida Today Published 6:40 p.m. ET Nov. 6, 2018

So how did voter turnout in Brevard County for the midterm election, well, turn out?

In a hyphenated word: Record-breaking. By 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, 66.57 percent of Brevard's 422,606 active registered voters had cast ballots. That topped the record set for midterm voting in 2002, when 62.70 percent of Brevard voters made their choices known.

Brevard Supervisor of Elections Lori Scott said she thinks the high number is "reflective of what we saw in the record-breaking primary. I'm incredibly proud of how engaged the Brevard electorate always is ... We are always higher than the state average and one of the highest of the 16 large counties, if not the highest, and in Central Florida. And I think it's amazing."

While voting went smoothly, Scott said, the day wasn't without its moments.

A Melbourne man was arrested Monday, and remained in jail Tuesday, after threatening to [blow up the supervisor's office](#) because of receiving excessive political robocalls. In addition, the Tony Rosa Community Center, a polling site in Palm Bay, [was briefly locked down](#) after a man was sighted sitting in his car with a gun in his lap.

But in many ways, the day was a picture of Americana and diverse views. Candidates and enthusiastic volunteers waved signs. Sheriff Wayne Ivey was among those delivering food to poll workers. Parents were accompanied by children, giving kids a firsthand look at voting rights in action.

It would've taken more than a broken bone to keep Lucia Pierce from casting her ballot.

The Palm Bay resident, whose first vote in 1976 was for Jimmy Carter, rolled up to her polling place in a wheelchair.

In other countries, Pierce said, "People have stood for hours in the blazing sun, the risk of being hacked to death with machetes very real, to vote. Women in this country suffered verbal, economic and physical violence for the right to vote.

"So, yes, if I have to roll up, in my nightgown, in a wheelchair, with a broken ankle, oh, yeah, I'm voting."

By the road in front of Port St. John Community Center, Lois Lacoste and Teresa DeSanto hoisted signs in support of Ron DeSantis.

Lacoste is a board member of the North Brevard Republican Club.

Talking to voters, Lacoste said she heard many say they "want to keep conservative administrations, conservative offices."

"They want people who live by the U.S. Constitution and what it stands for," she said.

At Satellite Beach United Methodist Church, Dinorah Deya was at the polls with her daughter, Ale Ramirez.

Deya grew up in Puerto Rico, where she could not vote in federal elections.

"Since we moved to the States, we take it really seriously," Deya said. "I made sure I did my homework."

Christina LaFortune contributed to this report. Contact Kennerly at 321-242-3692 or bkennerly@floridatoday.com. Follow her on Twitter @bybrittkennerly or at [Facebook.com/bybrittkennerly](https://www.facebook.com/bybrittkennerly).